

Juror's occupations

Monday, 07 April 2008

From the Times Law Report April 7th 2008...

There was one matter, however, that should receive attention without any delay.

It was essential that the trial judge should be aware at the stage of jury selection if any juror in waiting was, or had been, a police officer or a member of the prosecuting authority, or was a serving prison officer.

Those called for jury service should be required to record on the appropriate form whether they fell into any of those categories, so that that information could be conveyed to the judge.

Their Lordships invited all of those authorities and the Court Service to consider the implications of this judgment and to issue such directions as they considered appropriate.

JK comments...

This may seem unimportant but I believe it opens a real can of worms. What if jurors are paedophiles - or admit to finding girls who are 15 but look 16 attractive? Should they be allowed to serve on a jury hearing a trial about sex offences?

Or jurors who are NOT celebrities and therefore have no experience (as in my trial) of the way people behave towards celebrities - inflating experiences, exaggerating chance meetings into friendships and so on?

Genuinely believing someone they met once or twice but see every month on the TV or in their papers is a much greater friend than the reality?