



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on December 6, 2021

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Kenosha Jury Acquits, Despite Fears, Intimidation

Anyone who saw video of Kyle Rittenhouse's gritty battle against four leftist goons during the Jacob Blake riots in Kenosha, Wisconsin, knew he was innocent of murder. That Rittenhouse had defended himself had always been clear since August 25 of last year, the night the four attacked him.

Prosecutors knew it too, and though they surely knew they shouldn't have charged him, the leftists bayed for blood, and so the authorities filed two homicide charges and two reckless endangering charges against the then-17-year-old from Antioch, Illinois.



AP Images

Fifteen months later, the jury spoke. Rittenhouse prevailed.

So score one for truth, justice, and the American way, as the narrator said in the old *Superman* television series. Unafraid despite threats against him and his family, and despite threats of violence not only on social media but also outside the courthouse, Judge Bruce Schroeder presided fairly and ruled even-handedly, while the jury deliberated at length for almost four full days before rendering not-guilty verdicts, which might have infuriated leftist opinion more than the shootings. How dare you, leftists steamed, permit a white man to defend himself against the communist mob that was burning down Kenosha.

To their everlasting credit, judge and jury sent a message: Communist mobs will not burn and loot our cities with impunity. Nor will those criminals chase down, brutalize, or even murder with impunity those who use force — sometimes deadly force — to protect lives and property, friends and family.

America became a little safer because of Judge Schroeder and the still-anonymous jurors whose verdict confirmed that self-defense is still legal. The outcome should also restore at least a little faith in our system of justice, which works when the guilty are found guilty and the innocent are found innocent, and that system fortifies two of the basic rights that every American citizen has enjoyed since the 18th century: the right to fair jury trial, and the freedom to defend oneself and one's family from malefactors bent on mayhem and murder.

The Judge

The first sign that Schroeder would ensure a fair trial was his ruling that prosecutors could not call those criminals "victims," a standard practice in his courtroom and among other judges. After all, he said, they aren't "victims" until a crime has been proved, and that wouldn't be the case until jurors rendered verdicts. The move infuriated leftists.

Nor were they happy when Schroeder chastised lead prosecutor Thomas Binger for asking Rittenhouse, on cross-examination, about his silence after the arrest, as was his right under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. "I was astonished," Schroeder said, because "that's basic law, it's been basic law



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in the country for 40 years, 50 years.” Schroeder also erupted in fury when Binger tried to introduce evidence that Schroeder had already ruled out of bounds.

He also criticized so-called legal experts in the leftist media who thought it odd that he didn’t rule on a defense motion to dismiss the case before prosecutors had a chance to respond. During that discussion, he offered a history lesson about why the framers of the Constitution included a provision for a defendant to be tried by a jury of his peers.

“These are intelligent people,” Schroeder began:

There was a time when the educated people in the town were the physician, and the lawyer, and maybe the school teacher and the preacher, and the rest of the people were farmers, so obviously they weren’t as smart as those educated people, right? Wrong. That’s never been the belief of the founders of our country. It’s never been true. And I think these people are as competent as the educated people, and many of them are educated, to make these decisions. And that’s where the founders of our country put the power, not with us.

When the jury returned with not-guilty verdicts, Schroeder simply said that it had done its job as the Founders intended: seriously, and with grim determination to arrive at the right verdict.

“Your job is done,” Schroeder said. “Without commenting on your verdict — the verdicts themselves — just in terms of your attentiveness and the cooperation that you gave to us justifies the confidence that the founders of our country placed in you.”

To his credit, Schroeder let neither the angry hysterics of the communist mob outside the courtroom, nor the communist mob on Twitter, nor the communists who threatened him in e-mails, deter him from his duty. Instead, he promised they would pay for the threats.

The Jury

The jury stood tall, too, against the angry mob outside. Jurors began deliberations at 9 a.m. on November 16 and deliberated for three full days, then delivered a verdict in the morning of November 19.

Understandably, those who thought Rittenhouse was unjustly accused — that he clearly defended himself — worried that the jury would convict him. Jurors asked the judge for a copy of a few pages of his instructions, and two violent goons who protested outside the courthouse, just a few feet away from where jurors mulled the case, landed in jail. Worse still, cops caught an MSNBC producer trying to follow the jury bus when he ran a red light to keep up. The purpose: threaten to, if not actually, identify the jurors. Knowing that their names and faces went public might cause the jury to be too terrified to acquit.

Yet even without that happening, the jurors surely knew the backlash that could be expected if they decided the “wrong” way.

So long was the deliberation that columnist Ann Coulter said the jurors might make those who acquitted O.J. Simpson of murders he obviously committed look like Nobel laureates. Pro-Rittenhouse Twitter surmised that the jurors were afraid to find Rittenhouse not guilty, that they feared communist goons would kill them, or burn Kenosha to the ground unless they rendered the verdict the mob wanted.



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The fears were groundless.

“The jury here did exactly as it was designed,” liberal law professor Jonathan Turley said. “The jury is supposed to stand between the government and the citizen, between a mob and a defendant. They are tasked with doing dispassionate justice. That’s what happened here.”

Indeed. Prosecutors overcharged Rittenhouse, as Turley said, and tried to railroad him. They claimed Rittenhouse provoked the men who attacked him, and attempted to portray him as a liar and cop wannabe, a dangerous kid with an illegal rifle who crossed state lines to shoot people. It was almost as if Binger had commentators on MSNBC prepare his case. Prosecutors also withheld evidence from the defense, and purposely tried to provoke a mistrial when their case began collapsing, Rittenhouse’s attorneys argued. A mistrial would give them another chance to try him. The leftist media smeared him 24-7-365 from August 25, 2020, through the trial, and after the verdict, insisting without evidence that he was a “racist” and “white supremacist,” even though race had nothing do with the case. So did Twitter’s volcanic Bolsheviks, who fumed that Rittenhouse must be lynched.

Jurors saw through the lies to the truth. They heard the prosecutors’ own witnesses fortify Rittenhouse’s claim of self-defense. They heard Rittenhouse testify. He was a kid who went to Kenosha to clean up the wreckage the demonic rioters caused and help protect the town where he worked, and where his family and friends lived.

He did what the elected and public officials failed to do. The jury saw that, and acted accordingly.



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