

Waterside Press, Hampshire

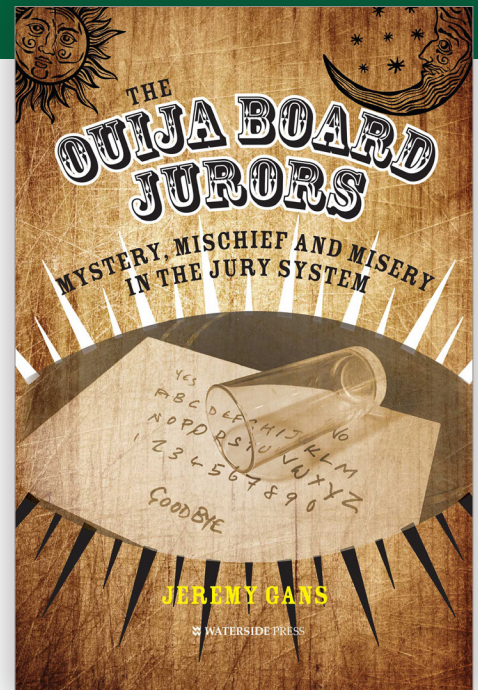
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Advance Information

Title	The Ouija Board Jurors	
Subtitle	Mystery, Mischief and Misery in the Jury System	
Authors	Jeremy Gans	
Publisher	Waterside Press	
Format	Paperback 234x156mm, 220 pages	
ISBN	978-1-909976-48-1	
Price	£19.95	Rights Worldwide
Publication	4 October 2017	Edition 1st
Category	Legal History; Social History	
Subjects	JKV=Crime and criminology; LAZ=Legal history.	
Who will buy it?	Crime and justice personnel, social and legal historians, practitioners, students, collectors, librarians, lawyers, researchers and general readers.	



The Ouija board jury incident of 1994 is one of the most disconcerting in English legal history, possibly (says the author) 'the nadir of reported juror misbehaviour in the 20th-century'. But, as Professor Jeremy Gans shows, in an era of soundbites it has been distorted by the media whilst even eminent lawyers have sometimes got the story wrong. In this first full-length treatment he emphasises the known facts, the constitutional dilemma of investigating even bizarre jury misbehaviour and how the trial involved one of the most serious murder cases of the decade in which two people were shot in cold blood. Stephen Young's conviction after a re-trial is still claimed to be a miscarriage of justice by some people, as to which Gans puts forward his own ingenious solution.

But quite apart from analysing the facts of *R v Young*, this book is a *tour de force* on jury misbehaviour in which the author also examines the implications for example of winks and nods, research by jurors, speaking or listening out of turn, going to sleep during the hearing or falling in love with one of the advocates. Amusing at first sight, such events involve deep questions of law, practice and democratic involvement in the Criminal Justice process. Far from being a mere anecdote, the case of the Ouija board

jurors, the misconceptions about it and the issues it leads to deserve close study by anyone who is even remotely interested in jury trial.

Key Selling Points

- **The first full length treatment of an iconic case.**
- **Dispels the myths that have built-up around it.**
- **Looks at other instances of jury misbehaviour.**
- **Shows how the courts and Parliament have wrestled with problems of this kind**
- **A first-rate analysis of a baffling double murder.**

Author

Jeremy Gans is a Professor at Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne. He researches on all areas of criminal justice and has had treatises published on the law of evidence (Oxford University Press), criminal law (Cambridge University Press) and criminal process rights (Federation Press, Australia), as well as numerous academic articles, including on the murder of Peter Falconio and the death of Azaria Chamberlain. He is a regular commentator in the Australian media and has blogged for a range of websites.



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