

For Immediate Release – January 15, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

Laura A. Briggs, Clerk  
46 East Ohio Street, Room 105  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**JURY DUTY SCAM ALERT: “FAILURE TO APPEAR” FINES**

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana - January 15, 2015: In various parts of the United States, including the Southern District of Indiana, citizens are being targeted by phone calls threatening them with prosecution for failure to comply with jury service in federal court. The individual calling may identify him or herself as a “Federal Agent,” and the caller may or may not indicate the call is from the “Federal Warrant Service” or some other fictitious federal law enforcement agency. The caller will state that a bench or arrest warrant has been issued for failure to appear in court and then give the person the option of paying a fine to avoid arrest. Typically, the caller will ask the person to obtain a “green dot” or “blue dot” voucher or debit card.

**These phone calls are fraudulent and have no connection to either the United States District Court or to the United States Marshals Service.**

Neither this Court nor any other law enforcement agency will ever call someone to request the payment of a fine over the telephone for failure to appear for jury duty (nor will personal information, such as a social security number, ever be requested over the phone). Typically, jurors who miss jury duty will be contacted by the Clerk’s Office and may, in certain circumstances, be ordered to appear in court before a judge. Any fine for failure to appear for jury duty will be imposed by a judge during an open session of court, and the summoned juror will be given the opportunity to explain the failure to appear before any fine would be imposed.

**If anyone is contacted or has been contacted by someone requesting such payments, please do not make the payment. Instead, immediately contact the United States District Court Clerk’s Office in Indianapolis at 317-229-3700, and state that you may have been a target of juror fraud.**