**Jury Trials and Bench Trials**

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 A jury is a group of individuals sworn to the task of giving judgment on a case based on evidence. A jury trial is a lawful procedure in which the jury makes a judgment based on facts and findings. A jury trial consists of six to twelve people. Bench trials, on the other hand, consist of a panel of judges that make a judgment (Mauet, 2002). Jury trials and bench trials are differentiated in that, for bench trials, only judges are involved. Both jury trials and bench trials are commonly used all over the world.

 Jury trials have been associated with several advantages as well as disadvantages. One, jury trials reduce the likelihood of bias. The presence of several people while making deliberations makes it impossible for one person’s ideas to influence the whole case. Non-bias in court rulings ensures justice for all. Members of the jury are selected on a ballot basis from within the community. This makes it easier for the accused as they are tried by people they can relate to. Choosing jury members from within the community also brings unity even when addressing criminal behavior. Also, having a jury consisting of members from the community itself ensures that the decisions made are for the good of society at large. The jury system also helps to keep everyone connected to their civic duty. Also, the jury trial system has been attributed to having quite a high accuracy rate in judgment (Brown, 1993).

 However, jury trials fall short for numerous reasons. Jury members are under no obligation to offer a just ruling. Their work is to simply deliberate among themselves and develop a judgment based on the evidence provided. Despite jury trials having a higher accuracy rate, they have been associated with inaccuracy, especially in capital or violent incidents. The extensive time taken by the jury to reach a decision cannot be ignored as justice delayed is justice denied. Lastly, a specific group of people chosen to serve the jury often leads to social classes within the society. Individuals chosen are considered to be of a higher class. Those who are close to them also benefit.

 Bench trials have outdone jury trials as well. For instance, bench trials offer a faster verdict than the jury system, which often takes longer to reach a verdict. Bench trials are also less complex. It has a simple procedure that can be easily understood by all parties involved. A non-complex system of trial ensures easier rendering of justice. The less formality encountered in the bench trials can also be an advantage because the attorney can negotiate with the judge and agree based on facts. One of the strongest aspects of bench trials is that decisions are made based on evidence and rules. Decisions by jury trials are often based on emotional feelings by jury members.

 Nevertheless, bench trials are more prone to bias and prejudices. The judge’s decision is always final, even though they may have a personal agenda against the accused. Some judges might also engage in corruption. They pass unjust judgment in favor of guilty criminals and get paid in return. It is also important to note that some cases are better handled within a jury trial system than a bench trial.

 In summary, both the jury trials and the bench trials are methods used in trials worldwide. It is up to society itself to decide which method suits them. The disadvantages experienced on both sides should be addressed amicably.

**References**

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