



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

Administrative Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Bldg. 1, Room E-316
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy
(304) 340-2306 April Harless
(304) 558-4219 / TTY
(304) 558-1212 / FAX
Web Site: www.courtsvw.gov
Twitter: [WVCourts](https://twitter.com/WVCourts)
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/courtsvw/
Email: Jennifer.Bundy@courtsvw.gov
Email: April.Harless@courtsvw.gov

Chief Justice Ketchum's Pattern Jury Instructions go on sale

For immediate release

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Chief Justice Menis Ketchum has spent five years compiling Pattern Jury Instructions for use in civil cases in West Virginia courts. The Supreme Court's law library has begun selling copies. To purchase copies of the instructions, call the State Law Library at 304-340-3980, or order online at <http://www.courtsvw.gov/legal-community/patternJuryInstructions/index.html>.

Chief Justice Ketchum stated that it is important that trial lawyers and judges have at their disposal legally correct instructions that are understandable to a lay jury. Hopefully, the present set covering 15 topics can be expanded in the near future.

The instructions have been extensively researched and have gone through numerous revisions. Judge Jack Alsop was the supervising circuit judge on this project. Each of 15 topics was prepared by Justice Ketchum or lawyers who acted as reporters on the project. In addition, at least two lawyers reviewed each topic for accuracy.

Judge Alsop stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the project and all the hard work of the lawyers who assisted in drafting the instructions. He stated that the pattern plain language instructions will be of great benefit to the trial bar and provide great assistance to our lay juries. Judge Alsop is a judge in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit (Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, and Webster Counties).

The 15 topics covered in the pattern instructions are: Preliminary Instructions to the Impaneled Jury; Complete Closing General Civil Jury Charge; Employment Law; Product Liability and Warranty; Medical Negligence; Motor Vehicles; Deliberate Intent; Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, and Property Damage; Negligence, Comparative Negligence, and Proximate Cause; Premises Liability; Contracts; Eminent Domain; Evidence and Witnesses; Tort of Spoliation; and Punitive Damages.

The instructions are available only in a durable hard copy D-ring binder and are not published on the West Virginia Supreme Court's website. The court is charging for copies to recoup the cost of the project. Advance orders are being taken now.

Copies are \$85 for each set or \$75 each for four or more sets ordered before May 15 when the price changes to \$95 or \$85 for four or more sets. Pre-orders will be shipped in June.

The reporters, in addition to Chief Justice Ketchum, were: Walt Auvil, David Morrison, Paul Frampton, Philip Combs, Tom Hurney, Paul Farrell, Jr., Victor Woods, Maryl Sattler, John Barrett, Alan Karlin, Carte Goodwin, Johnny Knisely, Bert Ketchum, Henry Jernigan, and Brian R. Cokeley.

The reviewers for accuracy, in addition to Judge Jack Alsop and Chief Justice Ketchum, were: Susan Brewer, Alex Shook, Deborah L. McHenry, Pamela D. Tarr, Tom McQuain, Don Sensabaugh, John Cyrus, Carter Elkins, Mark Farrell, James P. McHugh, Tim DiPiero, Johnny Brown, Peter Chambers, James R. Bailes, Bridget Cohee, Anthony Delligatti, Benny Jones, and Kevin Robinson.

##