



Juries

Jury News Research Services

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Free Public Transportation for Jurors

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Where public transportation is available, courts often work out arrangements for jurors to use it free or at reduced rates. New York City replaces the usual daily mileage reimbursement with the cost of two subway tokens. In Seattle and Dallas, the summons sent to jurors contains a bus pass (see Figure 1). The advantages are that persons who otherwise might not have transportation can now serve. Those unfamiliar with the courthouse area have an easier method of travel. Congestion is reduced, and parking costs if not reimbursed, as few state courts do, are avoided by the prospective juror. It also serves to acquaint the public with public transportation.

A new program in Los Angeles ties in with the local commuter rail service (Metrolink), which provides service from the outlying areas of the this huge, dense county. Trains arrive at Union Station and jurors may transfer to the subway for the short ride to the courthouse station. The court costs for the program are the same, because the rail service accepts whatever the juror would be reimbursed. Not only does the juror avoid the long and tortuous freeway trip and its contribution to the pollution problems of the area, but the cost of the ride, which can reach \$9.50 one way, is provided in lieu of the mileage, which is only 15 cents per mile one way. In light of the now famous \$5 per day juror fee in California, this is a real help for the jurors, and anything that can develop an increase in public transportation ridership is a positive result for the community. Initial surveys indicate that about 20 percent of the jurors are using this service, an incredible result in a county where public transportation is rather foreign. For more details contact Beverley Boyd at (213) 974-5332.

Inquiries regarding **Juries** or to obtain copies of any of these resources
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