



JUDGE JEFFREY I. CUMMINGS
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

Courtroom 1219
Chambers 1278
Website: <http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov>

Telephone: (312) 435-5630
Fax: (312) 777-3810

Courtroom Deputy – Chez Chambers
Room 1218
Telephone: (312) 435-6051

**STANDARD *VOIR DIRE* QUESTIONS FOR POTENTIAL JURORS
IN A CIVIL TRIAL**

Set forth below is the Court’s standard introductory statement and the standard *voir dire* questions that the Court typically will ask during jury selection. Any variations or additions that the parties wish to make must be submitted in writing, in the format and under the schedule set forth in the Court’s Standing Order on Preparation of Final Pretrial Order and Other Trial Preparation Materials.

Introductory Statement:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am Judge Jeffrey Cummings and I want to welcome you to this courtroom on behalf of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Today, we will be picking a jury to serve in a civil lawsuit called <INSERT CASE NAME>.

We sincerely appreciate your participation as a prospective juror and we hope that you find the experience to be rewarding. Whether or not you sit as a juror today, you are a very important part of our system of justice. The right to a trial by jury is guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Those of you who are selected as jurors in this case will be called upon to render justice. This is one of the most important duties that a citizen can perform. I want you to know

that my court personnel and I will take every step to make this a meaningful and memorable experience for you.

Very shortly, you will be questioned regarding your qualifications to serve as a juror. All of these questions are intended to focus on your ability to be totally objective and completely free from prejudice about the issues in controversy, the parties, and their attorneys. Thus, it will be extremely important for you to advise me of anything (for example, bias, conflict of interest, physical or emotional issue, etc.) which, in your judgment, may adversely affect your ability to serve as a juror in this case. Please remember that honesty and candor are crucial to a fair trial.

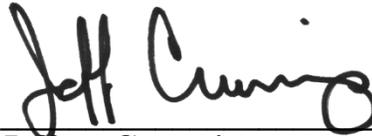
General Voir Dire Questions (asked of the potential jurors as a group):

1. Is there anyone who because of medical or other important reasons cannot be available for the duration of the trial?
2. Is there anyone who suffers from any condition or situation that would make it difficult to give the parties your full attention and fair consideration if you were selected as a juror?
3. Is there anyone who has difficulty reading, writing, or understanding the English language, such that it would impair your ability to understand what you hear in court or to read the documents that may be used as exhibits?
4. Is there anyone here who is related to, or knows, or has had dealings with any of the lawyers in the case; any of the plaintiff(s); any of the defendant(s); or the following people who may testify at trial?
5. Other than what you have heard in the brief description given today of the case, does anyone know or has anyone heard anything about this case?
6. Is there anyone who has philosophical, religious or other beliefs that would prevent you from sitting and passing judgment on another person?
7. Is there anyone who believes there is something about the kind of case that I described to you that would prevent you from being fair and impartial to all parties in this case?
8. Is there anyone who believes that he or she would be unable to follow the law as I explain it to you, apply that law to the facts that you find in this case, and render the verdict required by the law as I explain it to you?

Closing Questions

1. At the close of the trial, I will issue you instructions on the law that are applicable to this case, and which you must follow in reaching your decision at the conclusion of the trial. My question to you is: can you, and will you, be able to follow the instructions that I will give you, even in those instances where you might not totally agree with them?
2. If selected as a juror, will you be able to suspend your judgment in this case until all the evidence has been presented?

ENTER:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Cummings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Jeffrey Cummings
United States District Court Judge

Dated: November 2, 2023