

April 15, 2024

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

***Attorneys, Advocates, Impacted New Yorkers, Elected Officials and Others to Hold Rally Calling on Albany to Pass Legislation to End the Lifetime Ban on Jury Service for People with Felony Convictions***

(ALBANY, NY) - Attorneys, advocates, impacted New Yorkers, elected officials and others will hold a rally on Tuesday, April 16th, at 10:30 A.M. calling on Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature to pass the [Jury of Our Peers Act](#), legislation that would end the lifetime ban on jury service for people with felony convictions.

**WHO:** Attorneys, advocates, impacted New Yorkers, elected officials and others

**WHERE:** 4th floor corridor outside the NYS Senate Chamber in the NYS Capitol Building

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 10:30 A.M.

**Background:**

New York law permanently disqualifies people with felony convictions from serving on a jury, no matter the offense, how long ago the conviction took place, or what they have since done to rehabilitate their lives. The Jury of Our Peers Act, sponsored by NY State Senator Cordell Cleare and Assemblymember Jeffrion Aubry, would put an end to that ban, automatically restoring the right to serve on a jury upon release, and allow more New Yorkers to meaningfully participate in the fundamental civic function of our democracy that is serving on a jury.

New York's regressive life-time ban stands behind the majority of all US states; twenty-six states and the District of Columbia have less restrictive laws regarding jury service eligibility than New York. The legislation is supported by dozens of organizations including the American Probation and Parole Association. The Office of Court Administration's "Justice Taskforce" also endorsed the automatic restoration of jury service after incarceration in [a report released in August of 2022](#). A version of the bill was passed by the NY State Senate in 2019. The Jury of Our Peers Act currently has 53 Assembly cosponsors and 19 Senate cosponsors.

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