

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED LOCAL RULE CHANGE
AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT**

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 1.1(b) and Local Criminal Rule 1.1, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia is publishing for comment a proposed change to one Local Rule.

The proposed rule change, which is set forth below, will be adopted and become effective unless modified or withdrawn by the Court after receiving comments from organized bar associations, members of the bar and public. Such comments must be made in writing with 45 days of the publication of this Notice and should be address to Kevin M. Hodges, Esq., Chairman, Advisory Committee on Local Rules, Williams & Connolly LLP, 680 Maine Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20024.

Angela D. Caesar, Clerk

[New Language in underlined, old language is stricken]

LCrR 24.1

JURY

~~SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT.~~

(a) SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT

Grand and petit jurors shall be selected at random in accordance with a plan adopted by the Court and available from the Jury Office. Petit jurors shall be assigned to a single jury pool and reassigned for service upon the requisition of each trial judge.

(b) PUBLIC RELEASE OF JUROR INFORMATION

(1) *Petit Jurors:* Names of prospective and sitting petit jurors shall not be disclosed to the public outside of open court, except upon order of the Court. A request for disclosure of petit juror names to the public must be made to the presiding judge.

(1)—(2) *Grand Jurors:* As matters occurring before a grand jury are secret, and records, orders, and subpoenas relating to grand jury proceedings are maintained under seal, the release of the identity of grand jurors to the public or to the media presents significant legal and other issues. Accordingly, to protect and preserve grand jury secrecy, no disclosure is permitted to the public or to the media of the names, addresses, or telephone numbers of any member of a grand jury, except upon order of the Court. Should a request for information concerning the identity of a grand juror arise, the Court

will determine whether the disclosure of such information is warranted, consistent with the provisions of FED. R. CRIM. P. 6(e) and 28 U.S.C. § 1867(f).

LCvR 47.1

JURY

(a) SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT.

~~Grand and petit~~ Petit jurors shall be selected at random in accordance with a plan adopted by the Court and available from the Jury Office. Petit jurors shall be assigned to a single jury pool and reassigned for service upon the requisition of each trial judge.

(b) PUBLIC RELEASE OF JUROR INFORMATION

Names of prospective and sitting petit jurors shall not be disclosed to the public outside of open court, except upon order of the Court. A request for disclosure of petit juror names to the public must be made to the presiding judge.

(b)(c) NOTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT IN CIVIL JURY CASES.

Whenever any civil action scheduled for jury trial is settled or otherwise resolved by the parties after the final pretrial conference, counsel shall notify the Clerk of the resolution of the action promptly and no later than one business day prior to the day on which the trial is scheduled to commence. In the event that the action is resolved by the parties less than one business day prior to the scheduled trial date, counsel shall notify the Clerk as soon as practicable after resolution of the action. The Court may assess against the settling parties any juror costs incurred if the parties fail to provide notification as set forth in this Rule, unless good cause for such failure is shown. Any such costs shall be assessed equally among the settling parties unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

COMMENT TO LCvR 47.1: This Rule is intended to address situations where the parties resolve a civil action shortly before a scheduled jury trial. While the Court encourages the settlement of cases, budgetary constraints require that increased attention be paid to jury utilization practices. This Rule requires the parties to notify the Clerk of any resolution as soon as possible in order to avoid the unnecessary cost to the Court as well as the inconvenience to jurors that result when jurors are required to appear for a case that will not go forward as scheduled. To the extent available, the Clerk in this situation should be the Deputy Clerk assigned to the presiding judge. The Rule authorizes the Court to assess juror costs against the parties for a violation of the Rule.