

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MAINE

GENERAL NOTICE RE: RANDOM SELECTION OF JURORS

Process by which names are periodically and randomly drawn

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1861, all litigants “have the right to grand and petit juries selected at random from a fair cross section of the community....”

Pursuant to the Court’s [Jury Plan](#), there is one master jury wheel for the District. The master jury wheel is created electronically by selecting names at random from a merged source list loaded into the Court’s Jury Management System (JMS). The merged source list is made up of (1) names from the Central Voter Registration System and (2) the list of active licensed drivers and state identification card holders who are 18 years of age or older, as maintained by the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Duplicate names, names of the deceased and names of those who no longer live in Maine are removed. The master wheel is emptied and refilled once every four (4) years, once within nine (9) months following a general election for the President of the United States and once within nine (9) months following the midterm election.

For persons to be summoned to serve as grand or petit jurors, JMS randomly selects names from master jury wheel. The names of prospective jurors are periodically and randomly drawn from the master jury wheel to receive juror qualification questionnaires and summonses to report for grand or petit jury service. For the Portland division’s qualified wheel, the names are selected at random from the following counties: Androscoggin, Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, and York. For the Bangor division’s qualified wheel, the names are selected at random from the following counties: Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington.

Individuals’ answers to the qualification questionnaires determine whether they are legally qualified and available to serve. If they are, those individuals are expected to report pursuant to the court’s instructions. If not, those individuals are notified not to report or are postponed to another time.

All the selections are carried out using JMS, a properly programmed electronic data processing system for pure randomized selection. The purely randomized process ensures that the selection of names for the master jury wheel within either the Portland or Bangor division is substantially proportionally representative of the total number of names for every county within that division.

For more information, consult the full version of the Court’s Jury Plan at www.med.uscourts.gov