**Potential Research Projects**

Civil Jury Project

1. Examine factors that prevent jurors from reporting for service.
2. Explore whether “hardship funds” are effective in promoting jury participation and [jury diversity](https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2019/05/09/courts-seek-increase-jury-diversity).
3. Find out what courts are doing to encourage juror participation for those who face logistical impediments to serving (e.g., modified trial schedule, shuttle bus service, access to courthouse daycare).
4. What types of community outreach/education programs might increase summons response rates? (e.g., nonprofits, religious organizations, social media).
5. What have judges done (or attempted to do) to simplify jury instructions? Have these efforts been effective?
6. How willing are civil litigators to take their cases to trial; what factors affect their willingness; and how might their willingness be increased?
7. Explore whether jurors prefer one-on-one questioning to group questioning and, if so, their reasons for this preference. (e.g., privacy concerns, discomfort speaking about sensitive subjects).
8. Are juror orientation videos effective? How can these videos be improved for jurors?
9. Has internet research on the part of jurors been an actual impediment to fair trials? Has the National Center for State Court’s model instruction been effective?
10. Do Central Dockets (or “Master Calendars”) dispose of more cases by trial? Do they result in the faster disposal of all cases?
11. What are the primary factors that influence a client's decision to take a case to trial -- cost, advice of their counsel, fear of excessive or unreasonable jury verdicts, adverse publicity, criticism of general counsel by the board of directors, etc.?
12. Exploration of post-trial counseling services/resources for jurors regarding stress reduction after cases involving traumatic or graphic matters.
13. Survey of top law schools that investigates (1) whether evidence is a required or elective course, and (2) whether civil procedure is offered as a single-semester (vs. multi semester) course.
14. Studying examining whether voir dire is effective at identifying and eliminating juror bias.
15. Research on whether newly naturalized citizens are more likely to respond to jury summonses.
16. A study of state constitutional jury trial protections that go beyond the Sixth and Seventh Amendments.
17. Determine whether judge and juror preferences about voir dire questioning have changed over time.
18. Find out whether judges prefer judge-led voir dire to attorney-led voir dire and, if so, why?
19. Explore the rationality, arbitrariness, variability, and accuracy of various methods of determining non-economic damages, including the per-diem method (building on the work of Academic Advisers: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=2770616).
20. Do litigants accept jury trial results better than the results of bench trials or arbitration?
21. Have there been additional studies of the merits of larger juries over the past few years?
22. Explore anchoring effects on jury's decisions regarding damages that are brought about by the monetary-sum verdict asked for by the plaintiff (or by the defendant) (building on the work of Academic Advisers https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=2470066).
23. Do more trials in fact result in slower disposition?
24. How can we use high-low agreements to remove the perceived danger of extreme jury verdicts?
25. Does the method of selection of judges affect their willingness to go to trial?
26. Does jury discussion of the evidence prior to deliberation work to the benefit of plaintiffs?
27. What is the impact of third-party litigation funding?