

2021 FORUM FOR STATE APPELLATE COURT JUDGES

29TH
ANNUAL
FORUM

Juries, Voir Dire, Batson, and Beyond: Achieving Fairness in Civil Jury Trials

Pound Civil Justice Institute

The Forum is a one-day complimentary judicial education conference. Judges travel and attend as guests of the Institute, at no cost to themselves or to their courts. Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

HOLD THE DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Program and travel are complimentary for sitting state appellate judges.

Space is limited: Request your spot at www.poundinstitute.org

JURIES, VOIR DIRE, BATSON, AND BEYOND: ACHIEVING FAIRNESS IN CIVIL JURY TRIALS

Saturday, July 17, 2021, Chicago, Illinois

In American civil litigation, the judiciary's goal is fairness to all litigants. It is critical to provide a trial environment in which litigants are treated fairly, no matter what their ethnicity, gender, or social status. Effective voir dire and peremptory/cause challenges play a major role in achieving that environment. The availability of challenges is particularly important in situations in which jurors sometimes admit to bias but claim that they can set their biases aside—which may be sincere but psychologically impossible. The current COVID-19 crisis, which has forced many courts to try “virtual” jury selection and trial, makes all jury trial goals harder to achieve.

Judges attending the 2021 Forum will consider (1) the critical role jury-related fairness issues play in civil trials (even when those cases are reviewed on appeal) and (2) how the judiciary might address jury trial fairness through the rulemaking roles of appellate judges, in creating new civil procedure rules or amending old rules, e.g. to direct trial court judges to allow challenges for bias.



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