

I was selected for jury duty only once, although I have always wanted to participate in that civic responsibility. The single time I sat in a jury box, I didn't have a chance to vote on the verdict in the case. It was something minor, and I can't remember just what it was and even if it was District Court or Circuit Court. When it came time to decide the case, a drawing was held to eliminate two jurors, since everyone had shown up for this trial. Apparently, this is—or was—the usual action in these minor cases. I was one of the two jurors who did not get a chance to vote.

But, even this small experience in the system of justice we have in this country showed me something. Nearly everyone, when confronted with judicial decision-making, is serious and honest. Sometimes, a person may lie about the ability to make a considered and truthful vote on the basis of the evidence provided by the Prosecution and the Defense. But, this seems to be very rare. If people are not able to leave their biases outside the courtroom, they are nearly always happy to say so and escape jury duty. Once on a jury, studies show that almost everyone sets aside personal opinions and listens and decides on the basis of evidence.

There is no reason to believe that the jurors who convicted Donald Trump on all 34 felony counts are any different. Their demeanor, listening to the judge and lawyers and close attention to weeks of testimony all support this view.

As we followed the Trump trial, we did the same, trying to see if there really was a case to convict the former President of the United States of a felony crime. As the testimony unfolded, it became evident that everything that Michael Cohen said could be backed up by other witnesses and by documentation. It should have been clear to anyone reading the testimony of the trial that Trump got just what he deserved. He had been involved in election subversion long before the 2020 election when he proceeded to lose lawsuit after lawsuit regarding the election and followed that with actively encouraging the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6. He had been deep in unlawful activity during the 2016 campaign.

The judge, jury, and attorneys all did their jobs. The justice system worked as it should. No person is immune from accountability under the laws of our Constitution. Donald Trump lost this case. A jury listened to the evidence and decided that there was no reasonable doubt not to accept the Prosecution's charges. That should be it. Trump should accept his sentence and perhaps learn a long overdue lesson in the process. He is an ordinary citizen in the eyes of the law.