

## **QUESTIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE JURORS IN CRIMINAL CASES**

### **United States of America v. [NAME], No. [YEAR]-cr-[NUMBER]**

Thank you for serving in the jury pool for the United States District Court. The following questions will be asked by Judge Blakey to elicit some basic information about you. Afterward, the judge and/or the lawyers may ask additional questions. If you are uncomfortable answering any question in open court, please indicate that fact to the judge, and he will speak with you privately with the attorneys. Your cooperation and participation in this important process is greatly appreciated. Judge Blakey's first three questions will be for all of you simultaneously. When asked, please raise your hand if the answer to any of these questions is "yes":

1. A defendant who is accused of a crime is not required to prove his innocence or produce any evidence at all. The defendant may testify in his own defense, but he is not required to do so, and if he does not testify, you may not draw any inference or suggestion of guilt from that fact. Does anyone have any problem whatsoever accepting and following this principle?
2. When the government brings criminal charges against a person, the government has the burden of proving these charges, and it must prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt before the defendant can be convicted. Does anyone have any problem whatsoever accepting and following this principle?
3. The defendant is presumed to be innocent of the charges against him. That means he must be found not guilty unless his guilt is proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Does anyone have any problem whatsoever accepting and following this principle?

These next questions will be asked individually, starting with the juror in the back-left corner.

4. What is your full name? How do you spell your last name? How old are you?
5. Where do you reside? (What area of the city?)
6. Are you married? (What does your spouse do for a living?)
7. Does anyone else live with you? (What do they do for a living?)
8. Do you have any children? (How old are they?) (What do your older children do for a living?)
9. How far did you go in school? (What school did you attend?)
10. Have you ever served in the military? (Which branch? What were your years of service? What was your rank at the time of discharge?)
11. Do you work outside the home? (What do you do for a living?)
12. Do you have any outside interests or hobbies?
13. Do you have any favorite TV shows or radio shows?
14. Do you have any favorite internet sites, newspapers or magazines?
15. Have you ever served on a jury before? (Without telling me what the verdict was, were you able to reach a verdict? Was it a criminal case or a civil case? Was the case in federal or state court? When was the case? Were you the foreperson?)
16. Have you, a close friend or member of your immediate family ever been a party to, or a witness in, a civil lawsuit, administrative action or criminal case, other than a routine traffic case? (What type of proceeding?)
17. Do you hold any philosophical or religious beliefs that would prevent you from sitting in judgment of another person?
18. Is there anything about this case, the identity or status of the parties, or anything else you've seen or heard today that would prevent you from being a fair and impartial juror?