To date, research has suggested that counter-stereotypical defendants in the criminal justice system, such as women, receive preferential treatment because they do not match perceivers' expectations about offenders. This research explored the influence of being counter-stereotypical and demonstrates, through four experiments, that the relationship is more complicated. Study 1 found that being counter-stereotypical meant mock jurors were less sensitive to the strength of the evidence against the defendant. Study 2 found that mock jurors had poorer memory for case information but better identification accuracy when the defendant was stereotypical. Study 3 found that individuating information had a greater influence on mock jurors' judgements about counter-stereotypical defendants. Study 4 found that mock jurors spent more time looking at counter-stereotypical defendants. These studies as a whole suggest that the relationship between counter-stereotypicality and mock jurors' evaluations of defendants is more complex than previously suggested.