**COURTS PROPOSED VOIR DIRE - CRIMINAL**

**STANDARD VOIR DIRE TO BE ANSWERED INDIVIDUALLY:**

1. Name:

 City or area where you live (do not give specific address).

2. Educational background.

3. Occupation for the last 5 years. If self-employed, please so indicate.

4. What are your job responsibilities?

5. If you have a spouse or a long-time partner or companion, please state his or her occupation.

6. If your spouse or long-time partner or companion is deceased, give his or her employment before death.

7. If you are divorced, please state the employment of your former spouse.

8. If you are retired, please state your former occupation.

9. Have you, a close friend, or a close family member, ever been in law enforcement? If your answer is yes, please describe.

10. Please tell us something interesting about yourself.

**STANDARD VOIR DIRE TO BE ANSWERED AS A GROUP BY SHOW OF HANDS:**

11. Have any of you heard or read anything about this case?

**(Counsel for United States present themselves and any witnesses they intend to call)**

12. Do you know any of these people?

13. Have you had business dealings with any of these people?

14. Have any of you or any of your immediate family members been represented by these lawyers or does anyone you know work with them in the United States Attorneys Office?

15. Are you, have you been, or are any immediate family members or close personal friends employed by the federal government or the United States Attorneys Office?

16. Have you, any family member, or any close personal friends ever been employed by a law enforcement agency?

17. As you have heard, some representatives of law enforcement agencies are scheduled to testify in this case. It is important that you as jurors not give them any more, or less, credibility than any other witness in this case. Would any of you, either because of your relationship to someone in law enforcement, or for any other reason, find yourself giving a law enforcement witness either more or less credibility than any other witness, or prejudice in any way, in this case?

18. Would you give someone in law enforcement greater or lesser weight or credibility over that of the Defendant or their witnesses?

**(Defense counsel present themselves, their clients, and any witnesses they intend to call)**

19. Do you know any of these people?

20. Have you had business dealings with any of these people?

21. Have any of you or any of your family members been represented by these lawyers or attorneys you know to be members of their firm?

**(Additional questions)**

22. Do you know or recognize any other prospective juror in the courtroom?

23. Do any of you or your immediate family members know me [the judge]?

24. Have you served before as a juror in a criminal or civil case, or as a member of a Grand Jury in either federal or state courts?

25. Have you or any of your family members had specialized training, education, or experience in law?

26. We have already briefly discussed your role as jurors if selected to serve in this case. Juries decide factsyou are, in effect, judges of the facts. I am the judge of the law. If you are selected to serve in this case, will you be able to reach 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 your instructions, disregarding any other ideas, notions, or beliefs about the law or what the law should be?

**(Judge reads statement regarding the law and legal standards)**

*I am now going to read to you some statements regarding the law. After I finish, I will the ask you if you will have any difficulty applying these legal principles in this case:*

*-The law provides that an indictment is not evidence that the crime charged was committed and may not be considered as evidence by you in deliberations.*

*-The law further provides that the Defendant does not have to testify at trial and nothing can be inferred from a Defendants decision not to testify.*

*-The law provides that when a Defendant enters a plea of not guilty, as was done in this case, that the Defendant is presumed innocent until proven otherwise.*

*-Further, the law provides that the Government is required to prove the Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; and if the Government fails to meet that burden, you must find the Defendant not guilty.*

27. Will any of you have any trouble applying any of these legal principles in your deliberations?

**(Questions of a personal nature, asked as multiple questions at once to respect privacy)**

28. Please raise your hand if you would answer yes to any of the following three questions. You should wait until I have read all of the questions to answer.

a. Have any of you ever been involved as a victim, or has a close friend or family member ever been a victim of a crime identical or similar to the one of which the defendant has been accused?

b. Have any of you, any member of your immediate family, or a close personal friend ever been involved, in any court or before a grand jury, in a civil or criminal matter, either as a defendant, a witness, or a victim?

c. Have any of you, any member of your family, or a close personal friend ever been charged or accused of a serious crime?

29. Please raise your hand if you would answer yes to any of the following three questions. You should wait until I have read all of the questions to answer.

a. Is there any member of the panel who has any special disability or problem that would make serving as a member of this jury difficult or impossible?

b. Is there anything about the specific crimes charged in this case that would make it impossible for you to serve as a juror in this case and render an impartial, honest verdict?

c. Is there any reason why you could not give the Defendant or the United States a fair trial?

30. Finally, there may be those of you who are thinking of a matter relating to your ability to sit on this jury for a reason that we have not specifically questioned you about. Please consider this question: Is there any other reason you know of that would affect your ability to sit on this jury and render a fair and impartial verdict for either the United States or the Defendant(s)?