

One-Day/One-Trial in the Dallas Division

The Dallas division of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas will implement a one day/one trial jury service system effective June 1, 2009.

What is a one-day/one-trial jury service system?

One-day/one-trial refers to a term of jury service in which a person's service is limited to the first day the person reports for jury service or, if the person is selected to serve on a jury, the completion of one trial. If a prospective juror reports for service and is not selected on the first day, then the prospective juror is excused from further jury service; the one-day appearance fulfills his or her obligation to serve.

What procedures are being used to implement one-day/one-trial?

The court issues to each prospective juror a written summons for a two-week term of service. During these two weeks, the prospective juror must call a toll-free number each day for instructions on whether to report for jury service. Once a prospective juror reports for service, however, the person's obligation ends at the completion of one day or one trial. If the person is not selected for a trial after reporting for service, the person's obligation to serve as a juror is over until the person's name is randomly drawn again. The person's name may never be drawn again, or it may not be drawn until many years later.