## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MAINE

## **VOIR DIRE CHECKLIST FOR CRIMINAL TRIALS**

- QUESTIONS JUDGE ORDINARILY WILL NOT ASK BECAUSE INFORMATION IS OTHERWISE I. **AVAILABLE** 
  - Information Available from Clerk's List of Jurors
    - 1. Age
    - 2. City/Town of residence
    - 3. Occupation
    - 4. Employer
    - If married, spouse's occupation
  - Information Available from Maine's Juror Questionnaire B.
    - Previous grand jury service
    - Previous petit or traverse jury service
    - 2. 3. Previous involvement in court as a party, witness, complaining witness or victim
    - 4. Law enforcement employment
    - 5. Current employment duties
    - Education, including legal, technical and medical education
- II. SUBJECT MATTERS JUDGE ORDINARILY WILL EXPLORE AT ORAL VOIR DIRE EVEN WITHOUT A SPECIFIC REQUEST
  - A. Juror availability for trial, given the date and length
  - В. Prior knowledge of the case or of the defendant from any source, including media
  - C. Any connection to U.S. Attorney's Office/prosecutor and government witnesses
  - D. Any connection to the defendant, defendant's lawyer/law firm, and any witnesses the defendant identifies
  - Consideration of testimony by law enforcement personnel E.
  - F. (Only if a drug case) Views or experiences re: illegal drugs
  - G. Mental/physical difficulties that might interfere with juror duties
  - H. (Carter and Hornby only, not Brody) Willingness to follow law (final jury instructions) re:
    - 1. Indictment not evidence
    - Presumption of innocence and burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt 2.
    - Defendant's constitutional right not to testify 3.
    - Basing verdict solely on admitted evidence and the law as instructed by the judge 4.
  - I. Any reason at all the juror could not be fair and unbiased