



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-078

For business meeting on April 24, 2026

Title

Access and Fairness: Gender Inclusivity of Juror Identification and Juror Questionnaires (Implementation of Assembly Bill 1899)

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008; revise forms JURY-001 and JURY-002; adopt Cal. Standards of Judicial Administration, standard 10.22; amend standards 3.25 and 4.30

Recommended by

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness

Hon. Kevin C. Brazile, Cochair

Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Cochair

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

July 1, 2026

Date of Report

April 2, 2026

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Executive Summary

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness recommends adoption of a new standard of judicial administration to ensure gender inclusivity in juror identification and juror questionnaires, consistent with the directive in Assembly Bill 1899 (Cervantes; Stats. 2024, ch. 812). In line with AB 1899's directive and the recommended new standard, the committee also recommends conforming changes to three rules of court, two forms, and two standards of judicial administration; these materials currently use language directed to jurors that is not gender inclusive. In addition, the committee recommends minor changes to conform to style guidelines and to improve accuracy, consistency, clarity, and usability of the materials.

Recommendation

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 1, 2026:

1. Adopt California Standards of Judicial Administration, standard 10.22;
2. Amend California Rules of Court, rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008;
3. Revise forms JURY-001 and JURY-002; and
4. Amend California Standards of Judicial Administration, standards 3.25 and 4.30.

The text of the amended rules, the revised forms, and the new and amended standards are attached at pages 9–43.

Relevant Previous Council Action

This report recommends adoption of a new standard “to ensure that juror identification and any juror questionnaire is inclusive, including allowing a juror the ability to express their gender identity or gender expression, if applicable,” as directed by AB 1899.¹ The Judicial Council does not have an existing rule or standard that specifically focuses on gender inclusivity of juror identification and questionnaires. However, the Judicial Council has taken previous actions to address gender inclusivity of court materials and practices more broadly. More information on those actions is provided in the “Background” section of this report, below.

This report also recommends conforming changes to rules, forms, and standards. Those changes are technical in nature, so the history of those provisions is not included here.

Analysis/Rationale

Background

The Judicial Council has previously adopted rules and standards related to gender-specific language and prevention of bias (on several characteristics, including gender).

Rules on gender-neutral language

Effective January 1, 1991, the Judicial Council adopted rule 989, which requires the use of gender-neutral language in jury instructions, as well as local court rules, forms, and documents.² Effective January 1, 2007, the Judicial Council reorganized the rules and relocated the substance of former rule 989 into two rules: rule 2.1058 (which requires jury instructions to be drafted using gender-neutral language) and rule 10.612 (which requires courts to “use gender-neutral language in all new local rules, forms, and documents” and to “review and revise those now in use to ensure that they are written in gender-neutral language”).³ Those rules remain in effect and have been unchanged since 2007.

¹ Code Civ. Proc., § 205(e), as added by AB 1899 (Stats. 2024, ch. 812), § 12.

² See *Minutes of Nov. 16, 1990, Judicial Council meeting*, p. 38.

³ See Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., *Reorganization of the California Rules of Court* (June 15, 2006), pp. 17, 34, 52, 93; Title 2, p. 109; Title 10, p. 94; Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (June 30, 2006), item 5, p. 10.

Gender-neutral drafting practices

As of 2017, California law provides for a nonbinary gender marker on state identification documents (the Gender Recognition Act).⁴ In 2018 the Legislature adopted a resolution to direct state agencies to use gender-neutral drafting in their materials.⁵

In response to the 2017 Gender Recognition Act, and guided by the dedicated efforts of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness on improving the gender inclusivity of court materials, Judicial Council advisory committees have recommended form revisions to remove gender identity questions when those questions are not legally required and to make the language more inclusive when the information is required.⁶

Standard on duty to prevent bias

Effective January 1, 1987, the Judicial Council added section 1 to the standards of judicial administration.⁷ Section 1 set forth the duty of a judge to “refrain from and prevent conduct exhibiting gender or other bias in the courtroom.”⁸ That section has been revised over the years and was renumbered as standard 10.20, effective January 1, 2007.⁹ Standard 10.20(b)(1) specifies, in part, that “each court, its judicial officers, and its employees should refrain from engaging in conduct and should take action to prevent others from engaging in conduct that exhibits bias” and identifies certain classifications, including gender, on which bias may be based. In addition, that paragraph states “[t]he court, judicial officers, and court employees may consider such classifications only if necessary or relevant to the proper exercise of their adjudicatory or administrative functions.”

⁴ See, e.g., Health & Saf. Code, § 103425, originally enacted in Sen. Bill 179 (Atkins; Stats. 2017, ch. 853), leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB179.

⁵ Assem. Con. Res. No. 260 (Low; Stats. 2018, res. ch. 190), leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180ACR260.

⁶ For example, the Appellate Advisory Committee recommended an omnibus proposal to revise forms used for appellate proceedings. See Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Appellate Procedure: Technical Revisions to Forms to Use Gender-Neutral Language* (Apr. 1, 2020), jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8265087&GUID=20EB59C4-44BC-406A-AF18-70385172C795; Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (May 15, 2020), item 20-126, pp. 2, 5, 6, jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=711580&GUID=BC840A3B-4EF6-404F-B8F0-AFED7EA2365F.

Work is ongoing to revise forms and other Judicial Council materials. See, e.g., Ongoing Project #8 on the Annual Agenda of the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee (2025–2026), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/cscac-annual-agenda-2025-2026_0.pdf; Ongoing Project #14 on the Annual Agenda for the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee (2025–2026), courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/famjuv-annual_1.pdf.

⁷ Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (Dec. 6, 1986), tab 24, p. 7.

⁸ See Judicial Council of Cal., Court Mgmt. Committee, *Proposals on Gender Bias in the Court System* (Dec. 6, 1986), tab 24; Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (Dec. 6, 1986), tab 24, pp. 6–7.

⁹ See Judicial Council of Cal., Staff Rep., *Reorganization of the California Rules of Court* (June 15, 2006), Standards of Judicial Administration, pp. 81–83; Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (June 30, 2006), item 5, p. 10.

The committee considered standard 10.20 as it undertook work to implement AB 1899. The language of existing standard 10.20 served as a model for the committee’s work on the new standard.

Implementation of AB 1899

AB 1899 added subdivision (e) to Code of Civil Procedure section 205. That subdivision states:

The Judicial Council shall adopt a standard of judicial administration to ensure that juror identification and any juror questionnaire is inclusive, including allowing a juror the ability to express their gender identity or gender expression, if applicable.

Consistent with the directive of AB 1899, the committee recommends adoption of standard 10.22. In addition, to achieve consistency with the new standard, the committee recommends conforming revisions of certain Judicial Council rules, forms, and standards.

New standard of judicial administration

Standard 10.22 would be located near existing standards on preventing bias (10.20) and nondiscrimination in appointments (10.21). This new standard would be named “Gender-inclusive practices for juror identification and juror questionnaires,” and have two subdivisions—the first stating the purpose and the second specifying recommended practices. In short, those practices are:

- Use gender-neutral language in general materials and communications to jurors.
- Avoid assuming the gender of a juror by using honorifics or pronouns to refer to a juror who has not indicated the honorific or pronouns that the juror uses.
- Unless information about gender is necessary or relevant to a court’s administrative or adjudicatory functions, do not seek information about gender from jurors.
- If information about gender is necessary or relevant, provide jurors the option to indicate their gender identity or gender expression (as applicable). A question about gender should indicate whether the question is optional and, where answer options are provided, expressly permit the selection of multiple options and provide appropriate lead-in text for any fill-in-the-blank option.

Changes to existing Judicial Council materials for consistency

The committee also recommends updates to three rules, two optional forms, and two existing standards to ensure that those materials are consistent with the new standard. Specifically, the committee recommends:

- Amending rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008 to replace gender-specific language used to refer to jurors with gender-neutral language;

- Revising forms JURY-001 and JURY-002 to replace gender-specific language with gender-neutral language in optional voir dire questionnaires directed to prospective jurors; and
- Amending standards 3.25 and 4.30 to use gender-neutral language in a sample script for a judge to use in voir dire questioning of prospective jurors.

The recommended changes to those materials are described in more detail below.

Rules

Rule 2.1002(c) identifies situations in which a person has fulfilled their jury service. The rule uses the phrase “his or her jury service obligation.” The committee recommends amending the rule to replace this language with “a person’s jury service obligation.”

Rule 2.1006 provides for deferral of jury service due to breastfeeding. The committee recommends amending the rule to replace a gender-specific term with gender-neutral language.

Rule 2.1008(d)(3)(D) describes one consideration for courts to evaluate when assessing whether a prospective juror’s service would impose an extreme financial burden (making that juror eligible to be excused on the ground of undue hardship). That consideration is whether service “can reasonably be expected to compromise the prospective juror’s ability to support himself or herself or his or her dependents.” The committee recommends amending this language to instead refer to the prospective juror’s ability to support “the prospective juror or any dependents.”

Forms

Forms JURY-001 and JURY-002 ask the prospective juror to specify the sex of each of the juror’s children and refer to other individuals related to the juror using gender-specific terms.¹⁰ The committee recommends removing the question asking the juror to specify the sex of their children, and revising gender-specific language. Specifically, form JURY-001 would be revised to use broader, gender-neutral terms to refer to a juror’s parents or guardians, and form JURY-002 would be revised to use gender-neutral phrasing to refer to the juror’s spouse or other person

¹⁰ The Judicial Council initially adopted *Juror Questionnaire for Civil Cases*, effective July 1, 1993. See Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (Apr. 29, 1993), tab 6, p. 6. The form was amended, effective January 1, 2004, on the recommendation of the Access and Fairness Advisory Committee to better address issues of domestic partnership and sexual orientation. See Judicial Council of Cal., Com. Rep., *Examination of Prospective Jurors* (Oct. 21, 2003); mins. (Oct. 21, 2003), item A44, p. 26, courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-10/min1003.pdf.

The Judicial Council adopted *Juror Questionnaire for Criminal Cases*, effective January 1, 2006. See Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (Nov. 4, 2005), item A23, p. 16, courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-10/min1105.pdf.

Both questionnaire forms were subsequently renumbered to JURY-001 and JURY-002, effective September 1, 2018. See Judicial Council of Cal., mins. (May 24, 2018), item 18-089, pp. 15–17, jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=559783&GUID=1C4B0F75-3F17-4F8A-9712-034640BB460C.

with whom the juror has a significant personal relationship. In addition, the cited statutory authority on the forms would be updated (to include language added by AB 1899).

Standards

Standards 3.25 and 4.30 relate to voir dire in civil and criminal cases, respectively. Each standard contains a lengthy script of questions for a judge to ask of prospective jurors in the courtroom. The scripts use gender-specific pronouns or honorifics to refer to jurors. The recommended amendments replace that language with gender-neutral phrasing.

Additional revisions

In the course of this work, the committee identified other language in these materials that would benefit from updates, minor revisions, or corrections. The additional changes are described below.

Updated bias question

The scripts in standards 3.25 and 4.30 include an optional question about bias to ask prospective jurors during voir dire. The committee found the existing language of that bias question outdated and underinclusive (notably, gender was not on the list of characteristics). The committee recommends expanding the list of characteristics that might be subject to bias and putting that list in brackets (to indicate that a judge can tailor the question to suit the circumstances of the case, as needed).

Gender-neutral language

The committee recommends changes to remove and replace gender-specific language referring to someone other than the juror (e.g., the judge, an attorney) in the Judicial Council materials included in this report. These changes are predominantly found in standards 3.25 and 4.30.

Minor updates to improve consistency, reflect drafting practices, and conform references

The committee also recommends assorted minor updates to improve consistency between the materials,¹¹ replace or remove potentially confusing language,¹² reflect current drafting practices,¹³ ensure references are up to date,¹⁴ and make corrections.¹⁵

¹¹ For example, the committee recommends changing the language of standard 3.25(c)(20) to make clear that judges have the option to have jurors identify themselves by name or by juror identification number (as in current standard 4.30(b)(22), which would not be amended by this report).

¹² For example, the committee recommends replacing the defined term “telephone standby” in rule 2.1002 with “standby,” as the existing rule does not require a specific means of communication to notify jurors of the need to report for service.

¹³ For example, the committee recommends removing use of “as to” in standard 4.30(b)(27)(B) and recommends changing the text from all capitals to sentence case and updating the form footers on forms JURY-001 and JURY-002.

¹⁴ For example, the committee recommends correcting the *CALCRIM* citation in item 1.35 on form JURY-002.

¹⁵ For example, the committee recommends minor corrections to the language in standard 3.25(f) that describes the circumstances under which jurors may be asked certain types of questions.

Policy implications

This recommendation, which implements AB 1899, is consistent with and will advance Goal I, identified in *The Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch*, of Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Comments

The proposal circulated for public comment from December 5, 2025, to January 7, 2026. The proposal received four comments: two from superior courts, one from a bar association, and one from the Joint Rules Subcommittee (JRS) of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee. Three commenters agreed with the proposal, and one agreed if modified.

JRS suggested a modification that would expand the scope of the proposal. JRS suggested that the advisory committee consider proposing an alternative new standard of judicial administration “that both covers the categories required by AB 1899 (2024) and applies broadly to all court materials, practices, etc.” While the advisory committee recognizes the value in addressing bias and inclusivity issues broadly, the advisory committee believes that it is important to move forward with the proposed standard to promptly respond to AB 1899’s directive and provide clear direction to improve the gender inclusivity of the juror selection and service process.¹⁶ The advisory committee notes that the Judicial Council, the committee, and the Center for Judicial Education and Resources have been working on addressing gender and bias-related issues over time, and the advisory committee anticipates that work continuing in earnest. The committee will consider the need for additional guidance or standards related to gender inclusivity in the courts going forward and welcomes further suggestions to that end.

A chart with the full text of the comments received and the committee’s responses is attached on pages 44–47.

Alternatives considered

The committee did not consider the alternative of not adopting a new standard of judicial administration, as the adoption of the standard is directed by AB 1899. Following JRS’s comment, the committee considered whether to postpone this proposal and instead undertake work on a standard that addresses gender inclusivity in the courts more broadly. The committee decided not to postpone its recommendations to a future rulemaking cycle. Doing so would delay the recommended standard (and the improvements in gender inclusivity it provides) by a year or more (given the need to ensure that a broader standard, which could apply to many more individuals who interact with the courts, including counsel, court staff, witnesses, parties, jurors, or others, is given due consideration and courts are given sufficient time to make the necessary implementing changes). As indicated above, the committee recommends moving forward with the proposed new standard at this time to comply with statutory mandate and to advance gender

¹⁶ See Assembly Floor Analysis of Assembly Bill 1899 (Aug. 28, 2024), p. 1.

inclusivity in the juror selection and service process. Going forward, the committee will consider the need for further work on gender inclusivity in the courts.

The committee considered not making conforming changes to the existing Judicial Council materials that might otherwise be inconsistent with the new standard; however, the committee concluded that Judicial Council materials should reflect the best practices recommended for the courts in the new standard. In crafting the recommended updates and revisions, the committee strove for accuracy, simplicity, and consistency.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The committee anticipates that its recommendation will have minor initial fiscal and operational impacts to ensure court personnel are aware of the new standard and to adjust any local practices and materials accordingly. The comments from superior courts noted that materials would need to be updated, including changes to local forms, jury materials, and local web content. However, both courts noted that the necessary updates could be implemented within two months.

Attachments and Links

1. Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008, at pages 9–10
2. Forms JURY-001 and JURY-002, at pages 11–33
3. Cal. Standards of Judicial Administration, standards 3.25, 4.30, and 10.22, at pages 34–43
4. Chart of comments, at pages 44–47
5. Link A: Assem. Bill 1899 (Stats. 2024, ch. 812),
[leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1899](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1899)

Rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008 of the California Rules of Court are amended, effective July 1, 2026, to read:

1 **Rule 2.1002. Length of juror service**

2
3 (a) * * *

4
5 (b) **Definitions**

6
7 As used in this rule:

8
9 (1)–(4) * * *

10
11 (5) ~~“Telephone standby”~~ “Standby” means all previous-day notice procedures
12 used to inform prospective jurors of their date to report for service.
13

14 (c) **One-day/one-trial**

15
16 Each trial court system must implement a juror management program under which
17 a ~~person has fulfilled his or her~~ person’s jury service obligation is fulfilled when
18 the person has:
19

20 (1)–(4) * * *

21
22 (5) Served ~~no more than five court days on telephone standby.~~ on standby for no
23 more than five court days.
24

25 (d) * * *

26
27
28 **Rule 2.1006. Deferral of jury service**

29
30 A ~~mother~~ prospective juror who is breastfeeding a child may request that jury
31 service be deferred for up to one year, and may renew that request as long as ~~she~~
32 the prospective juror is breastfeeding. If the request is made in writing, under
33 penalty of perjury, the jury commissioner must grant it without requiring the
34 prospective juror to appear at court.
35
36

37 **Rule 2.1008. Excuses from jury service**

38
39 (a)–(c) * * *

40
41 (d) **Reasons for excusing a juror because of undue hardship**

42
43 An excuse on the ground of undue hardship may be granted for any of the
44 following reasons:

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(1)–(2) * * *

(3) The prospective juror will bear an extreme financial burden. In determining whether to excuse the prospective juror for this reason, consideration must be given to:

(A)–(C) * * *

(D) Whether service can reasonably be expected to compromise the prospective juror’s ability to support ~~himself or herself or his or her~~ the prospective juror or any dependents, or so disrupt the economic stability of any individual as to be against the interests of justice.

(4)–(7) * * *

(e) Excuse based on previous jury service

A prospective juror who has served on a grand or trial jury or was summoned and appeared for jury service in any state or federal court during the previous 12 months must be excused from service on request. The jury commissioner, ~~in his or her discretion, may~~ has discretion to establish a longer period of repose.

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

Code of Civil Procedure section 205(c)-(e)

Sec. 1. Statutory Authority

This Juror Questionnaire has been drafted under the authority of Code of Civil Procedure section 205(c)-(e) and is intended to expedite jury selection. It is not intended to alter statutes or rules governing the authority of the court or the role of counsel during voir dire.

Sec. 2. Use Notes for Courts

A. General

This Juror Questionnaire is intended for use in the court's discretion in appropriate civil cases. Its use in cases of brief duration may not be appropriate. Particular kinds of cases may require that this questionnaire be altered or augmented. The Personal Injury Supplement is intended to be used along with the General Questions in personal injury actions. Judges, in their own discretion, must determine what additional kinds of inquiry are appropriate in any given case.

B. Pre-Voir Dire Conference

The court should confer with counsel about voir dire before a jury panel is called. At this conference, the court may establish (1) guidelines for the use of the Juror Questionnaire, (2) any supplemental questions to be propounded to the panel by questionnaire, (3) the extent of the court's oral inquiry of the panel, and (4) the extent of oral questioning by counsel. Proposed supplemental questions drafted by counsel should be filed and served at least three court days before the pre-voir dire conference. Arrangements for duplication of completed questionnaires should be confirmed. The parties should share the cost of duplication.

C. Introduction of Questionnaire to Prospective Jurors

It is suggested that the Juror Questionnaire be used after the court has given its customary introductory remarks and any additional instructions that the court deems appropriate. The court also may wish to tell the panel members that a questionnaire will be used, encourage complete answers, and remind them that their answers will be given under penalty of perjury. In introducing the questionnaire, the court should instruct prospective jurors how to proceed if they have difficulty reading or filling out the form.

The court could direct that the Juror Questionnaire be given to prospective jurors by the jury commissioner in the jury assembly room. However, this procedure ordinarily will mean that jurors are not given complete instructions about the type of case they will hear or the identity of participants and witnesses. In addition, jurors who fill out the form before appearing in the trial court may not clearly understand that their answers are given under penalty of perjury. For these reasons, and to avoid the need to have jurors fill out supplemental questionnaires once they have been sent to the trial court, it is strongly recommended that the Juror Questionnaire be used in the trial court setting.



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

JURY-001

Introduction and Instructions

Thank you for coming to court as a potential juror. Before the case can start, a jury must be selected. The judge and the people involved in the case need to know something about you in order to select jurors who can be fair to both sides.

Everyone has attitudes and opinions that are shaped by their life experiences. Sometimes these experiences can make it difficult to look at a certain issue in an unbiased and unemotional way. As a juror, you must return a verdict based on the law and on the facts proved in court, not on emotion or on other views not supported by the evidence. The judge will give you instructions on the law and on how you should go about deciding the case. You must listen to and follow the judge's instructions.

The questions on this form are designed to help the court and the lawyers learn something about your background and your views on issues that may be related to this case. The questions are asked not to invade your privacy but to make sure that you can be a fair and impartial juror. If there is any reason why you might not be able to give both sides a fair trial in this case, it is important that you say so.

The judge has decided to use this form to save time and to give you a chance to tell the court and the lawyers about yourself.

In portions of this form, you will see the term "significant personal relationship." That term means a **current or** former spouse, domestic partner, life partner, or anyone with whom you have an influential or intimate relationship that you would characterize as important.

If there is anything you do not want to talk about in open court, please circle the question number. After you have finished the questionnaire, let the clerk know that you have circled one or more question numbers.

Do not write on the back of any page. Use an additional sheet of paper.

If you are called to the jury box, your answers to this questionnaire become a matter of public record, just as if you had answered the questions aloud in the courtroom.

If you have trouble reading, understanding, or filling out this form, please let the court clerk know.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY. YOUR ANSWERS MUST BE TRUE AND COMPLETE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN SELECTING A FAIR JURY.



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

JURY-001

General Questions
PLEASE PRINT ALL ANSWERS LEGIBLY

Full Name: _____

1.1 Date and place of birth: _____

1.2 Area, neighborhood, or community in this county where you currently live (do not give your address):

House Apartment Own Rent

1.3 Area, neighborhood, or community where you have lived in the past 10 years (and dates):

1.4 What is the highest level of education you completed?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade school or less | <input type="checkbox"/> Some college
(Major): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some high school | <input type="checkbox"/> College graduate
(Major): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school graduate | <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate study
(Field): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please explain</i>):

_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical or vocational school
(Field): _____ |

1.5 If you plan to attend or are currently attending school, describe:

1.6 If you have taken any courses or had any training in medicine or another health care field, describe:



1.7 If you have taken any courses or had any training in law or a related subject, describe:

1.8 Educational background of any other adult who lives in your home, including any degrees or certificates earned:

1.9 Your present employment status (check all that apply):

- Employed full-time Retired Unemployed, looking for work
- Employed part-time Student Unemployed, not looking for work
- Other (specify): _____

1.10 Your current or most recent occupation:

1.11 Name of your current or most recent employer or, if a student, your school:

1.12 Describe your specific duties and responsibilities in your current or most recent job:

1.13 Does your current job involve supervising other people? Yes No

If yes, approximately how many? _____

1.14 Are you involved in the hiring or firing of other employees? Yes No

1.15 Are you involved in evaluating the job performance of other employees? Yes No

1.16 All other employment you have had (and for how long):

1.17 All full-time employment of your spouse or any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship (and for how long):

1.18 What are/were the occupations of your parents/guardians? (If retired, what did they do before?)

Parent/Guardian 1: _____

Parent/Guardian 2: _____

Additional Parent(s)/Guardian(s), if applicable: _____



1.19 If you have children, please list (including any children who do not currently live with you):

Age	Does the child live with you?	Education	Occupation
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

1.20 If you or your current spouse or person with whom you have a significant personal relationship has ever served in the military, please list for each the branch of service and dates of service:

1.21 What social, civic, professional, trade, or other organizations are you affiliated with?

1.22 Describe any offices you have held in organizations listed above:

1.23 Do you know anyone on this jury panel?

1.24 On how many cases have you served on a jury? _____

Where did you serve on a jury? _____

What kinds of cases did you hear while serving on a jury?

In how many of those cases did the jury reach a verdict? _____

In how many of those cases did you serve as the jury foreperson? _____

Was your jury service a positive or negative experience? _____

1.25 If you have ever been to court for any other reason (excluding divorce), explain:



1.26 If you personally know any judges or attorneys or court personnel, what are their names and relationship to you?

1.27 Describe any problems (vision, hearing, or other medical problems) that may affect your jury service:

1.28 If you or anyone close to you has ever made any type of claim for damages, explain:

1.29 If a claim for money damages has ever been made against you or anyone close to you, explain the circumstances:

1.30 If you or anyone close to you has ever sued or been sued in any type of lawsuit, explain:

1.31 Do you feel that money damages awarded in lawsuits are (check one):

- Excessive Occasionally too low Other (specify): _____
- Often too large Often too low
- About right I have no opinion

1.32 If you have any ethical, religious, political, or other beliefs that may prevent you from serving as a juror, explain:

1.33 If there is any matter not covered by this questionnaire that could affect your ability to be a fair and impartial juror, explain:



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

Personal Injury Supplement

JURY-001

Full Name: _____

2.1 If you or anyone close to you has ever been involved in an accident in which someone was injured, explain:

2.2 Place a check mark on the appropriate line(s) if you or anyone close to you has ever been employed in any capacity by any of the following types of businesses:

Yourself	Other Person	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any court in the state of California
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attorney, law firm, or law office
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claims adjustment, evaluation, review, settlement, or investigation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accident investigation or law enforcement
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disability, health, life, casualty, or accidental injury benefits or programs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Economics, actuarial, or investments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health care doctor, nursing, hospital, dental, physical therapy, pharmacy, or any related field

2.3 If you checked any **box under Other Person** in the previous question (2.2), please state the relationship of that person to you, the type and details of that employment, and the years of that employment:

2.4 Do you have any beliefs against awarding damages for personal injury, pain, or suffering?

Yes No

If yes, explain:

2.5 Do you or any members of your immediate family or household see a doctor or other medical practitioner regularly for any continuing medical problem?

Yes No

If yes, explain:



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CIVIL CASES

JURY-001

Verification

I, _____, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)
of California that the foregoing responses I have given on this juror questionnaire, and on any attached sheets, are true
and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:



Signature

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Form JURY-002 (Optional Form) Code of Civil Procedure section 205(c)–(e)

Sec. 1. Statutory Authority

This Juror Questionnaire has been drafted under the authority of Code of Civil Procedure section 205(c)–(e) and is intended to expedite jury selection. It is not intended to alter statutes or rules governing the authority of the court or the role of counsel during voir dire.

Sec. 2. Use Notes for Courts

A. General

This Juror Questionnaire is an **optional form** and is **NOT** intended to constitute the complete examination of prospective jurors. **The utility and appropriateness of this questionnaire to a particular case is at the discretion of the judge.** Particular kinds of cases may require that this questionnaire be altered or augmented with the participation of counsel.

B. Pre-Voir Dire Conference

Rule of court 4.200 requires that the court confer with counsel about voir dire before a jury panel is called. At this conference, the court may establish (1) guidelines for the use of the Juror Questionnaire, (2) any supplemental questions to be propounded to the panel by questionnaire, (3) the extent of the court's oral inquiry of the panel, and (4) the extent of oral questioning by counsel. Arrangements for duplication of completed questionnaires should be confirmed.

C. Introduction of Questionnaire to Prospective Jurors

It is suggested that the Juror Questionnaire be used after the court has given its customary introductory remarks and any additional instructions that the court deems appropriate. The court also may wish to tell the panel members that a questionnaire will be used, encourage complete answers, and remind them that their answers will be given under penalty of perjury. In introducing the questionnaire, the court should instruct prospective jurors how to proceed if they have difficulty reading or filling out the form.

It is not recommended that the court direct the jury commissioner to give the Juror Questionnaire to prospective jurors in the jury assembly room. This procedure ordinarily will mean that jurors are not given complete instructions about the type of case they will hear or the identity of participants and witnesses. In addition, jurors who fill out the form before appearing in the trial court may not clearly understand that their answers are given under penalty of perjury. For these reasons, and to avoid the need to have jurors fill out supplemental questionnaires once they have been sent to the trial court, it is strongly recommended that the Juror Questionnaire be used in the trial court setting.



JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Introduction and Instructions

JURY-002

Thank you for coming to court as a potential juror. Before the case can start, a jury must be selected. The judge and the parties need to know information about you and people you know in order to select jurors who can be fair to both sides.

Everyone has attitudes and opinions that are shaped by their life experiences. Sometimes these experiences can make it difficult to look at a certain issue in an unbiased and unemotional way. As a juror, you must return a verdict based on the law and on the facts proved in court. The judge will give you instructions on the law and on how you should go about deciding the case. You must listen to and follow the judge's instructions.

The questions on this form are designed to help the court and the lawyers learn something about your background and your views on issues that may be related to this case. The questions are asked not to invade your privacy but to make sure that you can be a fair and impartial juror.

In portions of this form, you will see the term “person with whom you share a significant personal relationship.” That term means a **current or** former spouse, domestic partner, life partner, or anyone with whom you have an influential or intimate relationship that you would characterize as important.

As you answer the questions that follow, please keep in mind that there are no “right” or “wrong” answers. The only right answer is one that reflects how you honestly feel. Please make sure your answers are as complete as possible. Complete answers are far more helpful and may help shorten the time it takes to select a jury. If you have trouble reading, understanding, or filling out this form, please let the court staff know. If a question does not apply to you, please write in “NA” for “not applicable” rather than leave the question blank.

The information you provide will become part of the court record in this case and will be a public document that is accessible to anyone. Some of the questions may require information that is personal and sensitive to you, and you may be reluctant to talk about this information with the other prospective jurors and the public present. If this is so, write “private” next to the question and the court **may** then give you an opportunity to share your information on the record with only the judge, counsel, the defendant, and the court reporter present. The answers you provide will, under most circumstances, be included as part of the public record, but you may not have to share the information in open court.

PLEASE PUT THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF YOUR JUROR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER FOUND ON YOUR JUROR BADGE ON THE TOP OF EACH PAGE.

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY. YOUR ANSWERS MUST BE TRUE AND COMPLETE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN SELECTING A FAIR JURY.



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

General Questions

PLEASE PRINT ALL ANSWERS LEGIBLY

1.1 Age: _____

1.2 This (these) crime(s) allegedly took place (*specify location of crime(s)*):

Do you reside in the vicinity of this location, or do you frequent this location?

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

1.3 Describe any difficulties (vision, hearing, or medical problems) that may affect your jury service:

1.4 If you have any ethical, religious, political, or other beliefs that may prevent you from serving as a juror, explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.5 What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Grade school or less
- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Other (please explain):

- Some college
(Major): _____
- College graduate
(Major): _____
- Postgraduate study
(Field): _____
- Technical or vocational school
(Field): _____

1.6 If you plan to attend or are currently attending school, describe:

1.7 If you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative have taken any courses or had any training in law or a related subject, describe:

1.8 Educational background of any other adult who lives in your home, including any degrees or certificates earned:

1.9 Your present employment status (check all that apply):

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Other (specify): _____
- Retired
- Student
- Unemployed, looking for work
- Unemployed, not looking for work

1.10 Your current or most recent occupation (and for how long):



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.11 Name of your current or most recent employer or, if a student, your school:

1.12 Describe your specific duties and responsibilities in your current or most recent job:

1.13 Does your current job involve supervising other people?

Yes No

If yes, approximately how many? _____

1.14 Are you involved in the hiring or firing of other employees?

Yes No

1.15 Are you involved in evaluating the job performance of other employees?

Yes No

1.16 All other employment you have had in the past 10 years (and for how long):

1.17 The present employment status of your spouse or any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship (check all that apply):

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Other (specify):
- Retired
- Student
- Unemployed, looking for work
- Unemployed, not looking for work

1.18 The current or most recent occupation of your spouse or any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship (and for how long):

1.19 The name of the current or most recent employer of your spouse or any other person with whom you have a significant personal relationship or, if a student, name of the school:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.20 Describe the specific duties and responsibilities for the current or most recent job of your spouse or any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship:

1.21 If you, your spouse, a person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative are currently working or have ever worked in law enforcement, please list the agency, position, and the person's relationship to you:

1.22 If you have children, please list (including any children who do not currently live with you):

Age	Does the child live with you?	Education	Occupation
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

1.23 If you, your spouse, or a person with whom you have a significant personal relationship has ever served in the military, please list for each the branch of service and dates of service:

1.24 If you, your spouse, or a person with whom you have a significant personal relationship ever had involvement with the military police or the military justice system, please describe:

1.25 Social, civic, professional, trade, or other organizations with which you are affiliated:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.26 Describe any offices you have held in organizations listed above:

1.27 Do you know anyone on this jury panel? Yes No

1.28 If you personally know any judges or attorneys or court personnel, what are their names and relationships to you?

1.29 Have you previously served on a criminal or civil trial jury? Yes No

On how many cases did you serve? _____

Approximate year(s)? _____

Where did you serve on a jury? _____

Were you a juror or an alternate? _____

What kinds of cases did you hear while serving on a jury? _____

Was there anything about your jury service that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:

1.30 Have you ever served on a grand jury panel? Yes No

Criminal or civil grand jury? _____

Approximate year(s)? _____

Where did you serve on a grand jury? _____

How long did you serve on a grand jury? _____

What kind of matter did you hear while serving on a grand jury? _____

Was there anything about your jury service that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.31 Have you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative ever been a victim of a crime?

Yes No

If yes, who? _____

What crime(s)? _____

When? _____

What happened?

Was anyone arrested? Yes No

Was there a trial? Yes No

If yes, did you attend the trial? Yes No

Did the person who is the subject of this question testify? Yes No

Did the police interview the person who is the subject of this question? Yes No

Did anyone working for the defendant interview the person who is the subject of this question? Yes No

As a result of that experience, is there anything that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:

1.32 Have you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative ever been a witness to a crime?

Yes No

If yes, who? _____

What crime(s)? _____

When? _____

What happened?

Was anyone arrested? Yes No

Was there a trial? Yes No

If yes, did you attend the trial? Yes No

Did the person who is the subject of this question testify? Yes No



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

Did the police interview the person who is the subject of this question? Yes No

Did anyone working for the defendant interview the person who is the subject of this question? Yes No

As a result of that experience, is there anything that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:

1.33 Have you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative ever had any contact with law enforcement, including but not limited to being: (a) stopped by the police; (b) accused of misconduct, whether or not it was a crime; (c) investigated as a suspect in a criminal case; (d) charged with a crime; or (e) a criminal defendant?

Yes No

If yes, who? _____

What crime(s)? _____

When? _____

What happened? _____

Was anyone arrested? Yes No

Was there a trial? Yes No

If yes, did you attend the trial? Yes No

Did the person who is the subject of this question testify? Yes No

Did the police interview the person who is the subject of this question? Yes No

Did anyone working for the defendant interview the person who is the subject of this question? Yes No

As a result of that experience, is there anything that would make you question your ability to be fair and impartial in this case? If so, please explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

1.34 Have you ever been to court for any other reason? Explain:

1.35 The following is a principle of law that applies to all criminal cases:

A defendant in a criminal action is presumed to be innocent. This presumption requires that the People prove a defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Whenever the judge tells you the People must prove something, the judge means they must prove it beyond a reasonable doubt [unless the judge specifically tells you otherwise].

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you with an abiding conviction that the charge is true. The evidence need not eliminate all possible doubt because everything in life is open to some possible or imaginary doubt.

In deciding whether the People have proved their case beyond a reasonable doubt, you must impartially compare and consider all the evidence that was received throughout the entire trial. Unless the evidence proves the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, the defendant is entitled to an acquittal and you must find the defendant not guilty. (CALCRIM No. 103.)

Do you understand this principle of law? Yes No

Do you agree with this principle of law? Yes No

Will you follow this principle of law? Yes No

If you answered no to any question, please explain:

1.36 In general, what are your opinions, if any, about law enforcement officers?

1.37 Have you, your spouse, any person with whom you have a significant personal relationship, or a relative ever had a particularly pleasant or unpleasant experience with law enforcement or the district attorney's office?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

1.38 Would the fact that a witness is a member of law enforcement cause you to automatically believe or disbelieve the testimony of that witness?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:



Juror ID number _____
 Case number _____

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Capital Case Supplement

By asking the following questions regarding your feelings or opinions about capital punishment, the court is not suggesting in any way that you will ever need to decide this question. The court does not know in advance what the evidence in this case will be or whether you will find a defendant guilty or not guilty of any charge at all. The court is asking the following questions because *if* a defendant is found guilty of murder in the first degree as well as what we call "special circumstances" that have been charged, the possible sentences to be decided in a separate penalty trial are the sentence of death or the sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. A defendant may also be acquitted or found guilty of lesser charges, which means there never will be a penalty trial. Since we do not know in advance what your decisions may be, the court must know whether you could be fair to all sides on the issue of punishment if and only if a penalty trial is necessary.

To clarify, you will only make a sentence decision between life without the possibility of parole and death in a separate penalty trial if you find a defendant guilty of murder in the first degree beyond a reasonable doubt and you find a "special circumstance" (to be defined for you later) true.

If the penalty trial is necessary, you will first hear evidence and arguments from counsel. The law also provides very specific guidelines as to what a jury can consider in deciding the sentence in this separate penalty trial. These guidelines are called "aggravating factors" and "mitigating factors" and are explained in *Judicial Council of California Criminal Jury Instructions* number 763:

In reaching your decision, you must consider and weigh the aggravating and mitigating circumstances or factors shown by the evidence.

An aggravating circumstance or factor is any fact, condition, or event relating to the commission of a crime, above and beyond the elements of the crime itself, that increases the wrongfulness of the defendant's conduct, the enormity of the offense, or the harmful impact of the crime. An aggravating circumstance may support a decision to impose the death penalty.

A mitigating circumstance or factor is any fact, condition, or event that makes the death penalty less appropriate as a punishment, even though it does not legally justify or excuse the crime. A mitigating circumstance is something that reduces the defendant's blameworthiness or otherwise supports a less severe punishment. A mitigating circumstance may support a decision not to impose the death penalty.



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

2.1 Which do you think is the more severe punishment?

- The death penalty
- Life in prison without parole

Why?

2.2 Which would you say accurately states your general belief regarding the death penalty?

- Strongly in favor
- Strongly opposed
- Neutral
- Moderately in favor
- Moderately opposed

Please explain in more detail your beliefs about the sentence of death:

2.3 Which would you say accurately states your general belief regarding life without the possibility of parole?

- Strongly in favor
- Strongly opposed
- Neutral
- Moderately in favor
- Moderately opposed

Please explain in more detail your beliefs about the sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole:

2.4 What purposes, if any, do you believe that life imprisonment without the possibility of parole serves?



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

2.5 What purposes, if any, do you believe the death penalty serves?

2.6 Do you believe the death penalty is imposed:

- Too often
- Enough
- Do not know
- Not enough
- Randomly

2.7 Have your views about the death penalty changed substantially in either intensity or nature in the last few years?

- Yes
- No

If yes, how have your views about the death penalty changed?

2.8 Can you set aside any opinions you may have about the death penalty, and make a decision in this case based on the evidence and the law as it is given by the judge?

- Yes
- No

If no, why not?

2.9 Do you have any religious or personal beliefs that may influence you in your determination of whether to vote to impose either the penalty of death or life in prison without the possibility of parole?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain:



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

2.10 Are you a member of, or have you contributed to or otherwise supported a church, religious organization, political or social advocacy group, or any other organization that takes a position for or against the imposition of the penalty of death?

Yes No

a. If yes, what group(s)?

b. What is the group's position?

c. Do you feel obligated to accept this position?

Yes No

If yes, please explain why:

2.11 Even if you believed the prosecutor had proved guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, would you, because of any views you may have regarding the death penalty, refuse to find the defendant(s) guilty or find a special circumstance to be true in order to avoid having to decide whether to impose the death penalty?

Yes No

2.12 If you find the defendant(s) guilty of the crime, would you automatically in all cases vote for a sentence of life without the possibility of parole regardless of the evidence concerning aggravating and mitigating factors?

Yes No

2.13 If you find the defendant(s) guilty of the crime, would you automatically in all cases vote for a sentence of death regardless of the evidence concerning aggravating and mitigating factors?

Yes No



Juror ID number _____

Case number _____

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Verification

I, _____, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State
(Type or Print Name)
of California that the foregoing responses I have given on this juror questionnaire, and on any attached sheets, are true
and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date:



Signature

Standard 10.22 of the California Standards of Judicial Administration is adopted, and standards 3.25 and 4.30 are amended, effective July 1, 2026, to read:

1 **Standard 3.25. Examination of prospective jurors in civil cases**

2
3 **(a) In general**

4
5 (1) *Methods and scope of examination*

6
7 The examination of prospective jurors in a civil case may be oral, by written
8 questionnaire, or by both methods, and should include all questions necessary
9 to ensure the selection of a fair and impartial jury. ~~The~~ *Juror Questionnaire*
10 *for Civil Cases* (form ~~MC-001~~ JURY-001) may be used. During any
11 supplemental examination conducted by counsel for the parties, the trial
12 judge should permit liberal and probing examination calculated to discover
13 possible bias or prejudice with regard to the circumstances of the particular
14 case.

15
16 (2) *Examination by counsel*

17
18 When counsel requests to be allowed to conduct a supplemental voir dire
19 examination, the trial judge should permit counsel to conduct such
20 examination without requiring prior submission of the questions to the judge
21 unless a particular counsel has demonstrated unwillingness to avoid the type
22 of examination proscribed in (f). In exercising ~~his or her~~ sound discretion ~~as~~
23 ~~to~~ regarding the form and subject matter of voir dire questions, the trial judge
24 should consider, among other criteria: (1) any unique or complex elements,
25 legal or factual, in the case, and (2) the individual responses or conduct of
26 jurors that may evince attitudes inconsistent with suitability to serve as a fair
27 and impartial juror in the particular case. Questions regarding personal
28 relationships of jurors should be relevant to the subject matter of the case.
29

30 **(b) Pre-voir dire conference**

31
32 Before the examination the trial judge should, outside the prospective jurors'
33 hearing and with a court reporter present, confer with counsel, at which time
34 specific questions or areas of inquiry may be proposed that the judge in ~~his or her~~
35 their discretion may inquire of the jurors. Thereafter, the judge should advise
36 counsel of the questions or areas to be inquired into during the examination and
37 voir dire procedure. The judge should also obtain from counsel the names of the
38 witnesses whom counsel then plan to call at trial and a brief outline of the nature of
39 the case, including any alleged injuries or damages and, in an eminent domain
40 action, the respective contentions of the parties concerning the value of the property
41 taken and any alleged severance damages and special benefits.
42
43

1 (c) Examination of jurors
2

3 Except as otherwise provided in (d), the trial judge’s examination of prospective
4 jurors should include the following areas of inquiry and any other matters affecting
5 their qualifications to serve as jurors in the case:
6

7 (1) *To the entire jury panel after it has been sworn and seated:*
8

9 I am now going to question the prospective jurors who are seated in the jury
10 box concerning their qualifications to serve as jurors in this case. All
11 members of this jury panel, however, should pay close attention to my
12 questions, making note of the answers you would give if these questions were
13 put to you personally. If and when any other member of this panel is called to
14 the jury box, the member will be asked to ~~give his or her answers to~~ answer
15 these questions.
16

17 (2)–(10) * * *
18

19 (11) Have any of you served as a juror in any other case? (If so, was it a civil or
20 criminal case?) You must understand that there is a basic difference between
21 a civil case and a criminal case. In a criminal case a defendant must be found
22 guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; in a civil case such as this, you need only
23 find that the evidence you accept as the basis of your decision is more
24 convincing, and thus has the greater probability of truth, than the contrary
25 evidence.
26

27 In the following questions I will be using the terms “family,” “close friend,”
28 and “anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship.” The
29 term “anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship” means
30 a current or former spouse, domestic partner, life partner, ~~former spouse~~, or
31 anyone with whom you have an influential or intimate relationship that you
32 would characterize as important.
33

34 (12)–(15) * * *
35

36 (16) *When appropriate:*
37

38 ~~It may appear that~~ The background or experiences of one or more of the
39 parties, witnesses, or attorneys ~~come from a particular national, racial, or~~
40 ~~religious group (or may have a lifestyle different than your own).~~ may appear
41 to be different from yours related to their [ethnicity, religion, age, gender,
42 gender expression, gender identity, national origin, disability, race, sexual
43 orientation, socioeconomic status, or other personal characteristic]. Would

1 this in any way affect your judgment or the weight and credibility you would
2 give to their testimony or ~~to their contentions?~~ arguments?

3
4 (17)–(19) * * *

5
6 (20) Each of you should now state your:

7
8 (A) Name; (or Juror ID number);

9
10 (B) Children’s ages and the number of children, if any;

11
12 (C) Occupation;

13
14 (D) Occupational history; and

15
16 (E) Present employer;

17
18 And for your spouse or anyone with whom you have a significant personal
19 relationship, their:

20
21 ~~(F)~~ (F) Names;

22
23 ~~(G)~~ (F) Occupations;

24
25 ~~(H)~~ (G) Occupational histories; and

26
27 ~~(I)~~ (H) Present employers.

28
29 Please begin with juror number one.

30
31 (21) * * *

32
33 **(d) Examination of jurors in eminent domain cases**

34 In eminent domain cases, the trial judge’s examination of prospective jurors should
35 include, in the areas of inquiry in (c)(1) through (c)(12), the following matters, and
36 any other matters affecting their qualifications to serve as jurors in the case:

37
38 (1)–(6) * * *

39
40 (7) *When appropriate:*

41
42 ~~It may appear that~~ The background or experiences of one or more of the
43 parties, witnesses, or attorneys ~~come from a particular national, racial, or~~
44 ~~religious group (or may have a lifestyle different from your own).~~ may appear

1 to be different from yours related to their [ethnicity, religion, age, gender,
2 gender expression, gender identity, national origin, disability, race, sexual
3 orientation, socioeconomic status, or other personal characteristic]. Would
4 this in any way affect your judgment or the weight and credibility you would
5 give to their testimony or ~~contentions?~~ arguments?
6

7 (8)–(12) * * *

8
9 (13) The Constitution of this state requires that a property owner be paid just
10 compensation for the taking (or damaging) of ~~his or her~~ the owner's property
11 for public use. It will be the duty of the jury ultimately selected in this case to
12 determine the just compensation to be paid.
13

14 (14)–(25) * * *

15
16 (26) In a condemnation case the property owner produces ~~all of his or her~~
17 evidence of value first, then the government calls its witnesses. Having this in
18 mind, will you keep your mind open throughout all the case and not
19 determine the matter in your mind until all of the evidence is in?
20

21 (27) * * *

22
23 (28) Each of you should now state your:

24
25 (A) Name; (or Juror ID number);

26
27 (B) Children's ages and number of children, if any;

28
29 (C) Occupation;

30
31 (D) Occupational history; and

32
33 (E) Present employer;

34
35 And for your spouse or anyone with whom you have a significant personal
36 relationship, their:

37
38 (F) Names;

39
40 (G) (F) Occupations;

41
42 (H) (G) Occupational histories; and

43
44 (I) (H) Present employers.

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Please begin with juror number one.

(29)–(30) * * *

(e) * * *

(f) **Improper questions**

When any counsel examines the prospective jurors, the trial judge should not permit counsel to attempt to precondition the prospective jurors to a particular result or allow counsel to comment on the personal lives and families of the parties or their attorneys. Nor should the trial judge allow counsel to question the jurors concerning the pleadings, the applicable law, the meaning of particular words and phrases, or the comfort of the jurors, except in unusual circumstances, ~~where,~~ when, in the trial judge’s sound discretion, such questions ~~become~~ are necessary to ~~insure~~ ensure the selection of a fair and impartial jury.

Standard 4.30. Examination of prospective jurors in criminal cases

(a) **In general**

(1) * * *

(2) The examination of prospective jurors in a criminal case should include all questions necessary to ~~insure~~ ensure the selection of a fair and impartial jury.

(3) * * *

(b) **Examination of jurors**

The trial judge’s examination of prospective jurors in criminal cases should include the areas of inquiry listed below and any other matters affecting their qualifications to serve as jurors in the case. The trial judge may want to use ~~the~~ *Juror Questionnaire for Criminal Cases* (form JURY-002) to assist in the examination of prospective jurors. Form JURY-002 is an optional form and is not intended to constitute the complete examination of prospective jurors. Form JURY-002 is a tool for trial judges to use to make the initial examination of prospective jurors more efficient. If the court chooses to use form JURY-002, its use and any supplemental questions submitted by counsel must be discussed at the ~~pre-voir pre-~~ voir dire conference required by rule 4.200. Excusing jurors based on questionnaire answers alone is generally not advisable.

1 (1)–(2) * * *

2
3 (3) *At this point the court may wish to submit any juror questionnaire that has*
4 *been developed to assist in voir dire. The court should remind panel members*
5 *that their answers on the questionnaire are given under penalty of perjury. In*
6 *addition, if a questionnaire is used, the court and counsel may wish to*
7 *question individual prospective jurors further based on their responses to*
8 *particular questions, and a procedure for doing so should be established at*
9 *the pre-voir dire conference. Therefore, it may not be necessary to ask all of*
10 *the prospective jurors questions 5 through 25 that follow, although the text*
11 *may assist the court with following up with individual jurors about answers*
12 *given on the questionnaire.*

13
14 *To the entire jury panel:*

15
16 I am now going to question the prospective jurors who are seated in the jury
17 box concerning their qualifications to serve as jurors in this case. All the
18 remaining members of this jury panel, however, should pay close attention to
19 my questions, making note of the answers you would give if these questions
20 were put to you personally. If and when any other member of this panel is
21 called to the jury box, ~~he or she~~ the member will be asked to answer these
22 questions.

23
24 (4)–(5) * * *

25
26 (6) ~~Ladies and gentlemen~~ Members of the jury: This is a criminal case entitled
27 The People of the State of California v. _____. The (defendant
28 is)(defendants are) seated _____.

29
30 (A) ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ (Name of defendant), please stand and face the prospective
31 jurors in the jury box and in the audience seats. *(Defendant complies.)*
32 Is there any member of the jury panel who is acquainted with the
33 defendant or who may have heard ~~(his)(her)~~ the name (name of
34 defendant) before today? If your answer is yes, please raise your hand.

35
36
37 (B) The defendant, _____, is represented by ~~(his)(her)~~ an attorney,
38 _____, who is seated _____. ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ (Name of defense
39 attorney), would you please stand? Is there any member of the jury
40 panel who knows or who has seen ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ _____ (name of
41 defense attorney) before today?
42

1 (C) (If there is more than one defendant, repeat (a) and (b) for each
2 codefendant.)
3

4 (7) The People are represented by _____, Deputy District Attorney, who is
5 seated _____. ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ (Name of district attorney), would you please
6 stand? Is there any member of the jury panel who knows or who has seen
7 ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ _____ (name of district attorney) before today?
8

9 (8) The defendant is charged by an (information)(indictment) filed by the district
10 attorney with having committed the crime of _____, in violation of
11 section _____ of the _____ Code, _____ Code section _____, it being
12 alleged that on or about _____ in the County of _____, the defendant
13 did (*describe the offense*). To (this charge)(these charges) the defendant has
14 pleaded not guilty, and the jury will have to decide whether the defendant's
15 guilt has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt. Having heard the charge(s)
16 that (has)(have) been filed against the defendant, is there any member of the
17 jury panel who feels ~~that he or she cannot~~ unable to give this defendant a fair
18 trial because of the nature of the charge(s) ~~against (him)(her)~~?
19

20 (9)–(12) * * *

21
22 (13) How many of you have served previously as jurors in a criminal case?
23

24 *To each person whose hand is raised:*

25
26 (A) ~~(Mr.)(Ms.)~~ _____ ~~(or Juror (Name or Juror ID number))~~, you
27 indicated you have been a juror in a criminal case. What were the
28 charges in that case? (*Response.*)
29

30 (B) Do you feel you can put aside whatever you heard in that case and
31 decide this case on the evidence to be presented and the law as I will
32 state it to you? (*Response.*)
33

34 (14) May I see the hands of those jurors who have served on civil cases, but who
35 have never served on a criminal case? (*Response.*) You must understand that
36 there are substantial differences in the rules applicable to the trial of criminal
37 cases from those applicable to the trial of civil cases. This is particularly true
38 respecting the burden of proof that is placed on the People. In a civil case we
39 say that the plaintiff must prove ~~(his)(her)~~ the case by a preponderance of the
40 evidence. In a criminal case, the defendant is presumed to be innocent, and
41 ~~before (he)(she) may be found guilty~~ for the jury to make a finding of guilt,
42 the People must prove ~~(his)(her)~~ the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable
43 doubt. If the jury has a reasonable doubt, the defendant must be acquitted.

1 Will each of you be able to set aside the instructions that you received in your
2 previous cases and try this case on the instructions given by me in this case?
3

- 4 (15) The fact that the defendant is in court for trial, or ~~that charges have been~~
5 ~~made against (him)(her)~~ has been charged, is no evidence ~~whatever~~
6 whatsoever of ~~(his)(her)~~ guilt. The jurors are to consider only evidence
7 properly received in the courtroom in determining whether the defendant’s
8 guilt has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The defendant has entered
9 a plea of “not guilty,” which is a complete denial, making it necessary for the
10 People, acting through the district attorney, to prove beyond a reasonable
11 doubt the case against the defendant. If the evidence does not convince you
12 of the truth of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt, the defendant is
13 entitled to a verdict of not guilty.
14

15 In the following questions I will be using the terms “relative,” “close friend,”
16 and “anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship.” The
17 term “anyone with whom you have a significant personal relationship” means
18 a current or former spouse, domestic partner, life partner, ~~former spouse~~, or
19 anyone with whom you have an influential or intimate relationship that you
20 would characterize as important.
21

22 (16)–(19) * * *

23
24 (20) *When appropriate:*
25

26 ~~It may appear that~~ The background or experiences of one or more of the
27 parties, attorneys, or witnesses come from a particular national, racial, or
28 religious group (or may have a lifestyle different from your own). may appear
29 to be different from yours related to their [ethnicity, religion, age, gender,
30 gender expression, gender identity, national origin, disability, race, sexual
31 orientation, socioeconomic status, or other personal characteristic]. Would
32 this in any way affect your judgment or the weight and credibility you would
33 give to their testimony or arguments?
34

35 (21)–(26) * * *

36
37 (27) *If a new prospective juror is seated, the court should ask ~~him or her~~: that*
38 *juror:*
39

40 (A) Have you heard my questions to the other prospective jurors?
41

42 (B) Have any of the questions I have asked raised any doubt in your mind
43 ~~as to~~ about whether you could be a fair and impartial juror in this case?

1
2 (C) Can you think of any other reason why you might not be able to try this
3 case fairly and impartially to both the prosecution and defendant, or
4 why you should not be on this jury?
5

6 (D) Give us the personal information requested concerning your
7 occupation, that of your spouse or anyone with whom you have a
8 significant personal relationship, that of your adult children, and your
9 prior jury experience.
10

11 *(Thereupon, ~~as to~~ for each new juror seated, the court must permit counsel to*
12 *ask supplemental questions; and proceed with challenges as above.)*
13

14 (c) * * *

15
16
17 **Title 10. Standards for Judicial Administration**
18

19 **Standard 10.22. Gender-inclusive practices for juror identification and juror**
20 **questionnaires**
21

22 **(a) Statement of purpose**
23

24 Consistent with the court’s duty to prevent bias, as described in standard 10.20, and
25 to ensure the inclusivity of juror identification and any juror questionnaire under
26 Code of Civil Procedure section 205(e), the court, its judicial officers, and its
27 employees should use gender-inclusive language on juror questionnaires and in
28 written and oral communications directed to jurors. For the purpose of this
29 standard, “juror” includes a prospective juror.
30

31 **(b) Recommended practices**
32

33 (1) The court, its judicial officers, and its employees should use gender-neutral
34 language in general materials and communications directed to jurors
35 whenever applicable.
36

37 (2) To avoid making assumptions about gender, the court, its judicial officers,
38 and its employees should not use gender-specific honorifics or pronouns to
39 identify or refer to a juror who has not indicated the honorific or pronouns
40 that the juror uses.
41

42 (3) The court, its judicial officers, and its employees should avoid seeking
43 information about the gender of a juror or a relevant individual associated
44 with the juror (a family member, friend, or person with whom the juror has a

1 significant personal relationship) when such information is not necessary or
2 relevant to the proper exercise of the court’s adjudicatory or administrative
3 functions.

4
5 (4) When the court seeks information about the gender of a juror or an associated
6 individual to properly carry out its adjudicatory or administrative functions,
7 the court should allow the juror to indicate their gender identity or gender
8 expression, as applicable. To assist a juror who has privacy concerns with
9 disclosing such information, the court should, whenever possible, either
10 specify that responding to a question about gender is optional or provide a
11 “decline to state” option.

12
13 (A) When a question about gender provides multiple responses to choose
14 from, the question should allow for multiple options to be selected
15 (e.g., “select all that apply”).

16
17 (B) When a question about gender provides multiple options to choose
18 from (e.g., man, nonbinary, woman), including a write-in response
19 option, the accompanying text for the write-in option, if included,
20 should use phrases like “prefer to self-identify” or “identify as” and
21 avoid phrases like “other” or “none of the above.”

W26-09

Access and Fairness: Gender Inclusivity of Juror Identification and Juror Questionnaires (Implementation of Assembly Bill 1899) (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.1002, 2.1006, and 2.1008; revise forms JURY-001 and JURY-002; adopt Cal. Stds. Jud. Admin., standard 10.22; amend standards 3.25 and 4.30)

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
1.	Orange County Bar Association by Shirin Forootan, President	A	The proposal appropriately meets the stated purpose.	The committee appreciates the comment.
2.	Superior Court of Los Angeles County by Stephanie Kuo	A	The following comments are representative of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, and do not represent or promote the viewpoint of any particular officer or employee.	No response needed.
			In response to the Judicial Council of California’s Invitation to Comment, “W26-09 Access and Fairness: Gender Inclusivity of Juror Identification and Juror Questionnaires (Implementation of Assembly Bill 1899),” the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles (Court), agrees with the proposal and agrees that the language for jurors is gender inclusive.	The committee appreciates the comment.
			The proposal would not provide cost savings. The Court would need to update its forms and its website, in coordination with its Operations, Court Technology Services, and Judicial & Executive Support Divisions during regular business hours. The Court’s Juror Services team identified four forms and 28 references on its website that would need to be updated. To implement the proposal, the Court would not need to extensively train staff. It would need to revise its processes and procedures but would not need to change docket codes in its case management system.	The committee appreciates the information.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Two months should be sufficient to implement the proposal. The Court has already identified all areas that need to be updated and is ready to implement them when required.	The committee appreciates the information.
3.	Superior Court of Orange County by Nevely Herrera	A	Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose? The proposal appropriately addresses the stated purpose, as indicated.	The committee appreciates the comment.
			Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify. N/A	No response needed.
			What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems? Proposed language changes are largely descriptive. Implementation would be limited to minor updates to existing scripts and jury orientation materials. Updates can be incorporated within existing processes and resources.	The committee appreciates the information.
			Would two months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation? Due to minimal anticipated impact, two months would be sufficient time for implementation.	The committee appreciates the information.

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes? Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify. N/A	No response needed.
4.	Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC) and the Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC) (TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee (JRS))	AM	The JRS notes that the proposal is required to conform to a change of law.	No response needed.
<p>The JRS also notes the following impact to court operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on existing automated systems. • Requires development of local rules or forms. <p>These categories of impact are checked to recognize that implementation of these changes may require courts to update existing gendered language, both within jury management system interfaces and various documents and forms used for jurors. Such updates may take time and resources, depending on the extent to which they are needed, due to the need to draft changes, work with jury management system vendors, put local rule and form changes out for public comment, replace any physical documents currently in circulation, etc.</p>			The committee appreciates the information.	
<p>Suggested modification(s): The proposed changes to everything other than the newly proposed standard of judicial administration are appropriate and well-drafted. While there is nothing explicitly wrong with the newly proposed standard of judicial administration, the adoption of a standard of judicial administration about gender inclusivity that is only about juror identification and juror</p>			The committee thanks JRS for this suggestion and raising the broader issue of improving gender inclusivity throughout the courts. However, the suggestion to address additional court materials is beyond the scope of the proposal that circulated for comment. The committee agrees that gender inclusivity (and inclusivity more generally) in the courts has been and should continue to be a	

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All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			<p>questionnaires begs the question of why it would be limited to those categories.</p> <p>Although this is a legislatively driven change, AB 1899 (2024) does not require the adopted standard be limited to those categories. The ITC report suggests the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness did not consider the alternative of proposing a new standard of judicial administration on gender inclusivity that both covers the categories required by AB 1899 (2024) and applies broadly to all court materials, practices, etc.</p> <p>The Joint Rules Subcommittee recommends that an alternative be developed and proposed instead of moving forward with the adoption of the new standard as currently proposed, so as to better reflect the Judicial Council’s commitment to gender inclusivity and avoid the potential perception that the Judicial Council will only address gender inclusivity as required by law. As AB 1899 (2024) does not require the adoption of the new standard by a specific date, there should not be an issue with delaying implementation of the new standard, if more time is needed to develop modified language to make this change.</p>	<p>priority for the Judicial Council, consistent with the Judicial Council’s goal of Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion in its strategic plan. However, the committee is concerned about delaying the gender inclusivity benefits for jurors offered by the proposed standard for an indefinite amount of time to allow for the development of a broader standard.</p> <p>In addition, the committee recognizes the importance of responding to and addressing more focused concerns about inclusivity as they arise. Given the demonstrated legislative concern, reflected in AB 1899, of ensuring the gender inclusivity of juror identification and juror questionnaires specifically, the committee recommends moving forward with the proposed standard to address those issues.</p> <p>The committee affirms its commitment and continued attention to improving inclusivity throughout the courts and welcomes further suggestions on issues related to access, fairness, diversity, and inclusion in the courts. The committee will consider the need for additional guidance or standards related to gender inclusivity in the courts, as time and resources permit, going forward.</p>