

## YOU the JURY

### The Power of the Jury: DID YOU KNOW?

**THAT AS A JUROR, you have the power to reject both the application of law and evidence and decide a case on conscience.** The jury's purpose has always been to assess both whether a law has been broken and whether the law itself has been justly applied – that is: should the case have been brought to court.

*"Every jury in the land is tampered with and falsely instructed by the judge when it is told that it must accept as the law that which has been given to them or that they must bring in a certain verdict or that they can decide only on the facts of the case" Lord Denman.*

#### **THE QUESTION TO BE ASKED IS: DOES THE PROSECUTION REFLECT THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW?**

**Jury nullification**, as it is known, is one of the essential checks and balances we have established to ensure our leaders enact laws that benefit us and not them.

**Jury nullification** is where a jury deliberately rejects the evidence or refuses to apply the law either because the jury wants to send a message about a social issue or because the result dictated by the law is against the jury's sense of justice or morality." (Answers.com)

**Jury nullification** gives the right to acquit someone on the grounds that the application of law is wrong in a particular case, or that the law itself is wrong.

#### **When to nullify:**

**Consider the prosecution, under the Misuse of Drugs Act, of a person for small-scale cultivation or personal possession of cannabis being used to ease pain and suffering (that is, medically). We should ask: was that law introduced to punish people who grow or use a plant to their benefit, when they do no harm?**

Of course not – it was meant to reduce damage from drugs misuse!

Then maybe such a prosecution is a mis-application of the law and good reason to return a verdict of NOT GUILTY, whatever judges and barristers say!

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