



# Batson/Wheeler Update, Internal Job Stress, and PTSD

Presented by:

Senior DDA Robert Mestman

&

IPD Officer Kevin VonLuft

OCDA Training – January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Time: 1:30-4:30 p.m.

MUNICPAL COURT JURY PANEL CHART Peremptory Challenges							pun	y for dishab te tha lays it	ole by	1				
	7			No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Date	Case No.	People of Sta	te of Calif.	Plaintiff			000000000000000000000000000000000000000							
		vs.		Defendant										
The second		2	3	4			5				6		•	
7		8	9	10			11]				12			

# **Ethical Jury Selection**



Robert Mestman Senior Deputy District Attorney January 2018

# For Cause Challenge CCP § 225(b)(1)

- · Unlimited number (each side)
- · General disqualification
  - · Lack of any qualification prescribed by law
  - · Doesn't speak/understand English, convicted felon, non-resident, etc.
- · Implied bias
  - · Blood relation to any party, victim, witness, etc.
  - · Involvement in prior case
  - · Any interest in outcome
- · Actual bias
- State of mind preventing impartiality
- · Focus of voir dire questioning

# $\frac{Peremptory\ Challenge}{CCP\ \S\S\ 225(b)(2)\ /\ 231}$

- · Limited number
  - · Generally 10 per side
  - 20 if life or DP case
- · Alternates
- · Multiple defendant cases
  - · Defense gets 10 or 20 challenges jointly (per above guidelines)
  - Each defendant gets 5 individual challenges

  - E.g., 3 co-D non-life case [DA gets 25 challenges (10+5+5+5)]
- · Can be used for almost any reason

Can be based on instinct or gut feeling

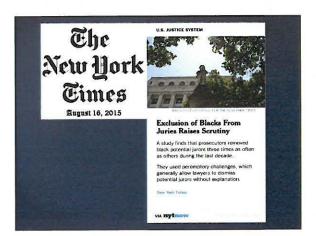
***************************************		177	 
3			
2			
A 2000-02		-	
		-	

# <u>People v. Wheeler</u> (1978) 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"

# <u>Batson v. Kentucky</u> (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."



Improper & Unethical
Asst. Philadelphia District Altorney
N Jack McMahon, 1996

TATE				123
Whee	OFI	O TO TO	$-N/I \cap$	1100
		PARRIE		186922
		4 - 4 - 4		

- · Party should make objection outside presence of jury
- · 3 step process

# Step 1

- · Party objecting to challenge must make out *prima facie* case
  - Showing that the totality of facts gives rise to an <u>inference</u> of discriminatory purpose
  - Previously "strong likelihood"
  - It takes very little to raise an inference
  - · Essentially a numbers game
    - Struck most or all members of group, or a disproportionate number

			The state of the s
•			
		11-67	
	100		
TWO THE PARTY NAMED IN	-v - m-		
	and the		255
-			

# Step 2

- If prima facie case shown, burden shifts and party must explain adequately the challenge
  - Offer permissible race-neutral justification
  - "A prosecutor simply has got to state his reasons as best he can and stand or fall on the plausibility of the reasons he gives." (Miller-El v. Dretke (2005) 545 U.S. 231, 252.)

# Step 3

- · Court then makes decision
  - Whether party objecting has proved purposeful racial discrimination
  - · Credibility determination

# Requirements / Rules

- A Wheeler/Batson objection may be raised by the defense or prosecution
- Objection must be timely
  - Before jury selection is complete
  - But not necessarily immediately after objectionable challenge
- New prima facie showing must be made with each objection
- · Make as complete a record as feasible

3.9		200
1.8		
9		
	TO VINCENCE OF THE PARTY OF THE	sin <del>e</del>
	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	X
		***************************************

# **Burden of Proof**

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

# Cognizable Class

- Persons excluded must be members of a cognizable class
- There must be an identifiable group distinguished on racial, religious, ethnic or similar grounds
- Defendant need <u>not</u> be a member of the excluded group
- Victim <u>can</u> also be a member of excluded group

# **Cognizable Groups**

- Race
- Sex
- National origin
- Sexual orientation
- Ethnic group identification
- Color
- Religion
- Genetic
- Age (eff. 1/1/16)
- information
- Disability

## Non-Cognizable Groups · Blue collar workers · "Insufficient" English spoken · New community resident · Young adults -Older adults (70+) · Strong law-and-order · Death penalty skeptics · Men who wear toupees

#### · People who believe in jury nullification

• People of color (as a group)

· Retired correctional officers

Rebu	t I	rii	na	Fa	cie	Case
	96.0		1			

Defend 1st Stage

· Identify the players (Def, Vic, Juror)

· Obese people

· Non-Hispanic with

- Statistics (e.g., only exercised 2 of 9 against group)
- · Whether members of group were challenged by defense
- · Jury includes members of group
- Engaged in vigorous questioning of juror(s)
- · Did not know a juror was group member
- Justify prospective challenges before
- · Challenge of 1 or 2 jurors rarely suggests a pattern of impermissible group bias (even if sample size is small)

State You	ır F	Reasor	ıs
Dofond	and	Stage	

- Justification need not support cause challenge
- Even "trivial" reason (if genuine) will suffice
- · Reasons must be plausible & supported by record
- · Must state reasons for each challenge
- "I don't recall" can be fatal
  - But see Gonzalez v. Brown (9th Cir. 2009) 585 F.3d 1202
- · DA must provide justifications, not court
- Get court's concurrence
  - · Important for demeanor, non-verbal attributes

S. Office and the second of th

# Factors in Court's Analysis The 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage

- Credibility determination
- · Court cannot substitute their own reasoning
- Court can use:
  - · Statistical evidence
  - Comparative analysis
  - · Disparate questioning
  - · Historical evidence of discrimination
    - · By individual prosecutor or office

### Statistical Evidence

- Court looks at the numbers
  - 10 of 11 black jurors are challenged (91%)
  - 5 of 12 sitting jurors are Hispanic
  - 4 of 49 jurors were black & DA excused 3 out of the 4

# **Comparative Analysis**

- · Can be raised for first time on appeal
- Proffered reason for striking panelist applies just as well to an otherwise-similar panelist from noncognizable group who is permitted to serve
- · Used as evidence tending to prove purposeful discrimination
- One form of circumstantial evidence
- Similarly situated ≠ identically situated
- · Ask questions to develop dissimilarities
- · Don't just state a single reason, but give all applicable reasons

<del></del>	
	5 22 24 25 3
	3000
3-4-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-	
	**************************************

# **Disparate Questioning**

- Court looks at differences in the way questions were phrased to different groups
- Disparate questioning based on race may evidence discriminatory purpose
- Any "trick" questions designed to elicit certain responses?

# Race Neutral Reasons

- Could be combination of factors
- Change in dynamics of jury
- Change in mix of jurors
- Number of peremptory challenges remaining
- But, for each excused juror must identify characteristics in support of decision
- Pv. Cisneros (2015) 234 CA4 111, 121 [next juror looks better not enough by itself]

# **Examples**

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

***************************************				
*			MIT	
-				
X 200 P				
*****				
•	-			
**				 
*		_		
	1.50			
	-			
***************************************				 
**				

Examples (con't)	
<ul> <li>Appearance / Demeanor</li> <li>Unconventional appearance <ul> <li>Long hair, "Fu Manchu type" facial hair</li> <li>Blank look</li> <li>Frowning</li> </ul> </li> <li>Never read a book</li> <li>Weird looking</li> <li>Defensive body language</li> <li>Reluctant, timid</li> <li>Rolled eyes</li> <li>Overweight</li> </ul>	
Examples (con't)  Occupation  Juvenile counselor  Social worker  Postal  Teacher  Artist  Pastor  Relativity  Next juror(s) looks better  But, must still justify challenge based on something else!	
Examples (con't)  • Limited Life Experience  • Young  • Single  • No children  • Few ties to community  • Prior Jury Experience  • Previously sat on hung jury  • No prior jury experience	

# Improper Reasons Caution!

- First Generation Americans
  - · Trouble understanding the law
  - Bias against naturalized citizens vs. group bias against Hispanics
- Discriminatory racial proxy
  - E.g., lived in poorer, more violent neighborhood (South Central LA)
  - E.g., residence in Inglewood, where residents have a different attitude towards drugs

Re	m	eċ	v
	0.01	CU	LΥ

- Traditionally
  - Mistrial
  - Draw an entirely different jury panel and start selection anew
- Other alternatives
  - Disallowing discriminatory challenge and reseating wrongfully excluded juror
  - Monetary fines
  - · Allowing aggrieved party additional challenges
  - NOTE: need consent of aggrieved party for these alternative remedies!

# Remedy on Appeal Limited Remand

- Appellate court returns case to trail court for DA to state justifications on the record
- · Allows DA to explain justification(s) during appeal process
- · Could be years later
- "Prosecutorial approach" evidence gets little weight on review
- · Take & preserve notes!

-		 			
-		 		*	
	-	 			-
-					
				677	
			***		
_				- 11	
-					
-					
-			n_		
(i					
-					-311-
-					



Prosecutor's memory lapse yields habeas relief  North State of the Control of the	"A prosecutor's failure to recall his reasons for striking a prospective black juror and his vague guesses as to why he may have done so were insufficient to overcome a convicted robber's evidence of discrimination."     Shirley v. Yates (9th Cir. 2015) 807 F.3d 1090     Trial judge: Alex Kozinski     9th Cir. found multiple errors by trial court     Judge "clearly erred"
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

# **Case Examples**

# Recent Cal. Supremes Case

- Kern County gang case (664-187, 186.22, etc.)
   DA exercised 10 of 16 challenges against Hispanics

- no connection to gangs
- - DA: And starting with Ms. 2723471, are you [familiar with] gangs that are active in the Wasco area?

  - · Juror: Yes, I live in Wasco.
- · DA justification: "tough decision" but she's from Wasco and not aware of gang activity, and I was unsatisfied by some of her other answers.
- Trial court: DA passed several times with juror on panel, juror was excused because of "Wasco issue" and also lack of life experience.

# Cal. Supremes Reverse People v. Gutierrez Jr. (2017) 2 Cal.5th 1150

- · "It is not evident why a panelist's unawareness of gang activity in Wasco would indicate a bias
- the record is void of any explication from the court, we cannot find under these circumstances that the court made a reasoned attempt to determine

### U.S. Supremes Speak (20 yrs later)

Miller-El v. Dretke (2005) 545 U.S. 231

- Sup Ct reverses murder conviction from 1985 (6-3 decision)

- · Court also considered:
- · Fact one (1) Black did serve does not un-do prior improper challenges

# 9th Circuit Reversal

Ali v. Hickman (9th Cir. 2009) 584 F.3d 1174

- · Convicted in 2001 of first degree murder of his girlfriend
- · DCA affirmed & CA Supreme Court denied review in 2004
- · 9th Circuit granted habeas relief in 2009
- · DA had 3 reasons to excuse one juror:
  - Daughter was victim of attempt molestation
- 9th Circuit went through very detailed analysis
  - · Reasons "logically implausible" & "unsupported by the record"

	W
ş <del> </del>	<del>V V V</del>
	10 gm, 12 W
, <u></u>	
2 22	and the second second
	112
	***

# Comparative Analysis People v. Lomax (2010) 49 Cal. 4th 530 · Defendant is Black • 3 of 12 original prospective jurors were Black · DA struck 1 Black and 3 others, then accepted panel 5 times, then struck 1 more Black juror · More jurors were called and DA excused 3 of 6 Black jurors - Trial court found a prima facie showing "based on the Court should focus on prosecutor credibility for race-neutral explanations (prosecutor's demeanor, how reasonable explanations are, common practices of DA, trial strategy) • Comparative juror analysis is but one form of circumstantial · For each excused juror, there were reasons that distinguished "People of Color" Not a Group People v. Neuman (2009) 176 Cal. App. 4th 571 • DA exercised 4 peremptory challenges • Defense raised objection, claiming all 4 challenges had been used against "people of color" • "People of color" is not a cognizable group · Can't combine jurors to form one class or group · No inference of discrimination from record · Defendant is white and not a member of any group · Excused jurors all shared common characteristics · Young college students; relatively inexperienced in life • The 4 challenges not a complete record by itself Statistical Analysis People v. Garcia (2011) 52 Cal.4th 706 · DA exercised first 3 peremptory challenges against women

- · No prima facie case based on sheer number of challenges
- · Supreme Court used percentages to conduct analysis

  - 68% of jurors remaining in box after challenges were women (11 of 16)
  - DA used only 50% of challenges against women (7 of 14)
- · Factors:
  - · Ultimate composition of jury was predominately female
  - · Relatively modest number of prosecution strikes used against women

# Conclusion

# **Practical Tips**

- Anticipate a Wheeler challenge
- Question jurors fully and carefully so as to elicit raceneutral justifications for every challenge
- · Be consistent
- · Develop dissimilarities
- · Take good notes
- · Ask court to make a record on the prima facie showing
  - · Giving justifications first will result in implied finding
- State your reasons for challenges even if you win the prima facie case (at break or after trial)
- · Invite defense to do comparative analysis
  - · It's difficult to do first time on appeal based on a "cold" record

# Practical Tips (con't)

- · Give multiple reasons for each challenge
  - But be careful, if one reason is pre-textual, then inference that others are pre-textual as well
- · Keep a member of a cognizable group if possible
- · Consider kicking off most hostile jurors first
  - · Before defense gains "evidence" for Wheeler objection
- · Make a record
  - · Not everything is in transcript
  - · Note final composition of jury
- If Wheeler violation found and juror is reseated...
  - · Try to get the peremptory challenge back
  - · Consider dismiss & re-file before jury is sworn

	The state of the s
	- All the site
	100
<b>*</b>	

# **Avoid** Wheeler Objections

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

# Mr. Wheeler Goes to Washington The Iull Lederalization of Jury Challenge Practice in California Let 1997 F. Colonia Colonia

Wheeler / Batson Guide	Austifications (2" Prone)	
wyneeier / Batson Guide sidta Robert Mesiman Orange Gourby Delivit Atlemen's Office 0 8/3 2/7015	Justification need not support a challenge for cause. [P v Thomor (2011) 51 C 2 219, 472]     Timed Teason (Figernanc) will soffice. [P c Arios (1996) 12 C 4 92, 136)     Reasons must be inher unit software & supported by record. (P v Shop	
Seminal Cases  P.v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258: Rotion v. Xentucky (1986) 476 Lis 79	(2001) S.C. L. M.S., 186  - Mais scale reason for gail; challenge; (Fix Cornected (1991) 222 CAI 323 [Timer' reseal* finall; business discussions; in drown (TiC.), 2000) 559 F3 L302 [Timer' reseal* finall; business discussions; in drown (reseal* sin scale) and the control of controllectors. The research of property and the controllectors of property and the controllectors of property challenges self, scale (Fix Andrews (1989) 47 C.1 1994; 2025-2023)  - For cache microsoft-poor, must bleefly characteristics in support of discussion between the microsoft-poor, proceedings of the controllectors of the controllectors of the controllectors of the controllectors of the controllectors.	
2. Prome Test  Porty objecting to challenge (detense) must make a prima tacle case  Showing that the totality of fact gives rise to an inference of descrimination, pageose  P prima tack case shows, burden shifts and party (DA) must explain demousted the Challenge.		
Offer permissible race invitral jumification     Court then makes decision     Whether pany objecting (identical has proved purposeful discrimination obsessor). California (2006) 545 US 162, 168)	Finding in Guard's Anaholis Tack Process  Solitorial reviews given retained just one seased, remaining et al., (if it is discovered by the control of the co	
Burden of Proof  Delense has ultimase burden of proof. (Gonzolez v. Brown (9* Cr. 2009) 545 F3 1702, 1707; Parket v. Ferm (1995) 514 US 782, 519 Delense must have purpose to discrimination by a greendersect of the		
gridence, IP v. Hutchine (2007) 147 CAA 993, Paulino v. Hornton (9th Cir 2004) 34 E 9 892, 703] Consider Institut of Circumstances, IP v. Leuir (2008) 44 CA 602, 626) Presumption that challenge is proper. (P v. Newson (2009) 276 CA4 571)	Comparative Analysis  Sale-by-wise comparison of proors who even struck or juston sensing.  If DA's profilered reason for striking jurior applies just as well to an	
Rebut Prima Facic Case II! Prome!  Whether enembers of group discriminated against were challenged/encused by defense. (People's: Wheeler [1978) 27 C3 251, 263)  N. passed with the secured jurior on panel. IP v. Whitema (2013) 56 C4 C50)	atherwise similar jurns, that is evidence seeding to prove purposeful discrimination. (Millim/Fr. Exects (2005) 545 U.S.21, 241) - Comparative jurns analysis to but one form of circumstankial evidence that is relievant, but not necessarily dispositive. (Pn. Lornar (2010) 49 C4 590, 572)	
Whether Lip Includes exective of group directivation against (P.). Next (1995) 54.5 (18.6), 2003.  Did not have just one sensembles of group, (P. 8. Sofeth (1982) 300 CAS 379), Ander moderal of least, (P. 9. Notices) (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155, 155.9 (1975), 56.6 155.9 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6 (1975), 56.6	Tradicional sociolar delaw en estima, del fueren juny panel and stars selection nerve. Other alternatives (seed consent of agarinege party) disallice circumientosy bedaninge and reseas warmed, shi such delayes, non-easy femer, alternative agarined party additional personatory challenges. (P. v. Willi, 1200.) 27 C 48.1. P. March 1201.23 AC 4.888 for the remain analysis.	



Cognizable Groups

- There must be an identifiable group distinguished on racial, religious, ethnic or similar grounds. (P v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258, 276)
- Protected groups: "race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, color, genetic information, or disability." (CCP § 231.5; Govt Code § 11135(a))
- · Defendant need not be member of excluded group. (Wheeler @ 281)

#### Race

- African-Americans (P v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258)
- Hispanics (P v. Perez (1996) 48 CA4 1310; but see P v. Gutierrez (2002) 28 C4 1083, 1123 [Hispanic-surnamed jurors not necessarily Hispanic])
- Asian-Americans (P v. Lopez (1991) 3 CA4 Supp. 11)

#### Ethnicity

- Native Americans (US v. Bauer (9th Cir. 1996) 84 F3 1549)
- Irish/Italian-Americans (See 20 ALR 5th 398 at § 6)

#### National origin

Spanish surnamed jurors (P v. Trevino (1985) 39 C3 667)

#### Religion

- Jews (P v. Johnson (1989) 47 C3 1194, 1217)
- But see P v. Martin (1998) 64 CA4 378 [permissible if valid reason related to religion (e.g., Jehovah's Witness); US v. DeJesus (3rd Cir. 2003) 347 F3d 500 [permissible for heighted religious involvement or beliefs vs. affiliation]

#### Gender

- Women (P v. Garcia (2011) 52 C4 706; P v. Crittenden (1994) 9 C4 83, 115) Sexual Orientation
- Gay & Lesbian (P v. Garcia (2000) 77 CA4 1269, 1272)

#### Disability

 US v. Harris (7th Cir. 1999) 197 F3 870 [but permissible if disability would affect jury service (e.g., medication that causes drowsiness would interfere)]

#### Non-Cognizable Groups (Examples)

- Poor people / low income (P v. Johnson (1989) 47 C3 1194, 1214)
- Less educated (P v. Estrada (1979) 93 CA3 76, 90-91)
- Blue collar workers (P v. Estrada (1979) 93 CA3 76, 92)
- Battered women (P. Macioce (1987) 197 CA3 262, 280)
- Death penalty skeptics (P v. Johnson (1989) 47 C3 1194, 1222)
- Ex-felons (P v. Karis (1988) 46 C3 612, 631-633)
- Resident aliens (P v. Karis (1988) 46 C3 612, 631-633)
- Naturalized citizens (P v. Gonzalez (1989) 211 CA3 1186, 1202 [but can't be pretext for challenge based on race/national origin])
- Insufficient English spoken (P v. Lesara (1988) 206 CA3 1304, 1307)
- New community resident (Adams v. Sup. Court (1974) 12 C3 55, 60)
- Men who wear toupees (P v. Motton (1985) 39 C3 596, 606)
- Retired correctional officers (P v. England (2000) 83 CA4 772)
- Support jury nullification (Merced v. McGrath (9th Cir. 2005) 426 F3 1076)
- People of color (as a group) (P v. Neuman (2009) 176 CA4 571) [but see inclusion of "color" in Govt Code § 11135(a) eff. 1/1/16]
- Obese people (US v. Santiago-Martinez (9th Cir. 1995) 58 F3d 422)
- Non-Hispanic with Spanish surname (P v. Gutierrez (2002) 28 C4 1083, 1122)

#### Requirements / Rules

- Wheeler/Batson objection may be raised by the defense or prosecution. (P v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258, 280-283, fn.29; see, e.g., P v. Singh (2015) 234 CA4 1319 [against defense attorney])
- Objection must be timely (i.e., before jury selection completed). (P v. Perez (1996) 48 CA4 1310; Pv. Scott (2015) 61 C4 363, 383)
- Single discriminatory exclusion is a violation. (P v. Fuentes (1991) 54 C3 707)
- Give your justifications even if prima facie showing is not made. (P v. Scott (2015) 61 C4 363, 388 [encouraged for appellate review])

#### Distrust of law enforcement

- Negative experience<sup>1, 6</sup>
- Relative in jail or prison<sup>2, 6, 17</sup>
- Refused employment by police<sup>3</sup>
- Ex-husband is cop<sup>15</sup>
- Divorce with police officer<sup>3</sup>
- Juror or friend/family arrested/prosecuted<sup>4, 6, 8</sup>
- Relative involved with drugs<sup>8, 9</sup>

#### Prior Jury Experience

- Previously sat on hung jury<sup>1, 2</sup>
- No prior jury experience<sup>5</sup>

# Race-Neutral Justifications (Examples) Occupation

- Social worker<sup>1</sup>
- · Teacher9
- Juvenile Counselor<sup>13</sup>
- Tractor Driver<sup>9</sup>
- Pastor<sup>18</sup>

#### Limited Life Experiences

- Single, no children<sup>5</sup>
- Few ties to community<sup>16</sup>
- Follower<sup>17</sup>

#### Stupid

- Ability to comprehend<sup>1, 4, 9</sup>
- Answered only 2 of 10 questions<sup>5</sup>
- Inattentive<sup>10</sup>
- Inconsistent answers<sup>11</sup>

#### Other

- Views on death penalty<sup>6,7</sup>
- Rely too heavily on experts<sup>6</sup>
- Late/tardy<sup>17</sup>
- Close-mindedness<sup>6</sup>

#### Appearance / Demeanor

- Unconventional appearance<sup>12</sup>
- Wearing "Coors" jacket<sup>9</sup>
- Long hair, facial hair<sup>14</sup>
- Weird, unusual<sup>15, 17</sup>
- Too eager<sup>13, 17</sup>
- Soft spoken, reluctant, timid<sup>4, 17</sup>
- Frowning, hostile looks<sup>6,8</sup>
- Emmotional<sup>6</sup>
- Defensive body language<sup>15</sup>
- Overweight<sup>15</sup>

1) P.v. Turner (1994) 8 C4 137; 2) P.v. Farnam (2002) 28 C4 107; 3) Hayes v. Woodford (9th Cir. 2002) 301 F3d 1054; 4) P.v. Arias (1996) 13 C4 92; 5) P.v. Perez (1994) 29 CA4 1313; 6) P.v. Gutierrez (2002) 28 C4 1083; 7) P.v. Williams (2013) 56 C4 630; 8) P.v. Dunn (1995) 40 CA4 1039; 9) P.v. Barber (1988) 200 CA3 378; 10) US v. Power (9th Cir. 1989) 881 F2d 733; 11) P.v. Mayfield (1997) 14 C4 668; 12) P.v. Ward (2005) 36 C4 186; 13) P.v. Ervin (2000) 22 C4 48; 14) Purkett v. Elem (1995) 514 US 765; 15) P.v. Johnson (1989) 47 C3 1194; 16) Rice v. Collins (2006) 546 US 333; 17) P.v. Duff (2014) 58 C4 527; 18) P.v. Semien (2008) 162 CA4 701



# Wheeler / Batson Guide

SrDDA Robert Mestman
Orange County District Attorney's Office
© 8/12/2015

#### **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 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 <u>preponderance of the evidence</u>. (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/excused by defense. (People v. Wheeler (1978) 22 C3 258, 283)
- DA passed with excused juror on panel. (P v. Williams (2013) 56 C4 630)
- Whether jury includes members of group discriminated against (P v. Ward (2005) 36 C4 186, 203)
- Did not know juror was member of group. (Pv. Barber (1988) 200 CA3 378)
- Admit mistake (if 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)
- Challenge of 1 or 2 jurors rarely suggests a pattern of impermissible group bias. (P v. Allen (2015) 237 CA4 971, 978)

### 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. (P v. Arias (1996) 13 C4 92, 136)
- Reasons must be inherently plausible & supported by 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 (9th 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)
- For each excused juror, must identify characteristics in support of decision to excuse them. (P v. Cisneros (2015) 234 CA4 111, 121)

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

- Statistical evidence (percentage of jurors excused, remaining, etc.). (P v. Garcia (2011) 52 C4 706, 744)
- · Comparative analysis (see box below).
- Disparate questioning (court looks at differences in the way questions were phrased to different jurors). (Miller-El v. Dretke (2005) 545 US 231, 254)
- Historical evidence of discrimination (by individual prosecutor and/or office). (Miller-El v. Dretke (2005) 545 US 231)
- Credibility of prosecutor. (P v. Williams (2013) 56 C4 630)

### **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. (Pv. Lomax (2010) 49 C4 530, 572)

#### Remedy

- Traditional: 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; P v. Mata (2012) 203 CA4 898 [Def's personal waiver])