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To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
From: Carrie J. Williams, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice
Section
Date: 1/24/2023
Subject: SB97– Courts—Jury Service—Disqualification
Position: **Support**

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law and Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) Supports SB97– Courts—Jury Service—Disqualification.

This bill makes people who have been convicted of crimes and have served their sentences, including any term of parole or probation, eligible for jury service. A trial by a jury of one’s peers is a fundamental tenet of the American judicial system. Yet current law permanently disqualifies a person from jury service if they have been convicted of a crime and sentenced to more than one year in prison.

SB97 would allow people who have served their sentence to do their civic duty and participate in jury service. For these reasons, we support SB97. If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section’s Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at carriej.williams@gmail.com.

Additional information can also be provided by Shaoli Katana at MSBA - shaoli@msba.org.