# LEGAL UPDATE NEW YORK

## **New York Increases Jury Duty Pay**

As part of the 2025-26 budget bill, New York <u>amended</u> its judiciary law to increase the daily allowance for jurors to \$72 from \$40 per day for New York state, town and village courts. The increase took effect **June 8, 2025**.

#### **Employee Leave for Jury Duty in New York**

New York law requires employers to allow employees time off from work to serve as jurors, and employers are prohibited from discharging or penalizing employees for absence due to jury service, although jurors must provide advance notice of their juror summons to the employer.

It is considered an illegal penalty under the law to count an employee's jury duty absence against their vacation, personal leave or sick time. However, an employee may choose to use this paid leave over losing wages.

#### **Compensation for Jury Service**

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Employers are encouraged but not required to pay an employee's full daily wage while the employee is serving as a juror.

The state judiciary law sets forth the following mandates about payment:

• Employers of more than 10 employees: The employer must pay employees the amended, increased jury fee of \$72, or the employee's wage, if lower, each day for the first three days of jury service.

If the juror's daily wage is less than the jury fee, the state makes up the difference; and

• Employers of 10 or fewer employees: If the employer does not pay at least the \$72 jury fee, the state will pay that amount.

After three days, the state pays the jury fee to jurors whose employers do not pay them at least that amount. For jurors who are paid a daily wage that is less than the jury fee, the state makes up the difference.

The rules for jury duty compensation are explained in a <u>pamphlet</u> produced by the state.

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### Highlights

- New York has increased its fee for jury service to \$72 per day from the previous rate of \$40 per day.
- Employers with more than 10 employees must pay the lower of the employee's daily wage or \$72 for the first three days of jury duty.
- Employers with fewer than 10 employees are not required to pay workers while they are absent on jury duty.

Whether the employer or state pays the daily jury fee depends on the employer's size and policy.

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