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Preliminary and Explanatory Instructions to Innominate (Anonymous) Jury

Before selecting jury members, I'll tell you about something that affects how a jury is selected and how a trial is conducted.

Sometimes criminal trials attract the attention of the media and the public. The level of interest is unpredictable and not within my control. This case involves several defendants and may continue for some time. It may attract an unusual amount of attention, so there may be curiosity about the participants – the lawyers, witnesses, defendants, judge, and perhaps even the jurors.

People may ask questions to learn more about the case. Even though these questions may be well-intentioned, they may still distract you from your duties as a juror. These questions can be awkward or inconvenient for you, your family, and your friends. They can be part of unwanted and improper approaches toward you from outside the courtroom.

During your service as a juror, you must not discuss this case with anyone. And even after the case is finished, you will never be required to explain your verdict or jury service to anyone.

Your names and personal information will be known only to court

personnel and will not be disclosed.

To discourage unwanted publicity, telephone calls, letters, and questions, you will be referred to only by your juror number.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

The term “innominate” jury (in preference to anonymous jury) is taken from United States v. Ippolito, 10 F.Supp. 1305, 1307 n.1 (M.D. Fla. 1998), as approved in United States v. Carpa, 271 F.3d 962 (11th Cir. 2001) (reversing in part on other grounds).

The selection of an innominate jury is a “drastic measure” but is an approved technique in this Circuit when circumstances warrant. United States v. Ross, 33 F.3d 1507, 1419-1522 (11th Cir. 1994). See also, United States v. Salvatore, 110 F.3d 1131, 1143-1144 (5th Cir. 1997).