



MATA Statement on Jury Service

The Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys affirms that jury service is essential to our system of justice. Jurors must be able to deliberate freely, exercise their independent judgment, and reach decisions without fear of harassment, intimidation, or public reprisal. Whatever the case or the outcome, jurors who fulfill this important civic responsibility deserve our respect and protection. Conduct that targets or intimidates individual jurors risks discouraging others from serving and undermines the integrity of the jury system on which we all depend.

The right to a trial by jury is a sacred cornerstone of our democracy. It ensures that justice belongs to the people, not just the powerful. Ideally, this system involves jurors who are engaged, forthright, and committed to the process, so attorneys can effectively participate in jury selection. To preserve this system, we must fiercely protect everyday citizens who step forward to serve. Juror service is a critical pillar of our legal system—and that pillar collapses the moment we fail to guarantee the safety and dignity of our jurors. The targeting of individual citizens across media/digital platforms corrupts the justice system and MATA condemns any such actions.

Matthew J. Fogelman

President

Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys