

Jurors fulfill civic duty

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Jurors rise above pandemic to fulfill their civic duties

Despite concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, citizens are rising to answer the call to perform their civic duties by serving on juries in the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

Circuit Court Judge David Feiss has been impressed, not only with jurors' willingness to serve but their diligence to pursue justice within the system.

One of the concerns judges had when live trials resumed in late July was that some jurors might be tempted to agree with their peers on verdicts prematurely to minimize their time of exposure to other jurors and reduce their time in the courthouse, Judge Feiss says.

"That did not happen," Judge Feiss says. "They took their time. They discussed issues. They looked at the evidence. It was really heartening to see that they were comfortable with the masks and the safety protocols."

Feiss says the thorough and detailed precautions taken by the courthouse staff are helping to make jurors be at ease and stay focused on their civic duties, rather than the health risks of the pandemic.

"Everyone in the courtroom is wearing a mask," Judge Feiss says. "That gives other people a comfort level."

That comfort begins when jurors enter the courthouse, Judge Feiss says.

"We have reworked this process every step of the way," he says. "When they come into the building, their safety is paramount."

