

1.10 INSTRUCTIONS TO JURORS BEFORE VOIR DIRE
(Approved 11/98; Revised 09/2022)

[The following suggested jury instructions are offered as assistance to judges in organizing their communications with juries. The Committee recommends that the judge tailor these instructions to the particular case being tried. Suggested instructions related to implicit bias should be retained in such form as appears below. In addition, the format or the order in which these instructions are given to the jury should be the subject of the judge's option or discretion in each individual case.]

B. Duty of Citizens to Serve as Jurors and Recognize and Disclose Biases

I recognize that serving as a juror is inconvenient, but jury service is an important duty of citizenship. Having jurors available to decide the facts in lawsuits is fundamental to our entire system of justice. The courts cannot function without members of the public offering their time to serve as jurors.

As we mature we all to some extent develop certain biases, prejudices, fixed opinions and views. We develop these from our families, others around us, the media, and from our everyday experiences. You are entitled to be who you are and to feel and think about things as you do. It is important to recognize any biases, prejudices, fixed opinions and views that you may have and to disclose them to me during jury selection. This includes recognizing and not being guided by implicit or unconscious

biases. If for any reason my questions do not cover why you would not be able to listen with an open mind to the evidence in this case or be unable to reach a fair and impartial verdict, it is necessary that you volunteer this information to me when you are questioned.