

INTRODUCTION TO IPI CRIMINAL

The following Illinois pattern jury instructions for criminal cases represent the cumulative effort of many dedicated past and present members of the Special Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions-Criminal.

The committee takes great effort in drafting clear and concise instructions for use by judges and practitioners, insuring that each instruction complies with all due process requirements, accurately states current statutory and case law, follows the intent of the legislature, is grammatically correct, and is presented in a clear and uniform manner. Most importantly, the committee strives to provide jurors with easy to understand definitions and issues instructions to help guide their deliberations in reaching an accurate verdict.

The committee wishes to thank the following persons for their guidance, support, vision, and hard work: Chief Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier, the current committee's liaison with the Illinois Supreme Court, and all past Supreme Court liaisons; James S. Shovlin, the current committee's liaison with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, and all past AOIC liaisons; Professor John Erbes, the current committee Reporter, and all past committee Reporters; all of the former members of the committee; and, all of the past chairs of the committee.

The Special Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions-Criminal is dedicated to improving criminal justice by providing clear and accurate instructions. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as chair of this committee with so many intelligent, hard-working and conscientious women and men.

Honorable Joseph Leberman
Resident Circuit Judge, Pope County
Chair, Special Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions-Criminal.