

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

SUSAN OKI MOLLWAY  
United States District Judge

Amended September 6, 2019

GENERAL FEDERAL JURY  
INSTRUCTIONS IN CIVIL CASES

The following will be proposed as the court's instructions in all civil cases. Additional instructions applicable to the particular case may be prepared and proposed by the parties. Such additional instructions are to be exchanged between the parties and submitted in conformity with the Local Rules, the Pretrial Order, and this court's Procedures for Trials Before Judge Susan Oki Mollway.

GENERAL FEDERAL JURY  
INSTRUCTIONS IN CIVIL CASES

INDEX

1. DUTY OF JUDGE/DUTY OF JURY
2. CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS—FAIR TREATMENT
3. EVIDENCE
4. EVIDENCE – OBJECTIONS
5. EVIDENCE – EXCLUDING STATEMENTS OF JUDGE
6. EVIDENCE – JUDICIAL NOTICE
7. EVIDENCE – STIPULATIONS
8. EVIDENCE – DEPOSITIONS
9. EVIDENCE – INTERROGATORIES
10. EVIDENCE – DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL
11. EVIDENCE – CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES
12. EVIDENCE – EXPERT WITNESSES
13. IMPEACHMENT – GENERALLY
14. IMPEACHMENT – PRIOR CONVICTION
15. CORPORATIONS
16. PARTNERSHIPS
17. AGENTS
18. SCOPE OF AUTHORITY
19. BURDEN OF PROOF – PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE
20. TWO OR MORE PARTIES—DIFFERENT LEGAL RIGHTS
21. DUTY TO DELIBERATE
22. DAMAGES
23. CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE—CONDUCT OF THE JURY
24. VERDICT FORM

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 1

### DUTY OF JUDGE/DUTY OF JURY

Members of the Jury:

Now that you have heard all of the evidence [and the arguments of the attorneys], it is my duty to instruct you on the law that applies to this case.

Each of you has received a copy of these instructions that you may take with you to the jury room to consult during your deliberations.

It is your duty to find the facts from all the evidence in the case. To those facts you will apply the law as I give it to you. You must follow all of my instructions as a whole. You have no right to disregard or give special attention to any one instruction, or to question the wisdom or correctness of any rule I may state to you. That is, you must not substitute or follow your own notion or opinion as to what the law is or ought to be. You must follow the law as I give it to you whether you agree with it or not. And you must not be influenced by any personal likes or dislikes, opinions, prejudices, or sympathy. That means that you must decide the case solely on the evidence before you. You will recall that you took an oath to do so.

This case should be considered and decided by you as an action between persons of equal standing in the community, and holding the same or similar stations in life. The law is no respecter of persons, and all persons stand equal before the law and are to be dealt with as equals in a court of justice.

Please do not read into these instructions or anything that I may say or do or have said or done that I have an opinion regarding the evidence or what your verdict should be.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 2

CORPORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS—FAIR TREATMENT

All parties are equal before the law and a [corporation]  
[partnership] is entitled to the same fair and conscientious consideration by  
you as any party.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 3

### EVIDENCE

The evidence you are to consider in deciding what the facts are consists of:

- (1) the sworn testimony of any witness;
- (2) the exhibits that are admitted into evidence;
- (3) any facts to which the lawyers have agreed; and
- (4) any facts that I have instructed you to accept as proved.

In the final analysis, it is your own recollection and interpretation of the evidence that controls in the case. However, certain things are not evidence, and you may not consider them in deciding what the facts are. I will list them for you:

- (1) Arguments and statements by lawyers are not evidence.

The lawyers are not witnesses. What they say in their opening statements, closing arguments and at other times is intended to help you interpret the evidence, but it is not evidence. If the facts as you remember them differ from the way the lawyers have stated them, your memory of them controls.

- (2) Questions and objections by lawyers are not evidence.

Attorneys have a duty to their clients to object when they believe a question is improper under the rules of evidence. You should not be influenced by the objection or by the court's ruling on it.

(3) Testimony that is excluded or stricken, or that you have been instructed to disregard, is not evidence and must not be considered. In addition some evidence may have been received only for a limited purpose; when I have instructed you to consider certain evidence only for a limited purpose, you must do so and you may not consider that evidence for any other purpose.

(4) Anything you may have seen or heard when the court was not in session is not evidence. You are to decide the case solely on the evidence received at the trial.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 4

### EVIDENCE – OBJECTIONS

There are rules of evidence that control what can be received into evidence. When a lawyer asks a question or offers an exhibit into evidence and a lawyer on the other side thinks that it is not permitted by the rules of evidence, that lawyer may object. If I overrule the objection, the question may be answered or the exhibit received. If I sustain the objection, the question cannot be answered, and the exhibit cannot be received. Whenever I sustain an objection to a question, you must ignore the question and must not guess what the answer might have been.

Sometimes I may order that evidence be stricken from the record and that you disregard or ignore that evidence. That means when you are deciding the case, you must not consider the stricken evidence for any purpose.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 5

### EVIDENCE – EXCLUDING STATEMENTS OF JUDGE

During the course of a trial I occasionally make comments to the lawyers, or ask questions of a witness, or admonish a witness concerning the manner in which he or she should respond to the questions of counsel. Do not assume from anything I have said that I have any opinion concerning any of the issues in this case. Except for my instructions to you on the law, you should disregard anything I may have said during the trial in arriving at your own findings as to the facts.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 6

EVIDENCE – JUDICIAL NOTICE

The court has taken judicial notice of certain facts or events.

When the court declares that it will take judicial notice of some fact or event, you must accept the court's declaration as evidence and regard the fact or event that has been judicially noticed as conclusively proved.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 7

EVIDENCE – STIPULATIONS

The parties have agreed as to certain facts that have been stated to you. You must therefore treat these facts as having been proved.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 8

### EVIDENCE – DEPOSITIONS

A deposition is the sworn testimony of a witness taken before trial. The witness is placed under oath to tell the truth and lawyers for each party may ask questions. The questions and answers are recorded.

Insofar as possible, you should consider deposition testimony, presented to you in court in lieu of live testimony, in the same way as if the witness had been present to testify.

Do not place any significance on the behavior or tone of voice of any person reading the deposition questions or answers.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 9

### EVIDENCE – INTERROGATORIES

Evidence was presented to you in the form of answers of one of the parties to written interrogatories submitted by the other side. These answers were given in writing and under oath before the trial in response to questions that were submitted under established court procedures. You should consider the answers, insofar as possible, in the same way as if they were made from the witness stand.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 10

### EVIDENCE – DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL

Evidence may be direct or circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as testimony by a witness about what that witness personally saw or heard or did. Circumstantial evidence is proof of one or more facts from which you could find another fact. You should consider both kinds of evidence. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct or circumstantial evidence. It is for you to decide how much weight to give to any evidence.

While you should consider only the evidence in the case, you are permitted to draw such reasonable inferences from the testimony and exhibits as you feel are justified in the light of common experience. In other words, you may make deductions and reach conclusions that reason and common sense lead you to draw from the facts that have been established by the testimony and evidence in the case.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 11

### EVIDENCE – CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES

In deciding the facts in this case, you may have to decide which testimony to believe and which testimony not to believe. You may believe everything a witness says, or part of it, or none of it.

In considering the testimony of any witness, you may take into account:

- (1) the opportunity and ability of the witness to see or hear or know the things testified to;
- (2) the witness's memory;
- (3) the witness's manner while testifying;
- (4) the witness's interest in the outcome of the case, if any;
- (5) the witness's bias or prejudice, if any;
- (6) whether other evidence contradicted the witness's testimony;
- (7) the reasonableness of the witness's testimony in light of all the evidence; and
- (8) any other factors that bear on believability.

Sometimes a witness may say something that is not consistent with something else he or she said. Sometimes different witnesses will give different versions of what happened. People often forget things or make mistakes in what they remember. Also, two people may see the same event but remember it differently. You may consider these differences, but do not decide that testimony is untrue just because it differs from other testimony.

However, if you decide that a witness has deliberately testified untruthfully about something important, you may choose not to believe anything that witness said. On the other hand, if you think the witness testified untruthfully about some things but told the truth about others, you may accept the part you think is true and ignore the rest.

The weight of the evidence as to a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of witnesses who testify. What is important is how believable the witnesses were, and how much weight you think their testimony deserves.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 12

### EVIDENCE – EXPERT WITNESSES

The rules of evidence provide that, if scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge might assist the jury in understanding the evidence or in determining a fact in issue, a witness qualified as an expert by knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education may testify and state an opinion or opinions concerning such matters.

Such opinion testimony should be judged like any other testimony. You may accept it or reject it, and give it as much weight as you think it deserves, considering the witness's knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education, the reasons given for the opinion, and all the other evidence in the case.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 13

### IMPEACHMENT – GENERALLY

A witness may be discredited or “impeached” by contradictory evidence, by a showing that he or she testified falsely concerning a material matter, or by evidence that at some other time the witness said or did something that is inconsistent with the witness’s present testimony or failed to say or do something that would be consistent with the present testimony had it been said or done.

If you believe that any witness has been so impeached, then it is your exclusive province to give the testimony of that witness such credibility or weight, if any, as you may think it deserves.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 14

IMPEACHMENT – PRIOR CONVICTION

The fact that a witness has previously been convicted of a felony or of a crime involving dishonesty or false statement is also a factor you may consider in weighing the credibility of that witness. The fact of such a conviction does not necessarily destroy the witness's credibility, but it is one of the circumstances you may take into account in determining the weight to be given to the testimony.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 15

### CORPORATIONS

Under the law, a corporation is considered to be a person. It can only act through its employees, agents, directors, or officers. Therefore, a corporation is responsible for the acts of its employees, agents, directors, and officers performed within the scope of authority.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 16

PARTNERSHIPS

A partnership can only act through its employees, agents, or partners. Therefore, a partnership is responsible for the acts of its employees, agents, and partners performed within the scope of authority.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 17

### AGENTS

An agent is a person who performs services for another person under an express or implied agreement and who is subject to the other's control or right to control the manner and means of performing the services. The other person is called a principal. One may be an agent without receiving compensation for services. The agency agreement may be oral or written.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 18

### SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

An agent is acting within the scope of authority if the agent is engaged in the performance of duties that were expressly or impliedly assigned to the agent by the principal.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 19

BURDEN OF PROOF – PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE

When a party has the burden of proving any claim [or affirmative defense] by a preponderance of the evidence, it means you must be persuaded by the evidence that the claim [or affirmative defense] is more probably true than not true.

You should base your decision on all of the evidence, regardless of which party presented it.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 20

TWO OR MORE PARTIES—DIFFERENT LEGAL RIGHTS

You should decide the case as to each party separately. Unless otherwise stated, the instructions apply to all parties.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 21

### DUTY TO DELIBERATE

Before you begin your deliberations, elect one member of the jury as your presiding juror. The presiding juror will preside over the deliberations and serve as the spokesperson for the jury in court.

You shall diligently strive to reach agreement with all of the other jurors if you can do so. Your verdict must be unanimous.

Each of you must decide the case for yourself, but you should do so only after you have considered all of the evidence, discussed it fully with the other jurors, and listened to their views.

It is important that you attempt to reach a unanimous verdict but, of course, only if each of you can do so after having made your own conscientious decision. Do not be unwilling to change your opinion if the discussion persuades you that you should. But do not come to a decision simply because other jurors think it is right, or change an honest belief about the weight and effect of the evidence simply to reach a verdict.

## COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 22

### DAMAGES

It is the duty of the court to instruct you about the measure of damages. By instructing you on damages, the court does not mean to suggest for which party your verdict should be rendered.

If you find for the plaintiff, you must determine the plaintiff's damages. The plaintiff has the burden of proving damages by a preponderance of the evidence. Damages means the amount of money that will reasonably and fairly compensate the plaintiff for any injury you find was caused by the defendant. You should consider the following:

[The nature and extent of the injuries;]

[The [disability] [disfigurement] [loss of enjoyment of life] experienced [and that with reasonable probability will be experienced in the future];]

[The [mental,] [physical,] [emotional] pain and suffering experienced [and that with reasonable probability will be experienced in the future];]

[The reasonable value of necessary medical care, treatment, and

services received to the present time;]

[The reasonable value of necessary medical care, treatment, and services that with reasonable probability will be required in the future;]

[The reasonable value of [wages] [earnings] [earning capacity] [salaries] [employment] [business opportunities] [employment opportunities] lost up to the present time;]

[The reasonable value of [wages] [earnings] [earning capacity] [salaries] [employment] [business opportunities] [employment opportunities] that with reasonable probability will be lost in the future;]

[The reasonable value of necessary [household help] [services other than medical] [and] [expenses] required up to the present time;]

[The reasonable value of necessary [household help] [services other than medical] [and] [expenses] that with reasonable probability will be required in the future;]

[The reasonable value of necessary repairs to any property that was damaged;]

[The difference between the fair market value of any damaged property immediately before the occurrence and its fair market value

immediately thereafter;] [and]

[The reasonable value of necessary repairs to any property that was damaged plus the difference between the fair market value of the property immediately before the occurrence and its fair market value after it is repaired.]

[The lesser of the following:

1. the reasonable cost of necessary repairs to any property that was damaged plus the difference between the fair market value of the property immediately before the occurrence and its fair market value after it is repaired; or

2. the difference between the fair market value of the property immediately before the occurrence and the fair market value of the unrepaired property immediately after the occurrence.]

[Such sum as will reasonably compensate for any loss of use of any damaged property during the time reasonably required for its [repair] [replacement].]

It is for you to determine what damages, if any, have been

proved.

Your award must be based on evidence and not on speculation, guesswork, or conjecture.

COURT INSTRUCTION NO. 24.

CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE—CONDUCT OF THE JURY

Because you must base your verdict only on the evidence received in the case and on these instructions, I remind you that you must not be exposed to any other information about the case or to the issues it involves. Except for discussing the case with your fellow jurors during your deliberations:

Do not communicate with anyone in any way and do not let anyone else communicate with you in any way about the merits of the case or anything to do with it. This includes communications in person, in writing, by phone or electronic means, or through any internet website or social media application. If you are asked or approached in any way about your jury service or anything about this case, you must respond that you have been ordered not to discuss the matter and to report the contact to the court.

Do not read, watch, or listen to any news or media accounts or commentary about the case or anything to do with it; do not do any research, such as consulting dictionaries, searching the Internet, or using other reference materials; and do not make any investigation or in any other way

try to learn about the case on your own. Do not visit or view any place discussed in this case, and do not use Internet programs or other devices to search for or view any place discussed during the trial. Also, do not do any research about this case, the law, or the people involved—including the parties, the witnesses or the lawyers—until you have been excused as jurors. If you happen to read or hear anything touching on this case in the media, turn away and report it to me as soon as possible.

These rules protect each party's right to have this case decided only on evidence that has been presented here in court. Each of the parties is entitled to a fair trial by an impartial jury, and if you decide the case based on information not presented in court, you will have denied the parties a fair trial.

If any juror is exposed to any outside information, please notify the court immediately.

COURT'S INSTRUCTION NO. 23

VERDICT FORM

A form of verdict has been prepared for you.

(Explain verdict form.)

After you have reached unanimous agreement on a verdict, your foreperson should complete the verdict form according to your deliberations, sign and date the back of it, and advise the clerk or bailiff that you are ready to return to the courtroom.

If it becomes necessary during your deliberations to communicate with me, you may send a note through the clerk or bailiff, signed by any one or more of you. No member of the jury should ever attempt to communicate with me except by a signed writing. I will not communicate with any member of the jury on anything concerning the case except in writing or here in open court. If you send out a question, I will consult with the lawyers before answering it, which may take some time. You may continue your deliberations while waiting for the answer to any question. Remember that you are not to tell anyone—including the court—how the jury stands, whether in terms of vote count or otherwise, until after you have reached a unanimous verdict or have been discharged.