

Preparing Jurors for Trial

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Taking the Bench on Trial Day

- ◆ Introduce myself, clerk, & bailiff
- ◆ Ask for phones on silent
- ◆ Explain the case (eviction, small claims, etc.) and jurisdiction

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Why?

Jurors will be more patient & be able to better pay attention if they know what to expect.

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What is important to include?

- ◆ Thank the jurors for their service
- ◆ Explain how many will be chosen
- ◆ Not a court of record: video and audio recording won't happen

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What else is helpful?

- ◆ Plaintiff brought the case and will go first because it's their burden
- ◆ Defendant will have a chance to respond
- ◆ Don't mingle with parties or communicate – including any lawyers
 - ◆ They've been told the same thing

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What works for you?

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Should you read
your
instructions?

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Yes!

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Preparing the Public

*This starts **before** they become jurors.*

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Information & Education to the Public

- ◆ Juror Appreciation Week: first week in May (4-8)
 - ◆ Hold an event with the other courts
- ◆ Having a strong speech to give jurors after the case ends and make yourself available to talk to them about the case after
- ◆ Use social media

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Video available on NCSC
website. *Ask Amber for the link!*

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Thank You!

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