

LIKELY RESPONSES

Levels of hostility will vary dramatically according to jurisdiction and local culture. Many pamphleting in blue cities have never been harassed or gotten more than a prosecutor's sneer. Defense attorneys frequently thank you or flash an appreciative grin and nod. But always be ready for cops to act like thugs or some random person to want to get into an argument or hector you. More harrowing and common are discussions with those showing up for their own court dates. Be prepared to hear the full horrors of the carceral system and the awful injustices that everyday people face.

SURVIVING JUROR SELECTION

Since many people know about "jury nullification" in the abstract, the number one goal of jury nullification education should be to move from empty repetition of slogans to training and advising people in how to get through the jury selection process without being disqualified by a prosecutor or judge. It does no good to stand up and declare "jury nullification!"

Being quiet, knowing best practices and legal context, is what effectively saves lives.

Do not encourage those called for jury duty to lie; rather advise them to answer the questioning truthfully but briefly and generally.

"Have you heard of Jury Nullification?"

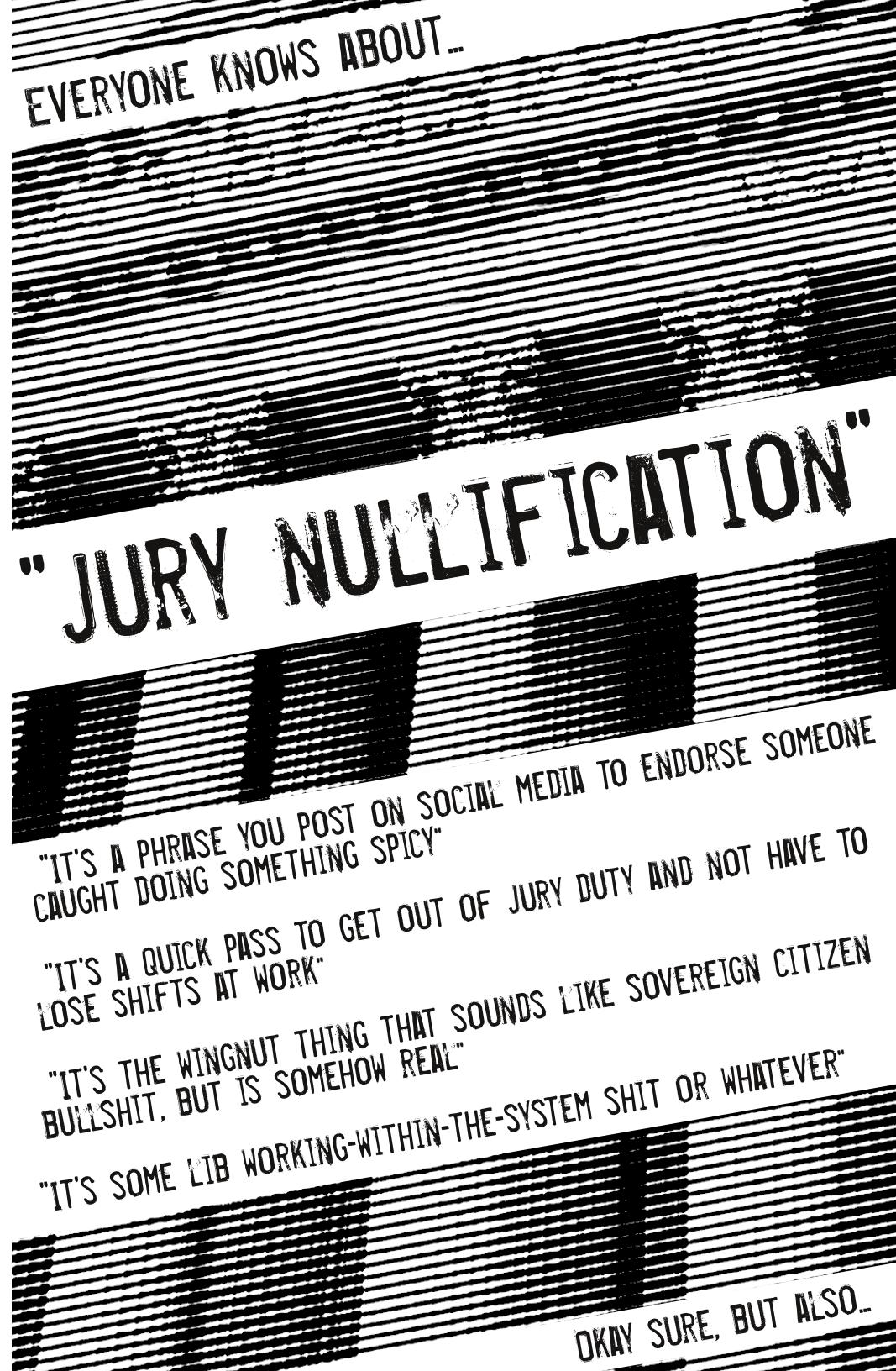
"I've heard that phrase, but I'm not a legal expert."

Similarly, tell them to follow the instructions of the judge and swear whatever oaths are asked. The final vote is what matters and they cannot be punished for voting "not guilty" if they think that is what constitutes justice.

FIJA.org maintains a vast amount of resources on nullification and useful detailed advice. Check out their website for answers to pretty much everything.



FULLY INFORMED JURY ASSOCIATION
JURY DUTY IS FOR HEROES



JURY NULLIFICATION is a powerful and effective means of saving people from incarceration. With just an hour of your time spent handing out pamphlets in front of a courthouse you can pretty consistently save at least one person from years in prison.

Many laws responsible for mass incarceration are incredibly unpopular, from drug crimes to firearms posessions, and jurors regularly express guilt and horror over their complicity in sentencing. Judges make holdout jurors feel like they have no choice but to follow such confining instructions as to make conviction all but certain. And jurors are often shocked by the sentencing that follows from their guilty vote.

While juries are often filled with bloodthirsty conservatives, law-and-order dupes, and the apathetic, it only takes one person of fleeting conscience to hang a jury or be such an annoying holdout that other jurors flip to acquittal.

Jury nullification works. It got countless activists off of severe charges during the 60s and 70s, and continues to regularly get activists off today, from Food Not Bombs to No More Deaths. This zine is an encouragement for radicals to organize more actively around jury nullification and a guide for how to do so effectively.

JURY NULLIFICATION is also a hard-won check on state power rooted in many of the historical liberation movements that anarchism arose out of. Peasants rebellions were a constant feature of European history in the middle ages and libertarian or communitarian ideological currents frequently focused their struggle against kings and lords on the right to a jury of their peers.

Juries are one of the only places in our society where consensus is formally practiced, with even a single individual having the right of a total veto. In this sense they are a place where anarchist and stateless modes of relating touch and infect the state.

Like any formally granted liberty, this can serve as a pressure valve for the state, helping save those in power from enforcing verdicts that would see significant outrage and inspire resistance from the general population. But in clumsily trying to inoculate the state, the jury system is nevertheless a site of infection that can be pressed.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- 1) 40-80 Jury Rights pamphlets, printed from PDFs on FIJA.org
- 2) A laminated colored sign reading "JURY INFO"
- 3) An hour free either early in the day or at lunch, ideally on a monday

SOME INFORMAL ADVICE ON PAMPHLETING:

YOU CAN BE PROSECUTED FOR TARGETING SPECIFIC TRIALS. However, if you establish a pattern of pamphleting in front of a courthouse semi-regularly, that protects you significantly. Remember: all prisoners are political prisoners. Showing up regularly will not just save activists, but other individuals otherwise about to have their lives destroyed.

DRESS AND ACT LIKE NORMIES. Your effectiveness and protection is being seen as good citizens (perhaps liberals or libertarians).

Stay just off the property of the courthouse, if a security guard threatens you, you can quibble that this is basic free speech and protected in existing case law, but be aware that if you press you might be rising a night in jail, despite your legal case being good. Cops and security often want some token compliance, so if you can offer moving like 10 feet, they will sometimes accept it.

OFFER PAMPHLETS TO EVERYONE with simple open ended chirpy phrases like "Interested in the rights of jurors?!" Do not target jurors alone; hand pamphlets to lawyers, defendants, cops, bystanders, whoever. This proves you are distributing information *generally.*

DO NOT DISCUSS CASES WITH JURORS (this is a serious crime; you will go to jail; FBI agents posing as jurors have tried to entrap jury nullification pamphleters via this avenue) simply say "you shouldn't talk to me about any case, and I don't want to, but you can take information on your rights in general."

SHOW UP EARLY OR AT LUNCH. Check when jurors are expected to show up at your courthouse. This is often early in the morning, but it's legal to have full discussions with potential jurors before they're selected (since you're not influencing a sitting jury on a trial). Otherwise you can try to reach jurors during lunchtime when they leave the courthouse.