

Honorable Richard A. Jones

COURT'S GENERAL VOIR DIRE QUESTIONS (Criminal)

1. THIS TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR UP TO _____DAYS. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE ATTORNEYS TELL ME. REMEMBER, THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT ON THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT ANY PARTICULAR JURY MAY DELIBERATE. IS THERE ANY JUROR WHO CANNOT BE HERE FOR THE ANTICIPATED DURATION OF THE TRIAL? (**EXPLAIN HARDSHIP.**)
2. IS THERE ANY HEALTH ISSUE, PHYSICAL PROBLEMS OR PERSISTENT PHYSICAL AGGRAVATION OR OTHER PROBLEM THAT WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO SIT AS A JUROR? (BAD BACK, MIGRAINES, ETC.)
3. THE COURT PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED THE ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS, _____ . DOES ANYONE KNOW THE ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEYS OR ANYONE IN THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?
4. THE COURT PREVIOUSLY INTRODUCED THE DEFENDANT AND HIS DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, _____ . DOES ANYONE KNOW THE DEFENDANT OR HIS ATTORNEYS?
5. IN THIS CASE, THE DEFENDANT IS ACCUSED OF _____ .

IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT THE NATURE OF THIS CASE THAT WOULD CAUSE ANY PROSPECTIVE JUROR TO START INTO THE TRIAL WITH ANY BIAS OR PREJUDICE, EITHER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER?
6. HAVE ANY OF YOU SEEN OR HEARD ANY TELEVISION OR RADIO NEWS REPORTS, OR READ ANYTHING IN THE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT THIS CASE?

7. I WILL NOW HAVE COUNSEL FOR THE GOVERNMENT LIST ALL OF THE WITNESSES THAT ARE EXPECTED OR MIGHT BE CALLED TO TESTIFY. PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE WITNESSES. (GOVERNMENT'S COUNSEL READS NAMES).
8. I WILL NOW HAVE COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENDANT LIST ALL OF THE WITNESSES THAT ARE EXPECTED OR MIGHT BE CALLED TO TESTIFY. PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE WITNESSES. (DEFENSE COUNSEL READS NAMES).
9. DO ANY OF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WORKS IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM: JUDGE, LAWYER, CLERK, PROBATION OFFICER, PARALEGAL, ETC.?
10. DO YOU HAVE ANY TRAINING OR WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF LAW?
11. ARE YOU, CLOSE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES CONNECTED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT EITHER FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY OR PRIVATE?
12. HAVE YOU OR HAS ANYONE CLOSE TO YOU EVER RECEIVED LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING?
13. HAVE YOU SERVED AS A JUROR IN A CRIMINAL OR A CIVIL CASE OR AS A MEMBER OF A GRAND JURY IN EITHER A FEDERAL OR STATE COURT?
 - (A) HAVE YOU EVER SERVED AS THE FOREPERSON?
14. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A WITNESS BEFORE IN ANY COURT PROCEEDING? (NOT A DEPOSITION.)
15. DOES ANYONE KNOW ANY OF THE OTHER JURORS FROM ANY CONTACT OTHER THAN YOUR MEETING THIS MORNING?
16. HAVE YOU, YOUR CLOSE FRIENDS OR RELATIVES, EVER BEEN A LITIGANT/PARTY IN A COURT HEARING OR PROCEEDING?

- (A) WAS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD PRECLUDE YOU FROM BEING ABLE TO BE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL IN THIS CRIMINAL CASE?
17. HAVE YOU, A RELATIVE OR A CLOSE FRIEND, EVER BEEN ACCUSED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, WITH COMMITTING A CRIMINAL OFFENSE?
- (A) IF SO, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE POLICE AND/OR THE PROSECUTION OFFICIALS CONDUCTED THEMSELVES IMPROPERLY IN ANY WAY?
- (B) DO YOU HAVE ANY RESENTMENT TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT BASED ON THAT INCIDENT?
- (C) WOULD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE PREVENT YOU FROM SERVING AS A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUROR IN THIS CASE?
18. HAVE YOU, OR ANY OF YOUR RELATIVES OR CLOSE FRIENDS, BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY LAWSUIT INVOLVING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?
- (A) IF SO, WAS THE DISPUTE RESOLVED TO YOUR SATISFACTION?
- (B) IF NOT, DO YOU FEEL THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE DISPUTE WAS RESOLVED WOULD IMPACT YOUR ABILITY TO BE A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL JUROR IN THIS CASE?
19. DO ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY MORAL, RELIGIOUS, OR PHILOSOPHICAL BELIEFS THAT WOULD PREVENT YOU FROM RETURNING A VERDICT AGAINST ANOTHER PERSON IN A CRIMINAL CASE?

20. AS A JUROR IN A CRIMINAL CASE, YOUR OBLIGATION WOULD BE TO LISTEN TO THE EVIDENCE AND FROM THAT DETERMINE THE FACTS ACCORDING TO THE LAW AS GIVEN TO YOU BY THE COURT. YOU MUST FOLLOW THE COURT'S INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LAW EVEN IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THEM. IS THERE ANYONE WHO WOULD BE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO FOLLOW THE COURT'S INSTRUCTIONS IF YOU THOUGHT THE LAW WAS UNWISE OR WRONG?

21. YOU WILL BE INSTRUCTED THAT THE DEFENDANT IS PRESUMED TO BE INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY AND THE BURDEN IS UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROVE THE DEFENDANT GUILTY BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT. IS THERE ANYONE AMONG YOU WHO HAS A QUARREL WITH THESE PRINCIPLES OF LAW?

22. CAN YOU THINK OF ANY REASON THAT WOULD PREVENT YOU FROM BEING ABLE TO RENDER A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL VERDICT IN THIS CASE?

23. I WILL NOW PERMIT THE LAWYERS TO HAVE ___ MINUTES PER SIDE TO ASK ADDITIONAL VOIR DIRE QUESTIONS.