

**United States v. Moussaoui:  
Thank-You Letter to Anonymous Jurors**

Hon. Leonie M. Brinkema  
Eastern District of Virginia  
May 3, 2006

The following letter was sent by the Eastern District of Virginia's United States District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema to jurors who served anonymously in the prosecution of an alleged conspirator with perpetrators of the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington, in *United States v. Moussaoui*, No. 1:01-cr-455 (E.D. Va. Dec. 11, 2001).

**Thank-You Letter**

Re: *United States v. Moussaoui*, 1:01-cr-455

Dear Juror # \_\_\_\_\_:

On behalf of the court, I want to thank and commend you for your outstanding public service as a juror in this very difficult case. [You and the other alternate jurors deserve special recognition because you remained fully attentive throughout this trial even though you knew that you might never be called upon to participate in the final sentencing decision. As I said many times in open court, you were necessary to insure that this case would not have to be retried if one of the deliberating jurors became ill.] The jury has reached its decision and this case is finally over. Therefore, you may go back to your regular routine, including watching news broadcasts about the case.

Although the attorneys are prohibited from trying to communicate with you, members of the media or the public may eventually try to communicate with you about the case. You are free to speak with them if you wish; however, you may not disclose the identity of any of the other sixteen jurors, the contents of any classified information shown only to the jurors, or any confidential discussions the jurors may have had among themselves. You also have a right to refuse to communicate with anyone about the case and your experiences as a juror. If you exercise that right and believe that your wishes are not being respected, you may call the United States Marshals Service at \_\_\_\_\_ or me at \_\_\_\_\_ for assistance.

You should feel a great sense of accomplishment in knowing that you were asked to make a sacrifice for your country and that you responded to that call. Our legal system would collapse if we did not have citizens like you who are willing to put aside their normal routine and spend days in a courtroom, sometimes to be exposed to some very terrible sights and sounds, and then being called upon to judge another human. Your outstanding service on the jury is clear proof of the willingness of Americans to serve their nation, and of the strength of our legal system.

*United States v. Moussaoui: Thank-You Letter to Anonymous Jurors*

Once again, thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge