Jury Service Feedback

Members of the Jury:

I hope you have an exceptional experience serving on the jury on this case. Civil jury trials have been an essential part of our legal system from our country’s founding, and part of the English legal system for hundreds of years before that. We have made numerous changes to the system over the years, but still seek to improve it by obtaining juror comments on the trial. To that end, we are asking for your input on the trial, both positive and negative. If you have suggestions on how the judge and lawyers might improve presentation of the evidence or instructions, if you have suggestions for the staff, or any other aspect of your service, we want to know.

I am giving you this Feedback form at the outset so you can note matters or suggestions throughout the trial. However, you are to keep your Feedback form in the jury room. You are not to bring it into the courtroom, or remove it from the jury room at any time during the trial. You should not let completion of this form interfere in any way with your attention to the proceedings, which is why it should not be in the courtroom.

Finally, whether to fill out the form and submit it is entirely optional. You are not required to complete it. If you choose to complete it, you will be given the opportunity to turn it in at the end of the trial and we will send it to the Civil Jury Project at New York University School of Law, which studies methods and innovations to improve the jury as an institution. Your answers will remain anonymous unless you indicate that you like to be contacted by the Civil Jury Project researchers for follow-up. Your answers will not be shared with the Judge or lawyers in the case unless you affirmatively authorize it at the end of the questionnaire.

Where are you from?

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Did you participate in a State or Federal Trial?

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Did you participate in a Civil or Criminal Trial?

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Were you selected for jury duty?

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What was the length of the trial you participated in?

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How long did you deliberate?

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Was a verdict reached?

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Judge

What did you like about the Judge’s management of this case? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What did you dislike about the Judge’s management of this case? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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How could the Judge have improved the trial? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Trial

At the beginning of the trial were you given an approximate end-date?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If so, did the trial end when or before you were told it would end?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Were you satisfied with the length of the trial? (e.g., Too long? Too short?) Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Were you provided sufficient instruction at the beginning of the trial as to what you should look for and what questions you would need to answer at the end of the trial, such that you clearly understood what was expected of you as a juror?

 \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Would you have preferred more guidance at the start as to what to look for during the trial?

Please Explain. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Were you permitted to submit questions to the Judge during the trial?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If you were not allowed to submit questions, would you have liked to have been able to do so?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Did you have any difficulty understanding the instructions about the law that the court gave you at the end of the case? If yes, please explain:

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Do you think that the trial could have been enhanced through the use of modern technology? If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Is there anything about the trial you wish had been done differently? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Lawyers

Do you feel that the opposing lawyers were evenly matched in their skills?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you feel that the opposing lawyers were evenly matched in their preparation?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you feel that the quality of the lawyering impacted your verdict?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

How could the lawyers have improved the trial? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Was the courtroom staff courteous and pleasant?

Courtroom Deputy \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Court Security Officer \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Judge’s Law Clerks \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If your answer was “no”, please explain your concern. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The Physical Facilities and Convenience for Jurors:

\_\_\_\_\_ Adequate \_\_\_\_\_ Inadequate

The following improvements should be made: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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General Questions

How did you feel when you first received your summons? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What was your favorite part of your jury service? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What was your least favorite part of your jury service? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Did your perspective of the judicial system change after serving? How so? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Contact Information

If you would like to be contacted by the NYU Civil Jury Project, please provide us your name, phone number, and email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Would you like to share your responses with the:

Judge: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Courtroom Staff: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Lawyers: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If you do not wish to share your responses with any of the above, please ask one of the courtroom staff for envelope to send this form directly to the Civil Jury Project at NYU School of Law.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this project.