

December, 2016

Judge Hornak's Hints for Potential Jurors

1. We've summoned ___ potential jurors for jury selection this morning. We will ask questions of you in a process called voir dire to create a list of ___ jurors. That list will then be provided to the attorneys who will strike ___ potential jurors so we can reach our final number of ___ jurors.
2. My staff will be down shortly to bring you to the courtroom to begin the selection process.
3. As my Courtroom Deputy lines you up, please remember the person in front of you and behind you. I say this because you will take an elevator to reach the courtroom and need to reorganize yourselves before entering.
4. Once you have been realigned outside of the courtroom doors, my staff will provide you with a one (1) page document that contains a series of personal identifying questions. You do not need to fill-out this sheet.
5. After you are seated in the courtroom, I will provide a brief overview of the process we will use today, and present an outline of the facts of the case. Once this is completed, I will ask each of you to stand individually to read from the information sheet that my staff provided.
6. Once every potential juror has read from the information sheet, I will pose a series of questions to the jury pool as a group. If your answer to any of the questions I ask is "yes," you will simply stand and say your juror number, and nothing else.
7. My staff will be recording which jurors answer "yes" to each question. At the conclusion of my questioning, I will retire to my Chambers, so we can begin the individual portion of the voir dire.
8. It should take about an hour from the time you are seated in the courtroom until we begin the individual voir dire.
9. For the individual voir dire, my Courtroom Deputy will assist in bringing only the necessary number of jurors that had a "yes" answer back to Chambers for follow-up questions. Therefore, not everyone will participate in the individual voir dire.
10. Once our list of ___ jurors has been completed, everyone will return to the courtroom, and we will begin the strike process.
11. After the attorneys have completed their strikes, my Courtroom Deputy will seat the ___ jurors that have been selected. Those not seated will be dismissed at that point.
12. Feel free to bring reading materials and bottled water up to the Courtroom.