



1959

## Handbook on Jury Service: Published for the Institute of Judicial Administration by Oceana Publications, Inc.

James R. Richardson  
*University of Kentucky*

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*F. W. Whiteside, Jr.*

College of Law  
University of Kentucky

**HANDBOOK ON JURY SERVICE:** Published for The Institute of Judicial Administration by Oceana Publications, Inc., 80 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y., Pp. 16, 1958. Single copies 25c.

This pamphlet is significant in that it is representative of a rather recent movement which recognizes that layman juries perform judicial functions, and, consequently, need basic instructions on their conduct in the discharge of those functions.

These handbooks are in use in Federal District Courts and in some state courts. The fact that they are not required reading for jurors borders on criminal neglect, or, more properly, obstructionism, since many trial attorneys apparently feel that such attempts at enlightenment might well prejudice their clients' cases. In any event, the right of the court to issue a jury handbook to trial jurors has been questioned in several federal and state courts, and this publication is an attempt at complete objectivity in order to avoid objections from opposing counsel. This objective seems to have been achieved by the publishers. In simple and direct language the Handbook discusses the history and functions of trial juries, methods of selection, conduct and behavior during trial, listening to instructions, deliberations in the jury room, and manner of reaching a verdict. In some respects the text may be repetitious of the trial judge's cautionary charges in certain cases, and it lacks an important feature in that local juror-qualifications for service are not included, but, in the main, the publishers have made a commendable effort in sponsoring a constructive adjunct to the trial jury system.

*James R. Richardson*

Professor of Law  
University of Kentucky