

August 5, 2008

ADM File No. 2005-19

Administrative Order No. 2008-2

Adoption of a Pilot Project to Study  
the Effects of the Jury Reform Proposal

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On order of the Court, the judges listed below are authorized to implement a pilot project to study the effects of the jury-reform proposal that was published for comment by this Court in an order that entered July 11, 2006. The purposes of the pilot project are to determine whether, and in what way, the proposed jury-reform amendments support the goal of meaningful juror participation, and lead to greater confidence in the validity of the specific verdict and the overall jury system. In addition, the Court is interested in the effects of the proposed rules on court efficiency and the opinions of the attorneys and jurors who will operate under them. Courts that participate in the pilot project will operate under the following rules for the period of the pilot project, which will continue through December 31, 2010, or as otherwise ordered by the Court. At the Court's request, the participating courts will update the Court on the pilot program's status, and the judges' perceptions of the program's success. The Court anticipates that the pilot courts will apply these rules to the greatest extent possible as a way to test and assess all of the proposed ideas. The pilot project's success will be measured by the Court's evaluation of surveys that have been completed by the courts to determine the jurors', judges', and attorneys' responses to the various procedures being tested.

Participant judges include the following:

The Honorable Wendy L. Potts (6th Circuit Court)  
The Honorable David Viviano (16th Circuit Court)  
The Honorable Timothy G. Hicks (14th Circuit Court)  
The Honorable Kenneth W. Schmidt and the Honorable  
William J. Caprathe (18th Circuit Court)  
The Honorable Richard J. Celeslo (41<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court)  
The Honorable Paul E. Stutesman (45<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court)

The Honorable Beth Gibson (92<sup>nd</sup> District Court)  
The Honorable Peter J. Wadel (79<sup>th</sup> District Court)  
The Honorable Donald L. Sanderson (2B District Court)

The Honorable Thomas P. Boyd (55<sup>th</sup> District Court)  
The Honorable Richard W. May (90th District Court)

Rule 2.512 Instructions to Jury ~~Rendering Verdict~~

- (A) ~~Majority Verdict; Stipulations Regarding Number of Jurors and Verdict. The parties may stipulate in writing or on the record that~~
- ~~(1) the jury will consist of any number less than 6;~~
  - ~~(2) a verdict or a finding of a stated majority of the jurors will be taken as the verdict or finding of the jury, or~~
  - ~~(3) if more than six jurors were impaneled, all of the jurors may deliberate.~~

~~Except as provided in MCR 5.740(C), in the absence of such stipulation, a verdict in a civil action tried by 6 jurors will be received when 5 jurors agree.~~

- (B) ~~Return; Poll.~~
- ~~(1) The jury must return its verdict in open court.~~
  - ~~(2) A party may require a poll to be taken by the court asking each juror if it is his or her verdict.~~
  - ~~(3) If the number of jurors agreeing is less than required, the jury must be sent out for further deliberation; otherwise the verdict is complete, and the court shall discharge the jury.~~
- (C) ~~Discharge From Action; New Jury. The court may discharge a jury from the action:~~
- ~~(1) because of an accident or calamity requiring it;~~
  - ~~(2) by consent of all the parties;~~
  - ~~(3) whenever an adjournment or mistrial is declared;~~
  - ~~(4) whenever the jurors have deliberated until it appears that they cannot agree.~~

~~The court may order another jury to be drawn, and the same proceedings may be had before the new jury as might have been had before the jury discharged.~~

~~(D) Responsibility of Officers.~~

- ~~(1) All court officers, including trial attorneys, must attend during the trial of an action until the verdict of the jury is announced.~~
- ~~(2) A trial attorney may, on request, be released by the court from further attendance, or the attorney may designate an associate or other attorney to act for him or her during the deliberations of the jury.~~

(A) Request for Instructions.

- (1) At a time the court reasonably directs, the parties must file written requests that the court instruct the jury on the law as stated in the requests. In the absence of a direction from the court, a party may file a written request for jury instructions at or before the close of the evidence.
- (2) In addition to requests for instructions submitted under subrule (A)(1), after the close of the evidence, each party shall submit in writing to the court a statement of the issues and may submit the party's theory of the case regarding each issue. The statement must be concise, be narrative in form, and set forth as issues only those disputed propositions of fact that are supported by the evidence. The theory may include those claims supported by the evidence or admitted.
- (3) A copy of the requested instructions must be served on the adverse parties in accordance with MCR 2.107.
- (4) The court shall inform the attorneys of its proposed action on the requests before their arguments to the jury.
- (5) The court need not give the statements of issues or theories of the case in the form submitted if the court presents to the jury the material substance of the issues and theories of each party.

(B) Instructing the Jury.

- (1) At any time during the trial, the court may, with or without request, instruct the jury on a point of law if the instruction will materially aid the jury in understanding the proceedings and arriving at a just verdict.
  - (2) Before or after arguments or at both times, as the court elects, the court shall instruct the jury on the applicable law, the issues presented by the case, and, if a party requests as provided in subrule (A)(2), that party's theory of the case.
- (C) Objections. A party may assign as error the giving of or the failure to give an instruction only if the party objects on the record before the jury retires to consider the verdict (or, in the case of instructions given after deliberations have begun, before the jury resumes deliberations), stating specifically the matter to which the party objects and the grounds for the objection. Opportunity must be given to make the objection out of the hearing of the jury.
- (D) Model Civil Jury Instructions.
- (1) The Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions appointed by the Supreme Court has the authority to adopt model civil jury instructions (M Civ JI) and to amend or repeal those instructions approved by the predecessor committee. Before adopting, amending, or repealing an instruction, the committee shall publish notice of the committee's intent, together with the text of the instruction to be adopted, or the amendment to be made, or a reference to the instruction to be repealed, in the manner provided in MCR 1.201. The notice shall specify the time and manner for commenting on the proposal. The committee shall thereafter publish notice of its final action on the proposed change, including, if appropriate, the effective date of the adoption, amendment, or repeal. A model civil jury instruction does not have the force and effect of a court rule.
  - (2) Pertinent portions of the instructions approved by the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions or its predecessor committee must be given in each action in which jury instructions are given if
    - (a) they are applicable,
    - (b) they accurately state the applicable law, and

- (c) they are requested by a party.
- (3) Whenever the committee recommends that no instruction be given on a particular matter, the court shall not give an instruction unless it specifically finds for reasons stated on the record that
  - (a) the instruction is necessary to state the applicable law accurately, and
  - (b) the matter is not adequately covered by other pertinent model civil jury instructions.
- (4) This subrule does not limit the power of the court to give additional instructions on applicable law not covered by the model instructions. Additional instructions, when given, must be patterned as nearly as practicable after the style of the model instructions and must be concise, understandable, conversational, unslanted, and nonargumentative.

Rule 2.513 Conduct of Jury Trial [View](#)

- (A) Preliminary Instructions. After the jury is sworn and before evidence is taken, the court shall provide the jury with pretrial instructions reasonably likely to assist in its consideration of the case. Such instructions, at a minimum, shall communicate the duties of the jury, trial procedure, and the law applicable to the case as are reasonably necessary to enable the jury to understand the proceedings and the evidence. The jury also shall be instructed about the elements of all civil claims or all charged offenses, as well as the legal presumptions and burdens of proof. The court shall provide each juror with a copy of such instructions. MCR 2.512(D)(2) does not apply to such preliminary instructions. ~~By Jury. On motion of either party or on its own initiative, the court may order an officer to take the jury as a whole to view property or a place where a material event occurred. During the view, no person other than the officer designated by the court may speak to the jury concerning a subject connected with the trial. The court may order the party requesting a jury view to pay the expenses of the view.~~
- (B) Court's Responsibility. The trial court must control the proceedings during trial, limit the evidence and arguments to relevant and proper matters, and take appropriate steps to ensure that the jurors will not be exposed to information or influences that might affect their ability to render an

impartial verdict on the evidence presented in court. The court may not communicate with the jury or any juror pertaining to the case without notifying the parties and permitting them to be present. The court must ensure that all communications pertaining to the case between the court and the jury or any juror are made a part of the record.~~By Court. On application of either party or on its own initiative, the court sitting as trier of fact without a jury may view property or a place where a material event occurred.~~

- (C) Opening Statements. Unless the parties and the court agree otherwise, the plaintiff or the prosecutor, before presenting evidence, must make a full and fair statement of the case and the facts the plaintiff or the prosecutor intends to prove. Immediately thereafter, or immediately before presenting evidence, the defendant may make a similar statement. The court may impose reasonable time limits on the opening statements.
- (D) Interim Commentary. Each party may, in the court's discretion, present interim commentary at appropriate junctures of the trial.
- (E) Reference Documents. The court must encourage counsel in civil and criminal cases to provide the jurors with a reference document or notebook, the contents of which should include, but which is not limited to, witness lists, relevant statutory provisions, and, in cases where the interpretation of a document is at issue, copies of the relevant document. The court and the parties may supplement the reference document during trial with copies of the preliminary jury instructions, admitted exhibits, and other appropriate information to assist jurors in their deliberations.
- (F) Deposition Summaries. Where it appears likely that the contents of a deposition will be read to the jury, the court should encourage the parties to prepare concise, written summaries of depositions for reading at trial in lieu of the full deposition. Where a summary is prepared, the opposing party shall have the opportunity to object to its contents. Copies of the summaries should be provided to the jurors before they are read.
- (G) Scheduling Expert Testimony. The court may, in its discretion, craft a procedure for the presentation of all expert testimony to assist the jurors in performing their duties. Such procedures may include, but are not limited to:
- (1) Scheduling the presentation of the parties' expert witnesses sequentially; or
  - (2) allowing the opposing experts to be present during the other's

testimony and to aid counsel in formulating questions to be asked of the testifying expert on cross-examination; or

- (3) providing for a panel discussion by all experts on a subject after or in lieu of testifying. The panel discussion, moderated by a neutral expert or the trial judge, would allow the experts to question each other.
- (H) Note Taking by Jurors. The court may permit the jurors to take notes regarding the evidence presented in court. If the court permits note taking, it must instruct the jurors that they need not take notes, and they should not permit note taking to interfere with their attentiveness. If the court allows jurors to take notes, jurors must be allowed to refer to their notes during deliberations, but the court must instruct the jurors to keep their notes confidential except as to other jurors during deliberations. The court shall ensure that all juror notes are collected and destroyed when the trial is concluded.
- (I) Juror Questions. The court may permit the jurors to ask questions of witnesses. If the court permits jurors to ask questions, it must employ a procedure that ensures that such questions are addressed to the witnesses by the court itself, that inappropriate questions are not asked, and that the parties have an opportunity outside the hearing of the jury to object to the questions. The court shall inform the jurors of the procedures to be followed for submitting questions to witnesses.
- (J) Jury View. On motion of either party, on its own initiative, or at the request of the jury, the court may order a jury view of property or of a place where a material event occurred. The parties are entitled to be present at the jury view. During the view, no person, other than an officer designated by the court, may speak to the jury concerning the subject connected with the trial. Any such communication must be recorded in some fashion.
- (K) Juror Discussion. After informing the jurors that they are not to decide the case until they have heard all the evidence, instructions of law, and arguments of counsel, the court may instruct the jurors that they are permitted to discuss the evidence among themselves in the jury room during trial recesses. The jurors should be instructed that such discussions may only take place when all jurors are present and that such discussions must be clearly understood as tentative pending final presentation of all evidence, instructions, and argument.

(L) Closing Arguments. After the close of all the evidence, the parties may make closing arguments. The plaintiff or the prosecutor is entitled to make the first closing argument. If the defendant makes an argument, the plaintiff or the prosecutor may offer a rebuttal limited to the issues raised in the defendant's argument. The court may impose reasonable time limits on the closing arguments.

(M) Comment on the Evidence. After the close of the evidence and arguments of counsel, the court may fairly and impartially sum up the evidence and comment to the jury about the weight of the evidence, if it also instructs the jury that it is to determine for itself the weight of the evidence and the credit to be given to the witnesses and that jurors are not bound by the court's summation or comment. The court shall not comment on the credibility of witnesses or state a conclusion on the ultimate issue of fact before the jury.

(N) Final Instructions to the Jury.

(1) Before closing arguments, the court must give the parties a reasonable opportunity to submit written requests for jury instructions. Each party must serve a copy of the written requests on all other parties. The court must inform the parties of its proposed action on the requests before their closing arguments. After closing arguments are made or waived, the court must instruct the jury as required and appropriate, but at the discretion of the court, and on notice to the parties, the court may instruct the jury before the parties make closing arguments. After jury deliberations begin, the court may give additional instructions that are appropriate.

(2) Solicit Questions about Final Instructions. As part of the final jury instructions, the court shall advise the jury that it may submit in a sealed envelope given to the bailiff any written questions about the jury instructions that arise during deliberations. Upon concluding the final instructions, the court shall invite the jurors to ask any questions in order to clarify the instructions before they retire to deliberate.

If questions arise, the court and the parties shall convene, in the courtroom or by other agreed-upon means. The question shall be read into the record, and the attorneys shall offer comments on an appropriate response. The court may, in its discretion, provide the jury with a specific response to the jury's question, but the court shall respond to all questions asked, even if the response consists of a directive for the jury to continue its deliberations.



- (3) Copies of Final Instructions. The court shall provide each juror with a written copy of the final jury instructions to take into the jury room for deliberation. The court, in its discretion, also may provide the jury with a copy of electronically recorded instructions.
- (4) Clarifying or Amplifying Final Instructions. When it appears that a deliberating jury has reached an impasse, or is otherwise in need of assistance, the court may invite the jurors to list the issues that divide or confuse them in the event that the judge can be of assistance in clarifying or amplifying the final instructions.
- (O) Materials in the Jury Room. The court shall permit the jurors, on retiring to deliberate, to take into the jury room their notes and final instructions. The court may permit the jurors to take into the jury room the reference document, if one has been prepared, as well as any exhibits and writings admitted into evidence.
- (P) Provide Testimony or Evidence. If, after beginning deliberation, the jury requests a review of certain testimony or evidence that has not been allowed into the jury room under subrule (O), the court must exercise its discretion to ensure fairness and to refuse unreasonable requests, but it may not refuse a reasonable request. The court may make a video or audio recording of witness testimony, or prepare an immediate transcript of such testimony, and such tape or transcript, or other testimony or evidence, may be made available to the jury for its consideration. The court may order the jury to deliberate further without the requested review, as long as the possibility of having the testimony or evidence reviewed at a later time is not foreclosed.

#### Rule 2.514 Rendering Verdict ~~Special Verdicts~~

- (A) ~~Use of Special Verdicts; Form.~~ The court may require the jury to return a special verdict in the form of a written finding on each issue of fact, rather than a general verdict. If a special verdict is required, the court shall, in advance of argument and in the absence of the jury, advise the attorneys of this fact and, on the record or in writing, settle the form of the verdict. The court may submit to the jury:
- (1) ~~written questions that may be answered categorically and briefly;~~
  - (2) ~~written forms of the several special findings that might properly be made under the pleadings and evidence; or~~

- ~~(3) the issues by another method, and require the written findings it deems most appropriate.~~

~~The court shall give to the jury the necessary explanation and instruction concerning the matter submitted to enable the jury to make its findings on each issue.~~

- ~~(B) Judgment. After a special verdict is returned, the court shall enter judgment in accordance with the jury's findings.~~

- ~~(C) Failure to Submit Question; Waiver; Findings by Court. If the court omits from the special verdict form an issue of fact raised by the pleadings or the evidence, a party waives the right to a trial by jury of the issue omitted unless before the jury retires the party demands its submission to the jury. The court may make a finding as to an issue omitted without a demand; or, if the court fails to do so, it is deemed to have made a finding in accord with the judgment on the special verdict.~~

- (A) Majority Verdict; Stipulations Regarding Number of Jurors and Verdict. The parties may stipulate in writing or on the record that

- (1) the jury will consist of any number less than 6,
- (2) a verdict or a finding of a stated majority of the jurors will be taken as the verdict or finding of the jury, or
- (3) if more than 6 jurors were impaneled, all the jurors may deliberate.

Except as provided in MCR 5.740(C), in the absence of such stipulation, a verdict in a civil action tried by 6 jurors will be received when 5 jurors agree.

- (B) Return; Poll.

- (1) The jury must return its verdict in open court.
- (2) A party may require a poll to be taken by the court asking each juror if it is his or her verdict.
- (3) If the number of jurors agreeing is less than required, the jury must be sent back for further deliberation; otherwise, the verdict is complete, and the court shall discharge the jury.

- (C) Discharge From Action; New Jury. The court may discharge a jury from the action:

- (1) because of an accident or calamity requiring it;
- (2) by consent of all the parties;
- (3) whenever an adjournment or mistrial is declared;
- (4) whenever the jurors have deliberated and it appears that they cannot agree.

The court may order another jury to be drawn, and the same proceedings may be had before the new jury as might have been had before the jury that was discharged.

(D) Responsibility of Officers.

- (1) All court officers, including trial attorneys, must attend during the trial of an action until the verdict of the jury is announced.
- (2) A trial attorney may, on request, be released by the court from further attendance, or the attorney may designate an associate or other attorney to act for him or her during the deliberations of the jury.

Rule 2.515 Special Verdicts ~~Motion for Directed Verdict~~

~~A party may move for a directed verdict at the close of the evidence offered by an opponent. The motion must state specific grounds in support of the motion. If the motion is not granted, the moving party may offer evidence without having reserved the right to do so, as if the motion had not been made. A motion for a directed verdict that is not granted is not a waiver of trial by jury, even though all parties to the action have moved for directed verdicts.~~

(A) Use of Special Verdicts; Form. The court may require the jury to return a special verdict in the form of a written finding on each issue of fact, rather than a general verdict. If a special verdict is required, the court shall, in advance of argument and in the absence of the jury, advise the attorneys of this fact and, on the record or in writing, settle the form of the verdict. The court may submit to the jury:

- (1) written questions that may be answered categorically and briefly;
- (2) written forms of the several special findings that might properly be made under the pleadings and evidence; or

- (3) the issues by another method, and require the written findings it deems most appropriate.

The court shall give to the jury the necessary explanation and instruction concerning the matter submitted to enable the jury to make its findings on each issue.

- (B) Judgment. After a special verdict is returned, the court shall enter judgment in accordance with the jury's findings.
- (C) Failure to Submit Question; Waiver; Findings by Court. If the court omits from the special verdict form an issue of fact raised by the pleadings or the evidence, a party waives the right to a trial by jury of the issue omitted unless the party demands its submission to the jury before it retires for deliberations. The court may make a finding with respect to an issue omitted without a demand. If the court fails to do so, it is deemed to have made a finding in accord with the judgment on the special verdict.

Rule 2.516 Motion for Directed Verdict ~~Instructions to Jury~~

- (A) ~~Request for Instructions.~~
- (1) ~~At a time the court reasonably directs, the parties must file written requests that the court instruct the jury on the law as stated in the requests. In the absence of a direction from the court, a party may file a written request for jury instructions at or before the close of the evidence.~~
- (2) ~~In addition to requests for instructions submitted under subrule (A)(1), after the close of the evidence each party shall submit in writing to the court a statement of the issues and may submit the party's theory of the case as to each issue. The statement must be concise, be narrative in form, and set forth as issues only those disputed propositions of fact which are supported by the evidence. The theory may include those claims supported by the evidence or admitted.~~
- (3) ~~A copy of the requested instructions must be served on the adverse parties in accordance with MCR 2.107.~~
- (4) ~~The court shall inform the attorneys of its proposed action on the requests before their arguments to the jury.~~

- (5) ~~The court need not give the statements of issues or theories of the case in the form submitted if the court presents to the jury the material substance of the issues and theories of each party.~~
- (B) ~~Instructing the Jury.~~
- (1) ~~After the jury is sworn and before evidence is taken, the court shall give such preliminary instructions regarding the duties of the jury, trial procedure, and the law applicable to the case as are reasonably necessary to enable the jury to understand the proceedings and the evidence. MCR 2.516(D)(2) does not apply to such preliminary instructions.~~
- (2) ~~At any time during the trial, the court may, with or without request, instruct the jury on a point of law if the instruction will materially aid the jury to understand the proceedings and arrive at a just verdict.~~
- (3) ~~Before or after arguments or at both times, as the court elects, the court shall instruct the jury on the applicable law, the issues presented by the case, and, if a party requests as provided in subrule (A)(2), that party's theory of the case. The court, at its discretion, may also comment on the evidence, the testimony, and the character of the witnesses as the interests of justice require.~~
- (4) ~~While the jury is deliberating, the court may further instruct the jury in the presence of or after reasonable notice to the parties.~~
- (5) ~~Either on the request of a party or on the court's own motion, the court may provide the jury with~~
- (a) ~~a full set of written instructions,~~
  - (b) ~~a full set of electronically recorded instructions, or~~
  - (c) ~~a partial set of written or recorded instructions if the jury asks for clarification or restatement of a particular instruction or instructions or if the parties agree that a partial set may be provided and agree on the portions to be provided.~~

~~If it does so, the court must ensure that such instructions are made a part of the record.~~

- (C) ~~Objections. A party may assign as error the giving of or the failure to give an instruction only if the party objects on the record before the jury retires~~

~~to consider the verdict (or, in the case of instructions given after deliberations have begun, before the jury resumes deliberations), stating specifically the matter to which the party objects and the grounds for the objection. Opportunity must be given to make the objection out of the hearing of the jury.~~

~~(D) Model Civil Jury Instructions.~~

- ~~(1) The Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions appointed by the Supreme Court has the authority to adopt model civil jury instructions (M Civ JI) and to amend or repeal those instructions approved by the predecessor committee. Before adopting, amending, or repealing an instruction, the committee shall publish notice of the committee's intent, together with the text of the instruction to be adopted, or the amendment to be made, or a reference to the instruction to be repealed, in the manner provided in MCR 1.201. The notice shall specify the time and manner for commenting on the proposal. The committee shall thereafter publish notice of its final action on the proposed change, including, if appropriate, the effective date of the adoption, amendment, or repeal. A model civil jury instruction does not have the force and effect of a court rule.~~
- ~~(2) Pertinent portions of the instructions approved by the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions or its predecessor committee must be given in each action in which jury instructions are given if
  - ~~(a) they are applicable,~~
  - ~~(b) they accurately state the applicable law, and~~
  - ~~(c) they are requested by a party.~~~~
- ~~(3) Whenever the committee recommends that no instruction be given on a particular matter, the court shall not give an instruction unless it specifically finds for reasons stated on the record that
  - ~~(a) the instruction is necessary to state the applicable law accurately, and~~
  - ~~(b) the matter is not adequately covered by other pertinent model civil jury instructions.~~~~

- (4) ~~This subrule does not limit the power of the court to give additional instructions on applicable law not covered by the model instructions. Additional instructions when given must be patterned as nearly as practicable after the style of the model instructions and must be concise, understandable, conversational, unslanted, and nonargumentative.~~

A party may move for a directed verdict at the close of the evidence offered by an opponent. The motion must state specific grounds in support of the motion. If the motion is not granted, the moving party may offer evidence without having reserved the right to do so, as if the motion had not been made. A motion for a directed verdict that is not granted is not a waiver of trial by jury, even though all parties to the action have moved for directed verdicts.

#### Rule 6.414 ~~Conduct of Jury Trial~~

- (A) ~~Before trial begins, the court should give the jury appropriate pretrial instructions.~~
- (B) ~~Court's Responsibility. The trial court must control the proceedings during trial, limit the evidence and arguments to relevant and proper matters, and take appropriate steps to ensure that the jurors will not be exposed to information or influences that might affect their ability to render an impartial verdict on the evidence presented in court. The court may not communicate with the jury or any juror pertaining to the case without notifying the parties and permitting them to be present. The court must ensure that all communications pertaining to the case between the court and the jury or any juror are made a part of the record.~~
- (C) ~~Opening Statements. Unless the parties and the court agree otherwise, the prosecutor, before presenting evidence, must make a full and fair statement of the prosecutor's case and the facts the prosecutor intends to prove. Immediately thereafter, or immediately before presenting evidence, the defendant may make a like statement. The court may impose reasonable time limits on the opening statements.~~
- (D) ~~Note Taking by Jurors. The court may permit the jurors to take notes regarding the evidence presented in court. If the court permits note taking, it must instruct the jurors that they need not take notes and they should not permit note taking to interfere with their attentiveness. The court also must instruct the jurors to keep their notes confidential except as to other jurors~~

~~during deliberations. The court may, but need not, allow jurors to take their notes into deliberations. If the court decides not to permit the jurors to take their notes into deliberations, the court must so inform the jurors at the same time it permits the note taking. The court shall ensure that all juror notes are collected and destroyed when the trial is concluded.~~

- ~~(E) Juror Questions. The court may, in its discretion, permit the jurors to ask questions of witnesses. If the court permits jurors to ask questions, it must employ a procedure that ensures that inappropriate questions are not asked, and that the parties have the opportunity to object to the questions.~~
- ~~(F) View. The court may order a jury view of property or of a place where a material event occurred. The parties are entitled to be present at the jury view. During the view, no persons other than, as permitted by the trial judge, the officer in charge of the jurors, or any person appointed by the court to direct the jurors' attention to a particular place or site, and the trial judge, may speak to the jury concerning a subject connected with the trial; any such communication must be recorded in some fashion.~~
- ~~(G) Closing Arguments. After the close of all the evidence, the parties may make closing arguments. The prosecutor is entitled to make the first closing argument. If the defendant makes an argument, the prosecutor may offer a rebuttal limited to the issues raised in the defendant's argument. The court may impose reasonable time limits on the closing arguments.~~
- ~~(H) Instructions to the Jury. Before closing arguments, the court must give the parties a reasonable opportunity to submit written requests for jury instructions. Each party must serve a copy of the written requests on all other parties. The court must inform the parties of its proposed action on the requests before their closing arguments. After closing arguments are made or waived, the court must instruct the jury as required and appropriate, but at the discretion of the court, and on notice to the parties, the court may instruct the jury before the parties make closing arguments, and give any appropriate further instructions after argument. After jury deliberations begin, the court may give additional instructions that are appropriate.~~
- ~~(I) Materials in the Jury Room. The court may permit the jury, on retiring to deliberate, to take into the jury room a writing, other than the charging document, setting forth the elements of the charges against the defendant and any exhibits and writings admitted into evidence. On the request of a party or on its own initiative, the court may provide the jury with a full set of written instructions, a full set of electronically recorded instructions, or~~



~~a partial set of written or recorded instructions if the jury asks for clarification or restatement of a particular instruction or instructions or if the parties agree that a partial set may be provided and agree on the portions to be provided. If it does so, the court must ensure that such instructions are made a part of the record.~~

~~(J) Review of Evidence. If, after beginning deliberation, the jury requests a review of certain testimony or evidence, the court must exercise its discretion to ensure fairness and to refuse unreasonable requests, but it may not refuse a reasonable request. The court may order the jury to deliberate further without the requested review, so long as the possibility of having the testimony or evidence reviewed at a later time is not foreclosed.~~

KELLY, J. I oppose the implementation of the pilot project. I am particularly concerned with MCR 2.513(G), 2.513(K), and 2.513(M). These court-rule changes represent a radical departure from current practices and are unwise, even in the form of a pilot project.