

THE BRIEF

SEPTEMBER 2021

An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in Eau Claire County Courts

September is Jury Appreciation Month

The trial by jury is “the only anchor ever yet imagined by man by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution.” Thomas Jefferson

To obtain a cross section of the community for jury service, the office of the director of State Courts compiles a master list of potential jurors for use by the circuit courts of each county during the coming year. §756.04(2)(a)

Although there are various avenues to get random lists (§756.04(2)(c)), the state of Wisconsin provides that “. . . the department of transportation shall compile a list that includes the name, address, county, date of birth, race, gender . . .” §756.04(2)(b). Each county electronically receives a list of potential jurors for the year. Through CCAP, we are able to input the number of jurors needed for a case and the system randomly provides a list – this list is used to summon jurors.

The criteria to serve as a juror is that you must be a resident of the county in which you are summoned, be 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, be able to understand the English language, and if convicted of a felony have had your civil rights restored.

Our system of justice simply would not work without the hundreds of individuals who appear for their civic duty each year. We are grateful!!

COVID-19 and the Eau Claire County Circuit Courts Status Update

Facial Masks continue to be required in the Eau Claire County Courthouse and social distancing is still in place in each courtroom.

Reminder to Family Law Attorneys

Eau Claire County Local Court Rule 509 states that in any action affecting the family in which a minor child is involved the Court shall order the parties to attend a parenting Program through TRY Mediation. This class, entitled “Families in Transition: Children in the Middle”, has been held via Zoom for over a year, and will continue to be held in this manner going forward. Alternative classes will not be approved by the Eau Claire County courts.

New District Attorney Appointment

On August 27, 2021 Peter Rindal was appointed as the county’s new District Attorney by Governor Evers. Congratulations to District Attorney Rindal!

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