

A new Grand Jury, consisting of 23 members, is impaneled on the third Monday of January and July each year. Grand Jurors serve for a period of six months, reporting on the third Monday of each month for one day. The main function of the Grand Jury is to hear the prosecutor's evidence in selected criminal matters and to decide whether or not there is sufficient evidence to charge a suspect. At least 12 members must vote to charge the suspect before an "indictment" can be handed down. The Grand Jury may also conduct investigations into other matters brought before them. Some Grand Juries will tour the Detention Center and report their findings on its condition. Matters heard by the Grand Jury are secret, and grand jurors are instructed not to discuss what they have heard with anyone, including family members, even after their term of service is ended.

Petit Jurors are selected for a period of one month on a rotating schedule. Although subject to be on call during the entire session, actual juror service will probably not exceed 3 days. Typically, at least twice the number of jurors needed are scheduled for a case, and from that number, the attorneys will select that actual jury - 12 persons in a criminal case, 6 in a civil case and one or two alternates in each. The petit jury hears evidence from all parties in a case and renders a verdict. In a criminal case, the petit jury will decide whether the person charged is guilty or not guilty of each offense charged. In civil cases, the issues to be decided on vary depending on the type of case. Some examples are: Who, if anyone, was negligent in a traffic accident; What, if any, money damages should be awarded to an injured person, etc. The decision of the petit jury must be unanimous.