



February 8, 2023

Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (“OADC”), which represents approximately 600 civil defense lawyers, we urge you to improve access and eliminate barriers to jury service by supporting House Bill 2224.

Each year, tens of thousands of Oregonians serve their communities by putting into practice a fundamental American ideal of justice: the right to trial by jury. In both criminal and civil cases, trial by jury allows for litigants to have their disputes resolved by a jury of peers who determine community standards and expectations in accordance with the law.

Unfortunately, Oregon’s juror service compensation rates have failed to keep pace with increases in costs of living and inflation, presenting barriers to broad participation and access to this important civic duty by some of our community members.

OADC strongly supports HB 2224, which aligns Oregon’s daily juror compensation rate with the federal court juror compensation system and increases the juror mileage rate to match that established by the U.S. General Services Administration.

Making the statutory changes proposed in HB 2224 will be a meaningful step forward toward increasing critical, diverse participation in our jury system, and we urge your strong support.

If you would like further testimony from any of our members on the importance of the passage of this bill to civil practitioners here in Oregon, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your consideration of OADC’s input on this important bill.

Sincerely,

OADC Government Affairs Committee

Peter Tuenge – President, OADC
Heather Bowman – President-Elect, OADC
Dan Larsen – Secretary/Treasurer, OADC
Lloyd Bernstein – Chair, OADC Government Affairs Committee
Molly Marcum
Daniel Schanz
Maureen McGee (Lobbyist)
Rocky Dallum (Lobbyist)