

## 2006 Membership

### Civil Jury Instructions Subcommittee

Lee C. Swartz, Esq., *Chair*  
Honorable Jeannine Turgeon, *Vice Chair*  
Barbara R. Axelrod, Esq., *Reporter*  
Honorable Mark I. Bernstein  
David E. Lehman, Esq.  
Clifford A. Rieders, Esq.  
Ira B. Silverstein, Esq.

### Criminal Jury Instructions Subcommittee

Professor Bruce A. Antkowiak, *Chair*  
Honorable Ernest J. Disantis, Jr.  
Ronald Eisenberg, Esq.  
Jules Epstein, Esq.  
Frank G. Fina, Esq.  
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James J. West, Esq.  
Arthur Murphy, Esq., *Emeritus Member*

## Staff

Roger B. Meilton, Esq., *Assistant Reporter and Secretary*  
Lydia L. Hack, Esq., *Pennsylvania Bar Institute Contact*

## Legal Authorization

Pa. Constitution Article V, § 10(c)

## About the Committee

The committee's mission is to assist the administration of justice in court proceedings by developing pattern jury instructions for use by both the bench and the bar.

# Committee for Proposed Standard Jury Instructions

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## Committee Activities

### *Civil Instructions*

In 2006 the Civil Jury Instructions Subcommittee continued its mission of updating the Suggested Standard Civil Jury Instructions included in the Third Edition (2005). In preparation of releasing a supplement to the Third Edition, the subcommittee incorporated revisions based upon case law developments, new Rules of Civil Procedure and new legislation as well as comments from lawyers and judges.

The subcommittee continues its plain-English objective to revise the instructions to make them more understandable to lay jurors. It is committed to updating the instructions every 18 to 24 months.

### *Criminal Instructions*

In 2006, the subcommittee completed the first supplement to the Second Edition (2005). This reference contains hundreds of criminal instructions keyed numerically to the

Crimes Code with many offering alternative language depending on the case facts.

The supplement included 25 revised instructions and the following nine new instructions:

- deliberations and verdict: deadlocked jury
- note-taking by jurors
- aggravated assault—attempt to cause bodily injury to an enumerated person
- aggravated assault—causing bodily injury to an enumerated person
- disarming a law enforcement officer
- aggravated assault by vehicle while driving under the influence
- flying while impaired
- flying while impaired—consolidated blood alcohol count
- relevance of refusal to submit to testing.

The subcommittee's ongoing goal is to improve the language of the instructions to ensure that a proper statement of law is conveyed and that the instructions are accessible to the jurors applying them. The subcommittee is committed to updating the instructions every 18 to 24 months.

**AOPC**