Jury Nullification in America

Guest post by Chris Bassil.

Last month (September), a man named Alvin Schlangen was tried in a Minnesota court for violating a state law against the sale of raw milk. The case against Schlangen, which dealt with what reasonable people will recognize as a relatively inconsequential transgression, was made on the basis of a series of raids of the farmer's property. These raids produced evidence proving that Schlangen was, in fact, guilty of the crime. In a surprise maneuver, however, Schlangen's jury decided to nullify the case by simply declaring that he was not guilty. Read the full thing »