

## **VOIR DIRE PROCEDURES IN JUDGE BRADSHAW'S COURT**

### Before Voir Dire:

1. The bailiff or clerk will provide counsel with a list of the court's general voir dire questions and jury seating charts.
2. Counsel may submit proposed general voir dire questions they wish the court to ask.
3. [Civil cases] Counsel shall submit a proposed, written brief summary of the case to be read to the jurors at the beginning of voir dire.
4. Counsel and the court decide the length of time for each counsel's questioning of the panel.
5. Counsel and the court decide the number of alternate jurors and the size of the panel.

### Assignment of a Jury Panel:

6. We receive from the jury room a randomized list of jurors and the juror information sheets.
7. Each juror is assigned a number, beginning with number one. Each juror has only this number and this is the number used during voir dire. Each juror will receive a large card, showing this number.

### The Procedure Upon Arrival of the Panel:

8. The jurors are brought into the courtroom by the bailiff. Jurors one through twelve are seated in the jury box. (Lower left corner is number one, upper left corner is number seven.) The remaining jurors sit on the benches, five jurors per bench, starting with number 13 in the first row on the right.
9. The judge reads the introductory remarks, the jurors are sworn to answer questions, and the court asks general voir dire questions.

### Procedure for Voir Dire:

10. During the court's general voir dire questions the court inquires if jury service will present an undue hardship and inquires of the jurors as to the nature of their respective hardships.
11. Each counsel may inquire of the entire panel for the predetermined length of time. Each party is normally allowed two segments and may reserve whatever time is not used in the first segment for the second.

12. The sole purpose of voir dire is to elicit information that will enable the parties to make an informed exercise of peremptory challenges and challenges for cause. Questions are governed by the following general rules:
  - (a) Please reference the juror number when questioning.
  - (b) questions must be reasonable. See Generally CR 47(a);
  - (c) questions are proper which are probative of and germane to the particular ground of possible disqualification disclosed by responses to the judge's questions;
  - (d) inquiry is proper as to employment, business, experience or feelings and beliefs of any juror where the juror's special knowledge, sympathy or bias could reasonably affect his or her ability to be impartial;
  - (e) questions should not be designed to trick the juror
  - (f) questions that anticipate instructions on the law (other than burden of proof) are improper;
  - (g) asking a juror to speculate on his or her verdict if certain facts are proved is improper;
13. At the end of the inquiry by counsel, each party exercises its peremptory challenges, alternating between parties until twelve jurors in the jury box are accepted by all parties. The challenges are to be directed at the jurors in the box only. A party may not reserve unused challenges to the box for alternates.
14. As jurors are challenged and excused from the box, remaining members of the panel are assigned to the vacated seats in order of the juror numbers, starting with juror number 13.
15. After the twelve jurors in the box are accepted, the alternate(s) may be selected. The alternate would be the next juror in the panel. Counsel may then exercise their peremptory challenges to the alternate(s).
16. The remaining jurors are thanked and excused to the main jury room.
17. The alternate is advised as to his/her duties as an alternate. The jury is sworn. When more than one alternate is selected, the alternates replace disabled jurors in the order of the alternates' juror numbers. (The alternate with the lowest juror number is the first alternate, etc.)