# VOIR DIRE

# ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY Attorney Training- April 2012

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# THIS IS THEE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF TRIAL

Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. You can have all the tacts in the world, but if you've got a whacko on there it doesn't mean a thing.





THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE!!!! SOMETIMES ON YOUR GAME.. SOMETIMES NOT...

USE PENCIL!!!! BEST ADVICE I CAN GIVE YOU



# WALK TO THE DOOR WITH YOUR HANDS FULL...

DROP SOMETHING! SEE WHO PICKS IT UP... WHO OPENS DOOR FOR YOU...

# **BE YOURSELF!!!!**

IF YOU'RE FUNNY... BE FUNNY IF YOU'RE SMART.... BE SMART IF YOU'RE A BORING DORK...





IF YOU DON'T HAVE A ZINGER..... GO AND POACH ONE!!!!

# DO NOT ASK GROUP QUESTIONS AND EXPECT TO GET PEOPLE TALKING

ASK INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS.... NOT YES OR NO Q'S...... HEAR THEM SPEAK!!!!!!

# EVERYONE LOVES TO TALK ABOUT THEMSELVES.....

GET THEM TALKING!!! (I ALWAYSHAVE JURORS SAY "WHY DID YOU PICK MI.? WHY DIDN'T DEFENSE ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS?". FTC. " they rarely even mention the evidence\*\*

# USE HYPOSIIII

It's the most effective way of demonstrating legal concepts AND it gets people talking... and thinking..







# YOU HAVE READ YOUR CASE OVER AND OVER...

They hear it once with the evidence, and in piecemeal bits and pieces.... What seems obvious to us- isn't obvious to them!!!







# THIS IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN TALK ABOUT!!!!!!!

Every piece of evidence/ every case/ every everything comes down to this one legal concept

# EVERY SINGLE PIECE OF EVIDENCE HAS CIRC EV LINKED TO IT!!!

NATURE OF WITS RELATIONSHIP BIAS, MOTIVE TO LIE WEARING GLASSES, FEAR, DRUNK





# THIS IS ALSO A WAY OF WEEDING OUT THE WHACKOS!!!

ASK THEM POINT BLANK IN YOUR HYRO: CAN YOU DETERMINE WHAT'S IN THEIR MIND?? IF. DRIVING DOWN STREET. BLINKER (DON'T HAVE TO YELL OUT WINDOW)

# WOULDN'T YOU AGREE #7 THE ONLY WAY TO DETERMINE WHAT'S IN SOMEON'S MIND. IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE?

MAN SAYS HIS WIFE ACCIDENTALLY FELL OVERBOARD....YFT SHF'S GOT CEMENT BLOCKS AROUND HER ANKLES, TRACES OF SEDA TIVE IN HER DRINK, AND GUESS WHO BOUGHT CEMENT FROM HOME DEPOT A WEEK PRIOR?



CSI2? Law and Order, Perry Mason, Dexter, Crimetime, Diagnosis Murder, Blind Justice, FBI Untold Stories, etc.. 659 TOTAL ACCORDING TO WIKIPEDIA



# BUT, USE THOSE SHOWS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE...

IURORS WANT LAW AND ORDER, THEY WANT TO DELVE INTO THE MIND OF THE PERPETRATOR...

# BRING THE IDEA OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE BACK AROUND IN CLOSING ARGUMENT

Reasonable vs. Unreasonable 2 rx = tic goes to runner Unrx = MUST ADOPT RX INTERPRETATION

"DON'T TOUCH ME LIKE LALO DOES.."



# TALK ABOUT THE WEAKNESSES!

- Defendant is good-looking; looks innocent, although she's not.
- Recanting victims (DV) (address in voir dire)
- Unsavory witnesses (address in voir dire)
- Unsympathetic victim (address in voir dire)
- Incomplete investigation (voir dire )
- "Technical" violations of the law (should be dealt with in Voir Dire)







# PC 1054.1

- The prosecuting attorney SHALL disclose to the def or his attny all of the following
- a. If in the possession of the prosecuting attny OR
- a h if the prosecuting attny knows it to be in the possession of investigating agencies:
- ANY EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE

### BRADY V. MARYLAND (1953) 373 U.S. 83

- a The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that constitutional requirements of due process mandate an affirmative duty on the part of the prosecutor to disclose to the defendant evidence that is both favorable and material to the defendant's guilt and punishment
- MUST DISCLOSE WHETHER DEF REQUESTS IT OR NOT!
- G \*\* Brady evidence either directly impacts the issue of guilt or innocence or <u>undernines the</u> <u>credibility of a prosecution witness</u>

# **Brady Evidence**

- o. Prior instances of untruthfulness are Brady
- a "all historical events bearing on a witnesses' propensity to be truthful or untruthful" is Brady evidence. (People v. Kasim (1997) 56 Cal. App.4<sup>th</sup> 1360, 1383.)
- Criminal conduct that constitutes moral turpitude is a Brady violation. Moral turp is a readiness to do evil. Or a "general tendency to do evil" may, but not necessarily involve dishonesty." (People v. Castro, supra 38 Cal.3<sup>rd</sup> 301, 315)

# BRADY DISCLOSURE DOES NOT REQUIRE PROOF BRD

PROSECUTORS SHOULD ERR ON THE SIDE OF DISCLOSURE (U.S. v. Agurs(1976) 427 U.S. 97, 108)



LITIGATE WHETHER IT COMES IN! (IT MAY NOT... COULD BE TOO OLD, IRRELEVANT, ETC.)

# ADDRESS IT IN JURY SELECTION!!!!

JURY SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY ANYTHING IN TRIAL QUESTION THEM ABOUT IT!!!

# SPECIFIC WEAKNESSES

Unsavory witnesses.

Co-defendants, wits with raps Corroborating Evidence





### SPECIFIC WEAKNESSES

- Unsympathetic Victim
- Voir Dire is very important- point out concept of society as the victim
  Use voir dire to prepare them for it and let them know you can prove your case anyway!!!



# SPECIFIC WEAKNESSES

### Incomplete Investigation

- Address issue in Voir Dire: ask potential jurors if they would vote NOT GUILTY solely because the investigation wasn't as thorough as "CSI."
- Agree the length of time it took to get this case to trial shouldn't determine guilt or innocence... Certainly whether witnesses memories fade, etc. can be considered...









# IF YOU HAVE GOOD EVIDENCE...

MAKE THEM THINK YOU ONLY HAVE ONE WITNESS!!! ONE WITNESS IF YOU BELIEVE...(1190) CAN YOU CONVICT?

# YOU CAN LET THEM KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ANY DUMMIES ON YOUR JURY

YOU WANT JURORS WHO CAN CALL A SPADE A SPADE... KICK ALL THE OTHERS.. THE ONES YOU KEEP WILL BE FLATTERED!!!







BE CREATIVE... PBJ EXAMPLE.. "PBJ BANDIT" - LAW SAYS CONSIDER IT.. YOU'LL CONSIDER IT RIGHT???





WEEDING OUT THE WHACKOS ETHICALLY!

# HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY ARE WHACKOS??

- 1. WATCH THEM!
   2. LOOK AT WHAT THEY ARE WEARING, READING, CARRYING, DOING, SAYING
- 3. DO THEY CHALLENGE YOU?
- 4. WATCH THEIR DEMEANOR WITH DEFENSE ATTNY
- © 5. THEIR DEMEANOR WITH YOU! CROSSED ARMS, WON'T SMILE
- E 5. TAKE NOTES OF ALL OF IT ON THE STICKY!!!!









# People v. Wheeler (1976) 22 Cal.3d 258

"The use of peremptory challenges to remove prospective jurors on the sole ground of group bias violates the right to trial by a jury drawn from a representative cross-section of the community under article I, section 16, of the California Constitution"

# Batson v. Kentucky (1986) 476 U.S. 79

"The Equal Protection Clause forbids the prosecutor to challenger potential jurors solely on account of their race or on the assumption that black jurors as a group will be unable impartially to consider the State's case against a black defendant."



# **BEWARE OF:**

- **S ANYONE TOO INTERESTED**
- ANYONE WHO LEANS FORWARD AND LOVINGLY LOOKS AT THE DEFENSE ATTNY
- ANYONE WHO'S FAMILY MEMBER IS IN CUSTODY FOR A SIMILAR CRIME
- ANYONE WHO'S ANYONE HAS BEEN WRONGFULLY ACCUSED OF A CRIME
- LÖOKS SLOVENLY AND NOT RESPECTFUL OF COURT..

# Peremptory Challenge CCP §§ 225(b)(2) / 231

- Cinoised number Cenerally, 11 per edu Ortinue anami protoborent is 90 days (og., PC § 415) Qui (tée wDP case

- Mithic or DE as
  Alternates
  Amor could be a solution of the solution



# **Race Neutral Reasons**

- a Could be combination of factors
- Change in dynamics of jury
- © Change in mix of jurors -
- Number of peremptory challenges remaining

# **Avoid Wheeler Objections**

- Might look bad to jury
- > Throws you off
- If sustained, you're in trouble
- B If not sustained, need to worry about appeal
- B May be reported to State Bar

# Remedy on Appeal Limited Remand

- Appellate court returns case to trial court for DA to state justifications on the record
- Allows DA to explain justification(s) during appeal process
- e Could be years later
- a Taka & preserve notes!



# For Cause Challenge CCP § 225(b)(1)

- Undimited number (each side) General disqualification Lack of any qualification prescribed by Law Doesn't speak, 'understand English, convicted felon, non-resident, etc.

- Bood relation to any party, victim, witness, etc.
   Bood relation to any party, victim, witness, etc.
   Broolvement in prior case
   Any interest in outcome
   Actual bras

- State of mind preventing impartiality
   Pocus of your dire questioning

# "I CAN'T BE FAIR"

- B \* I HATE COPS, ALL COPS LIE ... HAD BAD
- 9 \* MY DAUGHTER WAS RAPED, I SEE HIM\*
- 6 THATE ALL CHILD MOLESTERS
- 🕫 IF IT'S A GANG CASE. I CAN'T BE FAIR

# WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THAT JUROR????

G IF YOU LIKE THEM - REHABILITATE THEM

M'AAM, YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANY OF THE EVIDENCE... AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED... IF ALL MY WITS COME IN AND LIE..(NOT SUGGESTING THIS WILL HAPPEN) YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CONVICT HIM JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE GANG MEMBERS?" YOU HAVE NO IDEA IF HE IS OR ISN'T... IF HE COMMITED THIS CRIME..





# OR IF TOTALLY RIDICULOUS... MAKE AN EXAMPLE OUT OF THEM...

SHOW THE JURY JUST HOW RIDICULOUS THEY ARE..

"I WOULD NEVER BE A DISTRICT ATTORNEY" "touche"









# Wheeler / Batson Guide

DDA Robert Mestman Orange County District Attorney's Office © 9/26/11

# Seminal Cases

P v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258; Batson v. Kentucky (1986) 476 US 79

# **3 Prong Test**

- 1. Party objecting to challenge (defense) must make a prima facie case
  - Showing that the totality of facts gives rise to an inference of discriminatory purpose
- 2. If prima facie case shown, burden shifts and party (DA) must explain adequately the challenge
  - Offer permissible race-neutral justification
- 3. Court then makes decision
  - Whether party objecting (defense) has proved purposeful racial discrimination

(Johnson v. California (2005) 545 US 162, 168)

# **Burden of Proof**

- Defense has ultimate burden of proof. (*Gonzalez v. Brown* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009) 585 F3 1202, 1207; *Purkett v. Elem* (1995) 514 US 765, 768)
- Defense must show purposeful discrimination by a preponderance of the evidence. (P v. Hutchins (2007) 147 CA4 992; Paulino v. Harrison (9th Cir. 2008) 542 F3 692, 703)
- Consider totality of circumstances. (P v. Lenix (2008) 44 C4 602, 626)
- Presumption that challenge is proper. (P v. Neuman (2009) 176 CA4 571)

# Rebut Prima Facie Case (1st Prong)

- Whether members of group discriminated against were challenged by defense. (*People v. Wheeler* (1978) 22 C3 258, 283)
- Whether jury includes members of group discriminated against. (P v. Ward (2005) 36 C4 186, 203.)
- DA did not know juror was member of cognizable group. (*P v. Barber* (1988) 200 CA3 378, 389.)
- Admit mistake (if challenge was made in error). (P v. Williams (1997) 16 C4 153, 188-190)
- Justify prospective challenges before you even make them. (US v. Contreras (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988) 83 F3 1103)

# Justifications (2rd Prong)

- Justification need not support a challenge for cause. (P v. Thomas (2011) 51 C4 449, 474)
- "Trivial" reason (if genuine) will suffice. (Pv. Arias (1996) 13 C4 92, 136)
- Reasons must be inherently plausible & supported by the record. (P v. Silva (2001) 25 C4 345, 386)
- Must state reasons for <u>each</u> challenge. (*P v. Cervantes* (1991) 223 CA3 323 ["I don't recall" fatal]; but see *Gonzalez v. Brown* (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2009) 585 F3 1202 [based on totality of circumstances, "I don't recall" not fatal])
- Could be combination of factors (change in dynamic of jury, change in mix of jurors, number of preemptory challenges left, etc.). (*P v. Johnson* (1989) 47 C3 1194, 1220-1221)
- Give your justifications even if prima facie showing is not made (necessary for appellate review).

# Factors in Court's Analysis (3rd Prong)

- Statistical evidence (percentage of jurors excused, remaining, etc.).
- Comparative analysis (see box).
- Disparate questioning (court looks at differences in the way questions were phrased to different groups).
- Historical evidence of discrimination (by individual prosecutor and office). (*Miller-El v. Dretke* (2005) 545 US 231)

# **Comparative Analysis**

- Side-by-side comparison of jurors who were struck vs. jurors serving.
- If DA's proffered reason for striking juror applies just as well to an otherwise-similar juror, that is evidence tending to prove purposeful discrimination. (*Miller-El v. Dretke* (2005) 545 US 231, 241)
- Comparative juror analysis is but one form of circumstantial evidence that is relevant, but not necessarily dispositive. (*P v. Lomax* (2010) 49 C4 530, 572)

# Remedy

- Traditionally: mistrial → draw an entirely different jury panel and start selection anew.
- Other alternatives (need consent of aggrieved party): disallow discriminatory challenge and reseat wrongfully excluded juror; monetary fines; allow aggrieved party additional peremptory challenges. (*P v. Willis* (2002) 27 C4 811)

<ul> <li>Cognizable Groups</li> <li>There must be an identifiable group distinguished on racial, religious, ethnic or similar grounds. (P v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258, 276)</li> <li>Protected groups: "race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, or similar grounds." (CCP § 231.5)</li> <li>Defendant need not be member of excluded group. (Wheeler @ 281)</li> <li>Race <ul> <li>African-Americans (P v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258)</li> <li>Hispanics (P v. Perez (1996) 48 CA4 1310; but see P v. Gutierrez (2002) 28 C4 1083, 1123 [Hispanic-surnamed jurors not necessarily Hispanic])</li> <li>Asian-Americans (P v. Lopez (1991) 3 CA4 Supp. 11)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ethnicity <ul> <li>Native Americans (US v. Bauer (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1996) 84 F3 1549)</li> <li>Irish/Italian-Americans (See 20 ALR 5th 398 at § 6)</li> <li>National origin</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Poor people / low income (<i>P v. Johnson</i> (1989) 47 C3 1194, 1214)</li> <li>Less educated (<i>P v. Estrada</i> (1979) 93 CA3 76, 90-91)</li> <li>Blue collar workers (<i>P v. Estrada</i> (1979) 93 CA3 76, 92)</li> <li>Battered women (<i>P. Macioce</i> (1987) 197 CA3 262, 280)</li> <li>Young adults (<i>P v. Ayala</i> (2004) 24 C4 243, 277-278)</li> <li>Older adults (<i>P v. McCoy</i> (1995) 40 CA4 778, 783)</li> <li>Death penalty skeptics (<i>P v. Johnson</i> (1989) 47 C3 1194, 1222)</li> <li>Ex-felons (<i>P v. Karis</i> (1988) 46 C3 612, 631-633)</li> <li>Resident aliens (<i>P v. Karis</i> (1988) 46 C3 612, 631-633)</li> <li>Naturalized citizens (<i>P v. Gonzalez</i> (1989) 211 CA3 1186, 1202 [but can't be pretext for challenge based on race/national origin])</li> <li>Insufficient English spoken (<i>P v. Lesara</i> (1988) 206 CA3 1304, 1307)</li> <li>New community resident (<i>Adams v. Sup. Court</i> (1974) 12 C3 55, 60)</li> <li>Men who wear toupees (<i>P v. England</i> (2000) 83 CA4 772)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Spanish surnamed jurors (P v. Trevino (1985) 39 C3 667) <u>Religion</u></li> <li>Jews (P v. Johnson (1989) 47 C3 1194, 1217)</li> <li>But see P v. Martin (1998) 64 CA4 378 [permissible if a valid reason related to religion (e.g., Jehovah's Witness)] <u>Gender</u></li> <li>Women (P v. Garcia (2011) 52 C4 706; P v. Crittenden (1994) 9 C4 83, 115)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Support jury nullification (<i>Merced v. McGrath</i> (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2005) 426 F3 1076)</li> <li>People of color (as a group) (<i>P v. Neuman</i> (2009) 176 CA4 571)</li> <li>Prior jury service (i.e., hung jury). (<i>P v. Garcia</i> (2011) 52 C4 706)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Wollien (P.V. Gucha (2011) 32 C4 706, P.V. Chitehaen (1994) 9 C4 83, 113)</li> <li>Sexual Orientation</li> <li>Gay &amp; Lesbian (P v. Garcia (2000) 77 CA4 1269, 1272)</li> <li><u>Disability</u></li> <li>US v. Harris (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1999) 197 F3 870 [but permissible if disability would affect jury service (e.g., medication that causes drowsiness would interfere)]</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Wheeler/Batson objection may be raised by the defense or prosecution. (P v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258, 280-283, fn.29)</li> <li>Must raise the issue in a timely fashion (i.e., before jury is sworn). (P v. Perez (1996) 48 CA4 1310, 1314)</li> <li>A single discriminatory exclusion will be a violation. (P v. Fuentes (1991) 54 C3 707, 716, fn.4)</li> </ul>

### **Race-Neutral Justifications (Examples)**

- Negative experience with law enforcement
  - Relative in jail or prison
  - Refused employment by police
  - Divorce with police officer
  - Juror or friend/family arrested/prosecuted
- Stupid
- Ability to comprehend / understand
- Answered only 2 of 10 questions
- Inattentive
- Inconsistent answers

- Prior Jury Experience
  - Previously sat on hung jury
  - No prior jury experience
- Occupation
  - Social worker
  - Teacher
  - Artist
  - Engineer
  - Postal Worker
  - Pastor

- Appearance / Demeanor
  - Unconventional appearance
  - Long hair, facial hair
  - Blank look, weird
  - Too eager
  - Soft spoken, reluctant
  - Frowning, hostile looks
  - Defensive body language
  - Rolled eyes
  - Overweight

- Limited Life Experiences
  - Young, Single
  - No children
  - Few ties to community
- Relativity
  - Next juror(s) looks better
- •Other
  - Views on death penalty
  - Rely too heavily on expert opinion
  - Close-mindedness