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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

	)	Civil No.
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED ON VOIR
	)	DIRE BY THE COURT IN A CIVIL CASE.
	)	BRACKETED QUESTIONS ARE ONLY
Defendants.	)	ASKED WHERE APPROPRIATE TO THE
_____	)	CASE.

1. I am now going to question the prospective jurors concerning their qualifications to serve as jurors in this case.
2. In the trial of this case, the parties are entitled to have a fair, unbiased and unprejudiced jury. If there is any reason why any of you might be biased or prejudiced in any way, you must disclose such reason when you are asked to do so. It is your duty to make this disclosure.
3. This trial will likely take \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ days to complete, but it may take longer.  
Will any of you find it difficult or impossible to participate for this period of time?
4. The nature of this case is as follows:
5. Have any of you heard of, or have any knowledge of, the facts of events in this case?
6. Do any of you believe that a case of this nature should not be brought to court for determination by a jury?

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7. The parties of this case and their respective attorneys are:

8. During the trial of this case, the following witnesses may be called to testify on behalf of the parties. These witnesses are:

9. Have any of you heard of or been otherwise acquainted with, related to, done business with, been employed by or had any dealings with any of the parties, attorneys or witnesses just named? The parties are not required and might not wish to call on these witnesses, and they may later find it necessary to call other witnesses.

10. Do any of you have any belief or feeling toward any of the parties, attorneys or witnesses that might be regarded as a bias or prejudice for or against any of them? Do you have any interest, financial or otherwise, in the outcome of this case?

11. Have any of you, or any member of your family or close friends, to your knowledge, ever filed an action against anyone, or presented a claim against anyone [including any of the parties in this case], in any civil case, excluding a domestic relations case. If so, did the matter terminate satisfactorily so far as you were concerned?

12. Has anyone ever filed an action against any of you, or presented a claim against any of you, or to your knowledge, against any member of your family or close friends? (If so, did the matter terminate satisfactorily so far as you were concerned?)

13. It may appear that one or more of the parties, attorneys, or witnesses come from a particular national, racial or religious group or may have a life style different than your own. Would this in any way affect your judgment or the weight and credibility you would give to their testimony?

14. Have any of you, or any member of your family or close friends, had any experience or special training in: (As appropriate to the case-law enforcement, accident reconstruction, engineering, investigations, medicine, psychology, the law, correctional institutions or claims adjusting)?

15. You may be called upon in this case to award monetary damages for personal injury, pain and suffering or emotional distress. Do any of you have any religious or other belief that pain and suffering or emotional distress are not real or any belief that would prevent you from

1 awarding damages for pain and suffering or emotional distress if liability for them is established?

2 16. You may be called upon in this case to award punitive damages. The purpose of  
3 punitive damages are to punish a party and to deter that party and others from committing similar  
4 acts in the future. Do any of you have any religious or other belief that would prevent you from  
5 awarding punitive damages if liability for them is established.

6 17. "Plaintiff," is claiming injuries including "state injuries." Have any of you, or  
7 any member of your family or close friends, to your knowledge, suffer similar injuries? Have you  
8 or they, to your knowledge, suffered from similar injuries in the past? If so, would that fact affect  
9 your point of view in this case to the extent that you might not be able to render a completely fair  
10 and impartial verdict?

11 18. It would be natural for you to deeply sympathize with anyone who has received  
12 personal injuries or has suffered emotional distress. However, will you keep any such feelings of  
13 sympathy from interfering with your duty to render a just and impartial verdict based solely upon  
14 the law and evidence in this case?

15 19. Do any of you have any opinions of the amount of damages to be awarded in  
16 cases of this sort, such that there are limits in your mind that you would not go above or below,  
17 even though the law provided for a greater or lesser amount of damages?

18 20. If you or a member of your family were a party to this case or one like it - on  
19 either side - would you be willing to have your case tried, or theirs, by people in the same frame of  
20 mind as you are now?

21 21. It is important that I have your assurance that you will, without reservation,  
22 follow my instructions and rulings on the law and will apply that law to this case. To put it  
23 somewhat differently, whether you approve or disapprove of the Court's rulings or instructions, it  
24 is your solemn duty to accept, as correct, these statements of the law. You may not substitute your  
25 own idea of what you think the law ought to be. Will all of you follow the law as given to you by  
26 me in this case?

27 22. Do you realize your function is to decide the facts and then I will decide the law?

28 23. Would you give both parties the benefit of your own individual opinion of this

1 case?

2 24. The evidence will be presented over the next several days. The plaintiff goes  
3 first, and the defendant goes second. Will you keep an open mind about what the verdict should  
4 be until after you have gone to the jury room to decide the case and you and your fellow jurors  
5 have discussed the evidence?

6 25. Will you resolve this based on your own independent judgment, and will any  
7 verdict you return to the court truly reflect your own mind on the case?

8 26. Would you use the same common sense you use in the conduct of your own  
9 affairs to reach a decision in this case?

10 27. Would you decide the case without sympathy or prejudice?

11 28. Do you think you can give each side a full and fair hearing, regardless of the  
12 eventual result that occurs?

13 29. Do you know of any reason, or has anything occurred during this question  
14 period, that might make you doubtful that you would be a completely fair and impartial juror in  
15 this case? If there is, it is your duty to disclose the reason at this time.

16 30. Each of you should now answer the questions on the paper before you as to your  
17 name, where you live, your marital status, whether married, single, widowed or divorced, the  
18 number and ages of your children, if any, your occupation, and the name of your present employer,  
19 if any, as well as the occupations and employers of your spouse or children, previous military  
20 service and previous jury service. Please begin with juror number one.

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