

COURT'S VOIR DIRE

In just a few moments the lawyer for the Plaintiff and the lawyer for the Defendant will be permitted to conduct their voir dire, but first I will ask you some preliminary questions.

First, this case is expected to take ___ days to try. Does that fact present a special problem to any member of the panel?

Briefly describe what case that is about to be tried.

Ask if any member of the panel has heard or read anything about the case.

Introduce counsel (or have counsel introduce themselves) and ask if any member of the panel or his or her immediate family knows or has had any business dealings with any of the counsel or their law firms.

Introduce the parties (or have counsel introduce the parties) and ask if any member of the panel or his or her immediate family:

- (a) Is personally acquainted with,
- (b) Is related to,
- (c) Has had business dealings with,
- (d) Is currently or was formerly employed by,
- (e) Has any other relationship or business connection with

any party in the case.

Introduce or identify by name, address, and occupation all prospective witnesses (or have counsel do so). Ask if any member of the panel knows any of the prospective witnesses.

Ask the following questions:

1. Have you ever 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?
2. Have you or has anyone in your immediate family ever participated in a lawsuit as a party or in any other capacity?
3. If you are selected to sit on this case will you be able to render a verdict solely on the evidence presented at the trial and in the context of the law as I will give it to you in my instructions, disregarding any other ideas, notions, or beliefs about the law that you may have encountered in reaching your verdict?
4. Is there any member of the panel who has any special disability or problem that would make serving as a member of the jury difficult or impossible.

Having heard the questions put to you by the Court, does any other reason suggest itself to you as to why you could not sit on this jury and render a fair verdict based on the evidence presented to you and in the context of the Court's instructions to you on the law?

Call on counsel for their voir dire.

After voir dire, do challenges for cause at bench.