



Federal Courts' National Educational Outreach that  
Involves, Informs, Inspires, and Ignites

# GRAND JURIES v. TRIAL JURIES IN THE FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM



This is a teaching tool that simplifies key points for students. Find more information in the educational resources section of [uscourts.gov](http://uscourts.gov)

## *Grand Jury*

## *Trial Jury*

### JURY SIZE

16-23 Jurors

6-12 Jurors

### QUESTION

Decide If the Prosecutor Has  
Enough Evidence to Bring Charges

Find Guilty/Not Guilty (Criminal Cases)  
or  
Find Liable/Not Liable (Civil Cases)

### WHAT HAPPENS

The Government Presents Evidence  
in Closed Hearing

Prosecution and Defense Present Evidence  
in Open Court

### WHO PRESENTS EVIDENCE

Only U.S. Attorneys (Prosecutors)

Attorneys for Both Sides: Prosecution  
and Defense

### DURATION OF SERVICE

One Day a Month for Several Months

One Trial Average: 2-3 Days

**Developed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts**

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