"First thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

Janet Ward Black Ward Black, P.A. 208 W. Wendover Ave. Greensboro, NC 27401 (800) 531-9191 jwblack@wardblacklaw.com

"Voir dire" = to see speaking

Who are jurors?

- Voter registration
- Drivers license registration
- Not served in 2 years
- 18 or older
- 65 or older
- live in county
- no suit pending

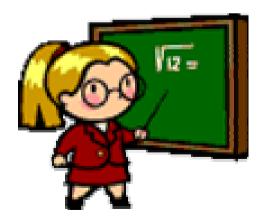
\$12.00 per day \$30.00 per day after 5 days

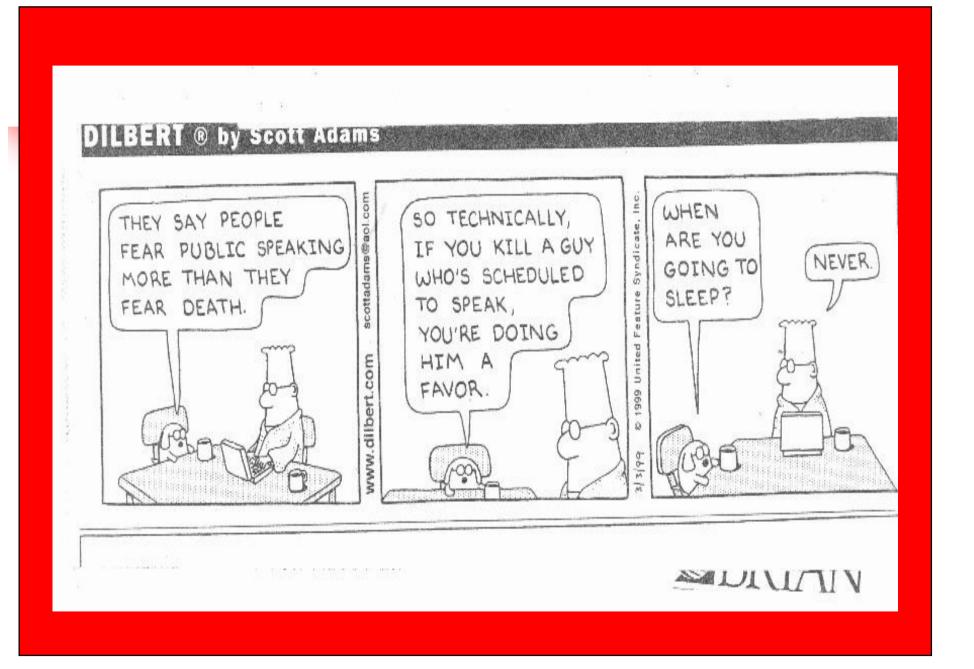




What is the number 1 fear of Americans?

Public Speaking





How does a juror feel about serving?

- Scared
- Herded like cattle
- Inconvenienced
- Financially burdened



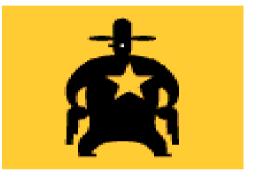


What's your job?

To learn about the jurors so you can exercise peremptory and cause challenges in an intelligent fashion

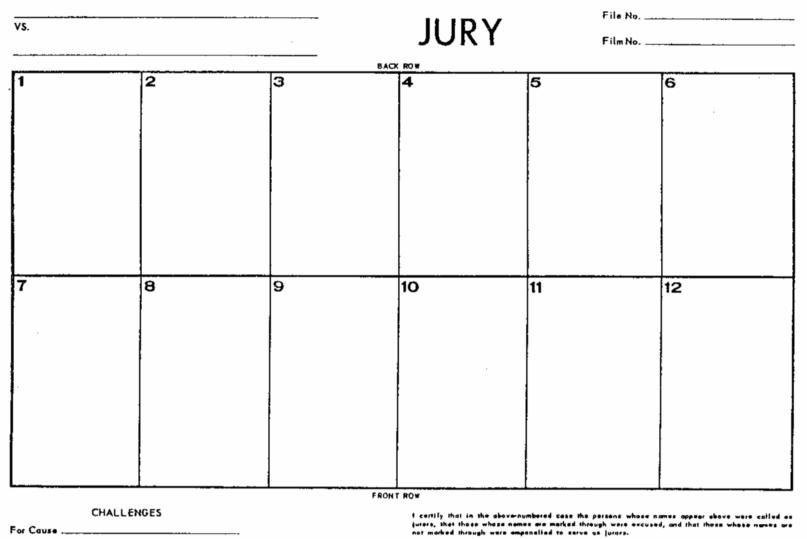
Learn about jurors and your judge before trial

 Venire – sheriffs, tax records, criminal records, houses



Judge – bailiff, clerk, ADA's





State or Plaint	iff		

Defendant _

AOC-G-111 (Replaces L-168) New 8/88

___, 19____.

_____Clerk.

Challenges
Array
Cause
Peremptory

NC Constitution is broader than <u>Batson</u>

 Race, Color, Religion, Sex, National Origin
 Juror must identify





Consider . . .

- Tell me about yourself and your family
- What makes you good at your job?
- Do you supervise at work?
- Do you organize social activities?

Help jurors understand that you want to hear them talk

Modeling – "Who here"

Open-ended questions – "Tell me," "What," "Why," "How"

Body language – Move, Nod, Eye Control, Open Gestures

My name is music to me.
Don't ask me what my husband does, I just said he was dead.



Macaroni and Cheese

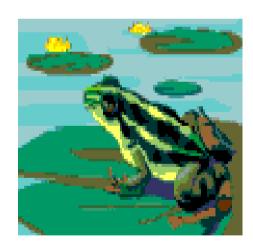
Don't try to change their minds
 (PS - you can't)
 McDonald's Coffee

You want them to say the bad stuff.

Their only chance to talk is now. The next time will be their verdict.

Cover only a few concepts

- Tell them the basic premise of the case
- Tell them your warts
- Question about no more than 5 big issues – BOP, litigation explosion, damages.



Identify the kind of people who'll dislike

lawyers like you
clients like yours
fact patterns like yours

Beware of stereotypes

Preachers, Loan Officers, Golfers . . .





What does your gut say?



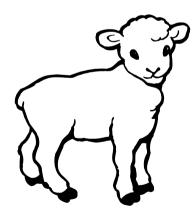
Jurors lie.

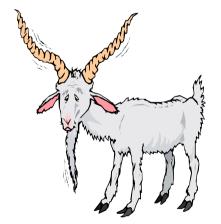
New Jersey study of high profile criminal cases

- 71% in questionnaire admit opinion on guilt/innocence
- 15% in open court admit
- "Impression Management"

Goats vs. Sheep

 AKA Leaders, Followers, Fillers, Negotiators and Holdouts





"Don't leave home without it."

<u>NC Trial Practice</u> – Carol Anderson
 <u>NC Civil Procedure</u> – Gray Wilson
 <u>Damages</u> – David Ball