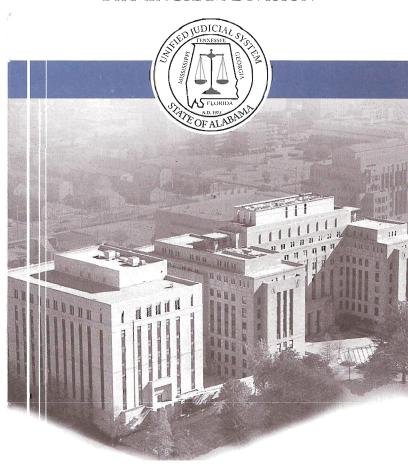
# THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA
BIRMINGHAM DIVISION



JUROR HANDBOOK



# J. SCOTT VOWELL PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ALABAMA

Jefferson County Courthouse Courtroom 370 716 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. North Birmingham, Alabama 35203

On behalf of the Courts of Jefferson County, Alabama, it is my privilege to welcome you to jury duty. We know that jury duty is inconvenient for most of you but it is one of the most important obligations of citizenship. We will do our best to make efficient use of your time here.

Under the Constitutions of the State of Alabama and of the United States, we are guaranteed the right to trial by jury in most civil and criminal cases and this fundamental right must be zealously protected by all of us. Trial by jury is fundamental to democracy. Thomas Jefferson, for whom this county is named, said, "I consider trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution." Your presence here signifies your commitment to our system of government.

In a jury trial, the jury determines the true facts from the evidence. At the end of the trial the judge will instruct the jury to consider the evidence and the law and return a "verdict." The root of the word "verdict" is "to speak the truth." For those of you who are selected to hear a case, that is what you will be asked to do: return a verdict that is fair and impartial and speaks the truth.

Occasionally, we hear of a jury verdict that seems to be out-of-line. Those deviations are the ones that are newsworthy but we rarely hear of the thousands of accurate verdicts handed down every week in courts across this country. Our method of resolving disputes by jury trial works very well and we are especially proud of how it works in Birmingham.

We are grateful to you for rendering this valuable service to your fellow citizens and hope that you will find jury duty a pleasant and informative experience.

> J. Scott Vowell Presiding Judge

### A JUROR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

As a juror, you have certain important responsibilities:

- 1. Jurors must be prompt.
- 2. Jurors must give the case their undivided attention during the trial. Listen carefully to the testimony and the judge's instructions.
- 3. During jury selection, jurors must provide complete and accurate answers to all questions. It is better to give too much information than not enough.
- 4. Until the judge tells the jury to begin deliberations, jurors must not discuss the facts of the case among themselves or with anyone. Jurors must not engage in any conversation with anyone involved in the trial, including attorneys, parties, or witnesses.
- 5. Jurors must decide the case based upon the evidence presented during the trial. Therefore, jurors must not conduct any independent investigation of their own, such as visiting the scene of the incident, considering news reports, and consulting the internet, dictionaries or other publications.
- 6. Jurors must remain impartial until they have heard all the evidence and the law. Keep an open mind until the case is concluded.
- 7. When the trial is concluded the jury will render a verdict in accordance with the facts as determined from the evidence and the law given to you by the Court.
- 8. After the trial is over, a juror is not obligated to answer questions from the lawyers, the press or the parties. If unwanted questions persist, you should contact the court immediately.

#### CIRCUIT COURT - CIVIL DIVISION JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE (JCCH) 716 North Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd, N. Birmingham, Alabama 35203

JUDGE	COURTROOM	TELEPHONE FAX	
Boohaker, Josep	oh 360	325-5753	325-4802
Brown, Houston	n L. 640	325-5367	325-8749
Graffeo, Mike	310	325-5644	325-5212
Horn, Allwin E	. III 350	325-5365	327-7304
King, Tom Jr.	340	325-5025	214-4040
Lee, Helen Sho.	res 650	325-5635	307-6971
Noble, G Willia	ım 610	325-5020	325-5032
Privett, Caryl	550	325-5388	307-7819
Ramsey, Ed	670	325-5280	325-5218
Vance, Robert S	330	325-5035	
Vowell, J. Scott	370	325-5200	325-8743

#### **CIRCUIT COURT - CRIMINAL DIVISION JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE (CJC)** 801 North Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd, N. Birmingham, Alabama 35203

IHDCE

Jury Assembly

COURTROOM TELEPHONE

JUDGE	COURTROOM	LELEPHON	E FAX
Bahakel, Alfred	606	325-5648	325-5650
Bahakel, Gloria	405	325-5323	254-7372
Cole, William	605	325-5290	254-7367
Lichtenstein, D	avid 806	325-5339	325-8706
Jones, Clyde	706	325-5395	325-4868
Nail, C. Tommy	505	327-8205	325-5108
Petro, Laura	506	325-5646	214-4019
Pulliam, Teresa	T. 406	325-5349	325-5599
Vinson, Virginia	a 705	214-8683	214-8687
CIRCUIT CLERK Adams, Anne M		325-5360	325-5362
Court Admin	ISTRATOR		
Turner, Sandra	D 300	325-5674	325-5823

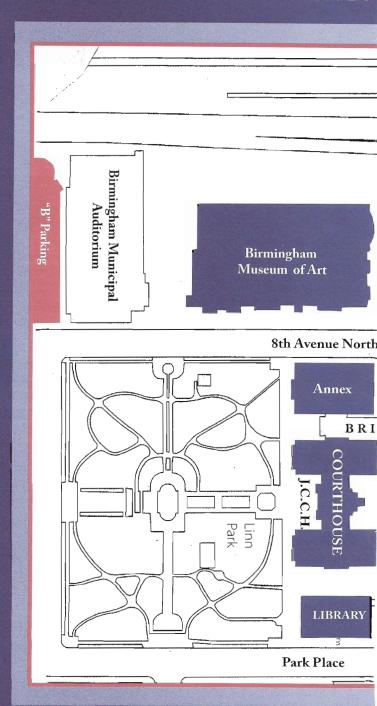
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325-5326

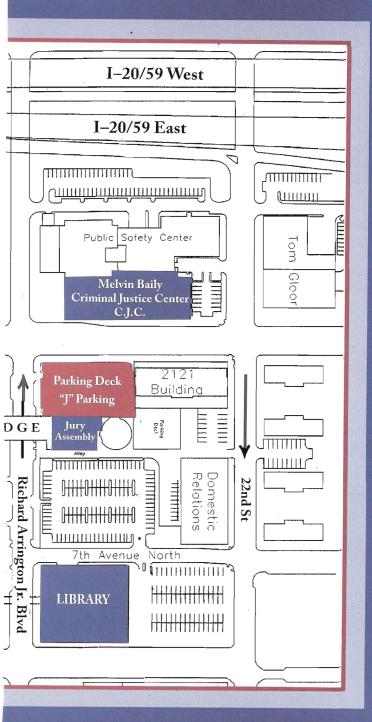
#### **JURY INFORMATION**

- 1. To qualify for jury duty one must be reputed to be honest, intelligent, possess integrity, good character and sound judgment. A juror must also be an American citizen who has resided in the Birmingham Division of Jefferson County, Alabama for at least twelve months; over 19 years of age; able to read, speak and understand instructions given in the English language; physically and mentally capable of serving; and not have lost the right to vote because of a criminal conviction.
- 2. When you are summoned for jury duty, you must immediately notify your employer in order to be excused from work. If you are released from jury duty during the week, you must return to work. When you are discharged from jury duty, you will be given a Certificate of Jury Service to take to your employer as proof of your jury service. Full time employees are entitled to their usual compensation while serving as a juror. A juror cannot be terminated from employment for serving as a juror. (Ala. Act No. 2005-311.)
- 3. You will be paid \$10 per day for jury duty along with mileage for traveling to the Courthouse.
- 4. Your summons contained a parking pass marked "B" or "J." If it is "B" you should park in the Boutwell Auditorium Parking Deck, 801 North 19th Street. If it is marked "J" you should park in the Jefferson County Deck on the corner of Eighth Avenue North and Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd. Shuttle service is available from 7:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:30-5:00 p.m. every 15 minutes in the alley in the rear of the Boutwell deck.
- 5. Wear comfortable clothing, but dress in a way that reflects the seriousness of jury service.
- 6. No weapons, sharp objects, cameras or recording devises are allowed in any Jefferson County Court building without court permission. Turn off any cell-telephones, pagers, or other electronic devices before entering a courtroom.
- 7. If you have an emergency, contact the Jury Assembly Room at 325-5326 or Court Administrator Sandra Turner at 325-5674. For more information please consult the Court's website found at www.jeffcobirminghamjury.org

## MAP OF DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM



### (COURT HOUSE AREA)





This juror handbook is published by the Birmingham Bar Foundation. The Birmingham Bar Foundation was established in 1994 as the charitable arm of the Birmingham Bar Association. The Bar Association currently has a membership of approximately 3,800 attorneys and judges in the greater Birmingham area. The mission of the Bar Foundation is to promote and support charitable work in the legal community and activities in furtherance of justice and legal education. Its mission is accomplished through the award of grants and scholarships, and through programs that benefit the community. Resources and funding for the Foundation come from members of the Association and the Birmingham legal community at-large. The Bar Foundation engages in many charitable activities.

The Charitable Equipment Program (CEP) accepts donations of excess law firm furniture and equipment and places the items with local charitable organizations needing office equipment.

The Foundation hosts the Alabama Supreme Court, Court of Civil Appeals, and Court of Criminal Appeals for a day of oral arguments in Birmingham. Local high school students, college students, and members of the public attend this event at Cumberland School of Law

The Bunny Bag distribution program provides local children who are victims of domestic violence with items of information and comfort.

With assistance from the Courts of 10th Judicial Circuit, the Foundation publishes this juror handbook to assist you in your public service as a juror.

The Foundation supports many other charitable projects including those performed by smaller groups in the Bar.

For more information contact The Birmingham Bar Foundation 2021 2nd Avenue North Birmingham, AL 35203 (205) 251-2231 bbfound@bellsouth.net

Date of Publication - April 2007