Summary of PhD thesis:

Juror participation in criminal cases.

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The main objective of my research is to establish a connection between the jury member of a jury and the jury member of a mixed tribunal. Until now, these two types of lay adjudication in criminal trials have been examined separately. For legal jurisdictions adopting the jury system, a mixed tribunal is a false form of people's participation in criminal trials. While mixed tribunals are traditional, the jury concept is obscure and unknown.

Objectively, a jury and a mixed tribunal are two forms of participation in criminal trials by ordinary men and women as jurors. It is the decision-making aspect of lay participation in criminal courts that is of special importance, not the organizational way of participation. Regardless of whether it is part of a jury or a mixed tribunal, the non-professional participation by jurors in criminal trials is closely related. In this context, we can definitely draw many parallels or comparisons and exchange useful ideas for reforms as well as extend our reach to different types of legal knowledge. In order to achieve that, my PhD thesis (363 pages) features the following sections:

1. Introduction:
   - Juries and mixed tribunals around the world - differences and similarities.
   - Democratic national and international criminal systems without jurors.
2. Chapter one:
   - The parallel history of jury trials and mixed tribunal trials.
   - A special focus on the history of a mixed tribunal in Bulgaria.
3. Chapter two:
   - Basic features of a jury trial.
   - The diminishing number of jury trials in the great English-speaking democracies.
   - Special analysis of the relationship between a judge and a jury.
   - Jury nullification.
   - Selection of jury and jury deliberations.
4. Chapter three:
   - The legal status of a juror in Bulgaria.
   - Constitutional and international regulations.

- Selection process and emancipation of the juror from the professional judge.
- Problems in national legislation.

5. Chapter four:
   - Psychological, organizational and social aspects of the juror's work.
   - Education of jurors and demographic characteristics of jurors in Bulgaria.
   - Jurors' associations and ethical rules for jurors.
6. Conclusions:
   As part of my research, I have summarized the arguments of both supporters and enemies of juror participation in criminal trials. Then, I have made a comparison between juries and mixed tribunals. Furthermore, I have identified a worldwide crisis in jury trials and participation of jurors in mixed tribunals. I have also analyzed the reasons for the crisis as well as the possible strategies for its resolution. Thus, I have found it impossible to implement a jury in Bulgaria, and I have laid out theoretical research-based proposals for reforms of juror's participation in a mixed tribunal. These proposals for reforms are not only legislative, but they also address important educational and organizational requirements for juror efficiency.