

# Jury Demandability

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## Publications & Research

16 Sep 2024

The right to demand a jury trial is fundamental to U.S. democracy. It provides citizens a voice in the judiciary, educates jurors on the justice system, and provides defendants with access to due process, and produces fairer case outcomes. Restricting a right to demand a jury trial shifts power to prosecutors to force defendants to take plea deals and exposes individuals to lifetime collateral consequences they could have avoided.

Most states provide a right to a jury trial in all criminal prosecutions in the first instance. DC is one of 10 jurisdictions that has reduced the number of jury-demandable criminal offenses to the constitutional minimum. This memo provides a basis as to why DC should allow the right to a jury for all cases carrying jail time, reduce prosecutions of non-violent misdemeanor offenses, and provide more oversight over plea deals.

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## Contacts

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## Working Groups

Criminal Legal  
Access to Justice

# Attachments

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