

FOCUS ON

Our Jury Division: Supporting the administration of justice in our county

– January 8, 2016

Each day in Gwinnett County, the court system calls on citizens to serve as jurors. For most, receiving a summons in the mail for jury duty may not be as exciting as getting a greeting card, but what many don't realize is that serving on a jury is an important civic duty. By serving in this capacity, residents play an active role in the American justice system and help preserve one of our country's fundamental rights.

The Gwinnett County Jury Division is dedicated to upholding the right to a fair trial for all citizens who have matters before the court by providing a sufficient number of qualified jurors from across the county.

Section manager **Abby Carter** oversees the division's daily operations and manages a staff of 45, which includes 40 bailiffs and five jury clerks. She also establishes and maintains quality control procedures by monitoring the number of available jurors, conducting juror orientation, reviewing judges' court schedules, and determining the appropriate number of jurors to summons for jury duty on any given week.



More than 86,000 residents were summoned to jury duty in 2015.

No special knowledge or set of skills are required to serve as a juror. However, according to Carter, "jurors must have an open mind and be willing to set aside their personal feelings and biases in order to act with impartiality."

Eligible juror candidates are randomly selected through a computer portal system to appear as a trial juror in the Gwinnett County courts. Each year, summonses are mailed to residents using a combined list of county registered voters and licensed drivers issued by the Georgia Department of Driver Services.

Thousands of residents are called for duty in Gwinnett County each year.



Nearly 3,220 jurors were selected in 2015 to dispose 287 cases.

The jury services employees provide quality customer service and play a vital role in the behind-the-scenes operations of the jury duty process. The team works hard to make sure jurors are taken care of from the time they are summoned until they are dismissed from service.

"While serving on a jury may not always be convenient, in order for this process to work we need citizens to participate when they are called," said Carter.

To find out more about the Gwinnett County Jury Division, visit www.gwinnettcourts.com/jury-services.