

“[A] competent number of sensible and upright jurymen, chosen by lot from among those of the middle rank, will be found the best investigators of truth, and the surest guardians of public justice. For the most powerful individual in the state will be cautious of committing any flagrant invasion of another's right, when he knows that the fact of his oppression must be examined and decided by twelve indifferent men, not appointed till the hour of trial; and that, when once that fact is ascertained, the law must of course redress it. This therefore preserves in the hands of the people that share which they ought to have in the administration of public justice, and prevents the encroachments of the more powerful and wealthy citizens. Every new tribunal, erected for the decision of facts, without the intervention of a jury....is a step towards establishing aristocracy, the most oppressive of absolute governments.”

Blackstone, William (2010-12-03). Commentaries on the Laws of England, Vol. 3 - Private Wrongs (Kindle Locations 6361-6365). Lonang Institute. Kindle Edition.

“...all secret machinations, which may sap and undermine it; by introducing new and arbitrary methods of trial And however convenient these may appear at first, (as doubtless all arbitrary powers, well executed, are the most convenient) yet let it be again remembered, that delays, and little inconveniences in the forms of justice, are the price that all free nations must pay for their liberty in more substantial matters.”

Blackstone, William (2010-12-03). Commentaries on the Laws of England, Vol. 4 - Public Wrongs (Kindle Location 5511). Lonang Institute. Kindle Edition.