

WHAT IS A JURAL ASSEMBLY?



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Justice in the Hands of the People

A jural assembly is a gathering of citizens convened to exercise judicial authority directly, rather than through professional judges or government officials. In plain terms, it's the people themselves acting as the court. A jural assembly is an unincorporated group of people who come together to define and enforce local laws within their community. It serves as a form of self-governance, where members are responsible for the well-being of their neighborhood and can select leaders and officials to manage community affairs.

A jury-based assembly is rooted in common law tradition, which is composed of free people from the community. These people convene to judge facts, law, and justice.

A jural assembly may:

- Hear disputes or accusations
- Examine evidence and testimony
- Determine both guilt and innocence
- Decide what the law means in a given case
- Issue judgments based on conscience, reason, and custom

Unlike modern courts, a jural assembly does not separate roles into judge (law) and jury (facts). The assembly holds full judicial power.

Historical roots

- Anglo-Saxon roots
- Common law juries in England
- Early American colonial courts
- Local people's courts before centralized federal systems

In early America, juries were understood to be judges of law and fact, acting as a safeguard against tyranny.

How it differs from modern courts:

Jural Assembly

People govern justice
Jury judges law & facts
Based on common law
Community authority

Modern Court

State administers justice
Judge controls law
Based on statutes & codes
Government authority

Modern interest usually centers on:

- Restoring local self-governance
- Limiting administrative overreach
- Reasserting the right of the people to judge
- Reviving common law principles

A jural assembly is traditionally formed when a group of people come together to make decisions about laws, rules, or justice in their community. Usually, the people chosen are free, responsible adults who have a good understanding of right and wrong. They meet publicly, often in a special place like a town hall or a courthouse and take an oath to be fair and honest. Each person gets a say, and decisions are made by discussion and agreement, sometimes by voting if needed.

In short:

A jural assembly is the people standing up and saying, “Justice belongs to us, not the state.”