**POST-VERDICT INSTRUCTION**

Your duty as jurors is complete. You are discharged from service. Thank you for your service. You have been extraordinarily diligent. Your attention, timeliness, and dedication are appreciated by all the parties, attorneys, court staff, and public. You are now relieved of the instructions I have given you not to talk or read or research about the case. You may do so if you choose.

Just so you know, your notes and jury instruction copies must be left in the jury room to be destroyed.

[I have issued an Order Regarding Juror Contact which imposes limitations on contact and on statements you may make. Please review that order carefully.]

You may be contacted by parties to the case, or their attorneys, or media representatives. You are under no obligation to speak to any of them. The court does not provide your contact information, but we will accept mail directed to you and forward it from the jury office.

Consider carefully your obligation to and the feelings of your fellow jurors before speaking with anyone about your service here. Because of the special relationship of jurors to each other, I strongly recommend you never disclose the vote, discussions, or inclinations of a fellow juror. You may of course discuss your own feelings or reactions to evidence presented or your reaction to jury service.

The United States Supreme Court has stated that “full and frank discussion in the jury room, jurors’ willingness to return an unpopular verdict, and the community’s trust in a system that relies on the decisions of lay people would all be undermined by a barrage of post-verdict scrutiny of juror conduct.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

The rules of evidence provide that the only legitimate inquiry of jurors is “whether: (A) extraneous prejudicial information was improperly brought to the jury’s attention; (B) an outside influence was improperly brought to bear on any juror; or (C) a mistake was made in entering the verdict on the verdict form.”[[2]](#footnote-2) And in that instance, the verdict may be defective. Nothing else about the jury discussion or deliberation would be admissible in court.

I have instructed you to make your decision only on the basis of the evidence presented in court and to ignore outside information or influence. So, as long as you kept your oath to consider only the evidence in this case, there is no reason to speak with anyone about your service here as a juror.

Again thank you very much for your service.

1. *Tanner v.* *United States*, 107 S.Ct. 2739, 2748 (1989) *(citing*96 Harv. L. Rev. at 888-892). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Fed. R. Evid. 606(b)(2). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)