

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

---

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TASK	)	Administrative Order
FORCE ON JURY DATA COLLECTION,	)	No. 2021 - <u>35</u>
PRACTICES, AND PROCEDURES	)	
	)	
	)	

---

For more than two decades, the Arizona Supreme Court has led the nation in promoting jury improvement reforms that have led to more effective jury service. This commitment to promoting public trust and confidence in our jury system continues today with a renewed focus on juries and the need to ensure that they fairly represent a cross-section of the local community in which they assemble.

The judiciary recognizes the importance of jury service and that the juror summoning process and jury selection practices result in juries that are representative of the demographics of the community.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has created jury safety issues and a substantial backlog of jury trials pending in the Arizona trial courts. To reduce the number of citizens summoned to jury service, the Chief Justice issued an Administrative Order (currently AO 2020-197), which in part reduced the number of peremptory strikes for potential jurors.

Therefore, pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, of the Arizona Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. ESTABLISHMENT: The Task Force on Jury Data Collection, Practices, and Procedures is established.
2. PURPOSE: The Task Force shall explore and make recommendations regarding:
  - a. Data collection, including demographic data that are important to determine jury composition.
  - b. Adequacy of current source lists used to summons jurors and whether use of additional source lists would be beneficial.
  - c. Ways to increase response rates to summons for jury service and reduce barriers to jury service.
  - d. Whether increasing juror pay would allow more potential jurors to serve.
  - e. Whether the reduction in the number of peremptory challenges should be continued for a period of up to three years to reduce the number of prospective

jurors required for the impending jury trial backlog during post-pandemic recovery.

- f. Whether peremptory challenges of jurors systemically reduce the representation of minorities and whether changes to the peremptory challenge rules should be made.
  - g. Content for public education information aimed at increasing awareness of jury service process and value of jury service.
- 3. **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Task Force shall submit a report of recommendations to the Arizona Judicial Council by October 1, 2021.
  - 4. **MEMBERSHIP:** The individuals listed in Appendix A are appointed as members of the Task Force for a term beginning upon the signing of this Order and ending June 30, 2022. The Chief Justice may appoint additional members as may be necessary.
  - 5. **MEETINGS:** Task Force meetings shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Chair. All meetings shall comply with the Arizona Code of Judicial Administration § 1-202: Public Meetings.
  - 6. **STAFF:** The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task Force and shall assist the Task Force in developing recommendations and preparing any necessary reports and petitions.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2021.

---

ROBERT BRUTINEL  
Chief Justice

## **Appendix A**

### **Membership List**

#### **Task Force on Jury Data Collection, Practices, and Procedures**

##### ***Chair:***

Hon. Pamela Gates  
Superior Court of Maricopa County

Shawn Haught  
City Court of Mesa

##### ***Members:***

Dean Brault  
Public Defense Services, Pima County

Kevin Heade  
Maricopa County Public Defender's Office

Troy Czarnyszka  
Superior Court of Apache County

Hon. Anna Huberman  
Country Meadows Justice Court of  
Maricopa County

Sally Diggs  
Superior Court of Pima County

Andrew M. Jacobs  
Snell & Wilmer

Matthew Elias  
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Alexander Jamison  
Public Member

Patricia Ferguson-Bohnee  
Arizona State University

Donna McCoy  
Public Member

Nicole Garcia  
Superior Court of Maricopa County

Hon. John Napper  
Superior Court of Yavapai County

Hon. Howard Grodman  
Flagstaff Justice Court of Coconino County

Elizabeth Ortiz  
Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory  
Council

Juan Pablo Guzman  
Clerk's Office of Superior Court of Santa  
Cruz County

Hon. Kim Ortiz  
Superior Court of Pima County

##### ***Staff:***

Jennifer R. Albright  
Administrative Office of Courts