NBCI Calls for Jury Reform Considering Legal and Ethical Ramifications of the Lindsay Clancy Case

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, September 17, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino faith communities comprising 27.7 million members, is calling for a national discussion on jury privacy and reform following the Lindsay Clancy trial and subsequent concerns about the privacy and safety of jurors.


Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI

Jury duty is one of the bedrocks of our democracy, and NBCI believes citizens who serve should be able to fulfill their responsibilities without fear of harassment, threats, or unnecessary intrusion into their private lives. NBCI is particularly concerned about the public scrutiny directed toward the lone holdout juror following the mistrial, including reporting on his personal and legal history.

NBCI believes the subsequent scrutiny of the juror raises important questions about how the news media should balance legitimate public-interest reporting with juror privacy and safety. NBCI is calling for comprehensive examination of jury protections so that citizens are not discouraged from serving because they fear unwanted exposure or harassment following a verdict or mistrial.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative, says, “There is a greater question here about the ethics of journalism. The question is when the freedom of the press and the public's right to know come into conflict with the privacy and safety of the people being covered. In the case of this juror, NBCI believes a grave error in judgment was made. We believe the level of scrutiny directed toward him was unfair and raises serious concerns about racial bias and the treatment of Black jurors. The public's right to know does not justify undermining human decency. The Black Church is asking the reporters and news organizations involved to carefully consider the consequences of this coverage and is calling for a public apology.”

The Lindsay Clancy murder trial ended in a mistrial on September 4, 2026 (https://apnews.com/article/efa1ee812def91a23f61d7f07b6a5120), after the jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict. Eleven jurors favored a finding of not guilty by reason of lack of criminal responsibility, while one juror disagreed.


NBC10 Boston investigative reporter Ryan Kath

Following the mistrial, NBC10 Boston courtroom commentator Sue O'Connell interviewed three jurors (https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/lindsay-clancy-jurors-speak-about-deliberations-hold-out-juror/3773052/), including the jury foreperson, about the deliberations and the lone holdout juror. NBC10 Boston investigative reporter Ryan Kath subsequently reported on the holdout juror's background (https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/national-international/lindsay-clancy-holdout-juror-had-history-of-domestic-violence-allegations/6546854/), citing court documents and interviews with family members.

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> *Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative*

Context Following the Mistrial

- The Trial: Lindsay Clancy was charged with three counts of murder in the deaths of her children in Duxbury, Massachusetts, in 2023. Her defense argued that she was not criminally responsible because of her mental condition at the time. The September 2026 trial ended in a mistrial after the jury deadlocked.
- The Holdout Juror: According to interviews given by three jurors to NBC10 Boston, 11 jurors supported a finding of not guilty by reason of lack of criminal responsibility while one juror disagreed.
- The NBC10 Boston Reporting: NBC10 Boston investigative reporter Ryan Kath subsequently reported that court documents and interviews with family members showed past domestic violence allegations involving the holdout juror, an active restraining order and a pending eviction case.
- Juror Privacy and Safety: Following the mistrial and subsequent public attention, Plymouth

Superior Court Judge William Sullivan ordered the names of the jurors to remain impounded (https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/lindsay-clancy-jury-names-order-extended/). The judge cited concerns about juror privacy and safety, including threats reportedly made against at least one juror.


NBC10 Boston commentator Sue O'Connell

NBCI believes the circumstances following the mistrial warrant a broader discussion about protections for jurors after they complete their public service, particularly in high-profile cases. NBCI is calling for policymakers, courts, legal organizations, civil rights organizations and news organizations to examine whether additional safeguards are needed to protect juror privacy and safety while preserving freedom of the press and the public's legitimate right to information.

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