

SUMMONSING WHEN JURY POOL IS EXHAUSTED

Submitted by Margaret Smith – Tuolumne
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Tuolumne County Superior Court is interested in knowing how your court handles summonsing jurors when your jury pool is exhausted prior to the end of the year. Do you summons jurors more than once per year who had been called off previously and did not report? Has your court applied for an exemption from Rule 2.1002 due to a size of population compared to the number of jury trials?

1	Edwina Harper	To prevent this from happening in Yolo County, when we summon a juror, but we cancel his/her service the day before their scheduled appearance, their name goes back into the active jury pool for a future date. We do not consider their service complete until they make a physical appearance. The exception to this is if they are to appear at 1:15 pm and we cancel their service at 12 noon, then their service is complete.
2	Georgia Cassel	Kern County does a jury load once a year. We are fortunate to have a sufficient enough population where we do not exhaust the pool. We do summons county-wide each week for the Metropolitan Court location in Bakersfield, where the majority of the jury trials are held. However, if the zip code is outside a 75-mile radius from Bakersfield or in the area served by the Kern River Superior Court in Lake Isabella, the summons are not mailed out unless ordered by the court (usually for death penalty or high-profile jury trials). This is a local court rule. Those summons are then returned to the shoebox; and those jurors are again in "ready" status to be summoned at a future date for either the Metropolitan Court location in Bakersfield or in the 2 other regional court locations served by their zip codes (Ridgecrest or Mojave). If the summons are mailed out, they are considered summoned for the purposes of the 12-months' requirement even if they are called off.
3	Keri Shane	Here in El Dorado County we summons jurors twice. In our South Lake Tahoe Court, the population up there is pretty much seasonal. When we upload our shoeboxes at the beginning of the year, we set up 3 additional shoeboxes for SLT. Once they are originally summoned, and not needed, they are put back into a different shoebox. For example, we have Jan-May, June-Sept, and then Oct-Dec. When a pool is not needed they get put back into one of those shoeboxes. So for instance right now, we are pulling jurors from Jan-May to be summoned for December. So, they will be summoned twice, but with at least 4-6 months between service dates. On the West Slope we do not have this issue, and have plenty jurors left. I hope this helps and is not too confusing :)
4	Sherry Spears	We haven't had this situation in Fresno, perhaps because of the size of the population. We get a new load twice a year so maybe that returns more people to the pool each time; I know it helps with our undeliverable rate.