

The Committee on Federal Criminal Jury Instructions for the Seventh Circuit is pleased to present, in draft form, an expanded set of pattern jury instructions for use in criminal trials in the District Courts of the Seventh Circuit. The product of nearly three years of work by the judges, lawyers and academics who serve on the Committee, this draft represents a top-to-bottom overhaul and expansion of the instructions and commentary that were last revised in 1999.

The draft contains changes to existing instructions and their accompanying commentary, as well as a number of new instructions and Committee Comments. It addresses issues not previously covered in the pattern instructions and sets forth elements and definitions for many additional criminal offenses. These revisions and new instructions and comments were initially drafted by subcommittees. They were then reviewed by the full Committee, which produced the draft that we now present.

Now that this initial work is completed, the Committee is seeking your input. If you practice criminal law, as a judge or as a lawyer, or if you are otherwise interested in the criminal trial process in our Circuit, you can greatly assist the Committee by reviewing instructions that are of interest to you or relevant to your practice and providing us with your comments. The Committee will review the comments we receive and make appropriate revisions to the draft instructions before they are submitted to the Judicial Council of the Seventh Circuit for approval in principle.

Although longer and more extensive than its predecessor, this draft takes a similar form. The initial section [[Review General Instructions](#)] includes instructions generally applicable to the trial process, as well as certain theory of defense instructions. What follows [[Review Statutory Instructions](#)] are instructions tied to specific statutory sections defining criminal offenses, located in Title 18 and other parts of the United States Code. (Because this document is still a working draft, the instructions are currently organized by the subcommittee that originally produced them, rather than in numerical order by statutory citation, and cross-references have not yet been filled in.) The draft also contains as an appendix [[Review Appendix-Preliminary Instructions](#)] a sample set of preliminary instructions to be used at the outset of a criminal trial. The document is in a searchable pdf format, allowing potential commenters to seek out instructions on issues or statutes that most interest them or that are most relevant to their practice.

We hope you will take the time to review the parts of this draft [New Draft Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions] that are most important to you and send us a comment. Comments will be accepted until July 15, 2011. They can be submitted by e-mail to jjcomments@hinshawlaw.com, or by mail to Joel Bertocchi, Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP, 222 North LaSalle Street, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60601-1081.

We thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Judge William J. Bauer
United States Court of Appeals
for the Seventh Circuit
Chairman

Joel D. Bertocchi Reporter Jennifer M. Ballard
Deputy Reporter Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP