

**JACK TUTER  
CHIEF JUDGE  
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**



**BROWARD COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE  
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## **A Word of Thanks to Our Fellow Citizens for Answering the Call to Jury Duty During Covid**

As Broward County continues to be one of the epicenters of covid, the Courts continue to operate, albeit on reduced levels. Face-to-face contact has been substantially limited since the last covid shutdown. As we reopen the courts, one group of citizens deserves special thanks and recognition. Jury trials were largely impossible to conduct during the past 16 months. As the courts began gradual reopening, so did the summoning of jurors. Between March and July, the Circuit conducted (93) jury trials.

Jurors were permitted to opt-out from jury service based on covid concerns. Few chose to opt-out and instead dutifully put on their masks, waited in security lines, seated themselves in the jury room and awaited a courtroom assignment. Few complained about conditions; almost all were anxious to serve; and each answered the call to duty.

Jury duty during covid is stressful and filled with uncertainties. Yet despite all the difficulties, our jurors were seated in case after case assisting their fellow citizens resolve civil and criminal cases.

On behalf of the legal community and the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, no words are sufficient to thank the many Broward citizens who have answered the call to jury service during one of the most difficult times in our history. For those of you who answered the call already, and those who will answer the call in the future, you have our humble and ever-lasting gratitude.