Sam and Jury Decisions: Should the Supreme Court Overturn Williams v. Florida?

The traditional American jury consists of 12 jurors who must render a unanimous decision. However, the Supreme Court has ruled as constitutional 12-person juries with a quota of 9, and 6-person juries with a unanimity requirement. We use Thomas and Pollack’s Sample Accuracy Model (SAM) to analyze these juries under various assumptions, and conclude that smaller juries and non-unanimous quotas present a serious threat to the application of justice in the legal system. (Received June 23, 2012)