LR 9. JURY TRIALS

(a) Jury Selection. Juries will be selected by the method commonly known as the "struck juror system." Before the process begins, the clerk will randomly assign sequential numbers to all prospective jurors who have appeared, and will seat them in the courtroom in that order. The judge and counsel will be provided with a seating chart or roster of the panel as seated. The judge will conduct orientation and general questioning.

(b) Alternate Juror. In lieu of the procedure designated by statute, the parties may stipulate that the alternate juror be designated by random drawing to be announced after closing argument.

(c) Jury Instructions. Each party should file one cited and numbered copy of proposed instructions with the clerk in order to preserve the record. Each party should also provide one cited and numbered copy and one un-cited, un-numbered and un-stapled copy of instructions to the court administrator for the judge’s use. The parties should provide a copy of their instructions on disk to the court administrator at the beginning of the trial if they may need the assistance of court staff in revising instructions. Written instructions in civil cases should be provided by the time of the pre-trial conference. Written instructions in criminal cases should be provided prior to commencement of trial.

(d) Agreed Statement of the Case. In all civil jury trials the parties shall jointly prepare a neutral and agreed summary description of the case. The court will read that statement to the jurors during the orientation phase of selection. The statement should be in plain language but may be used to introduce the jury to necessary vocabulary or concepts.

(e) Juror Note-Taking. The court allows jurors to take notes and provides written copies of instructions to each juror. Juror notes are destroyed at the end of trial. The copies of instructions provided to jurors are not preserved.