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### **Nearly 100 Bench Warrants Issued for Jury No-Shows**

Chief Judge Rufus King III announced today that he has issued nearly 100 bench warrants for people who failed to appear for jury duty in D.C. Superior Court and for a show cause hearing to explain their absence.

According to a court spokesperson, the no-shows can now be arrested at any time and will be detained by law enforcement officers until they can be brought before a judge.

The penalty for failing to appear for jury duty is a fine of up to \$300 or up to seven days in jail. Similar penalties can also be imposed for contempt of court for failure to appear when summoned to a show cause hearing.

“It is unfair for some D.C. residents to fulfill their responsibility and others to shirk it,” King said in a statement. “While my preference is certainly not to issue bench warrants for D.C. residents, people have to comply with court summonses and show cause orders. Jury duty is not voluntary, but a mandatory civic responsibility.”

The D.C. jury system requires service for “one trial or one day.” Most trials last three or four days.

Posted by Jeff Jeffrey on July 02, 2008 at 04:58 PM in [D.C. Courts and Government](#) | [Permalink](#)

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