INTRODUCTION TO IPI CRIMINAL

The following Illinois pattern jury instructions for criminal cases represent the cumulative effort of many dedicated past and present members of the Special Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions-Criminal.

The committee takes great effort in drafting clear and concise instructions for use by judges and practitioners, ensuring that each instruction complies with due process, accurately reflects current statutory and case law, is grammatically correct, and is presented in a clear, concise, and uniform manner. Most importantly, the committee strives to provide jurors with easy to understand definitions and issues instructions to help guide their deliberations in reaching an appropriate verdict.

The committee wishes to thank the following persons for their guidance, support, vision, and hard work: Justice Mary K. O'Brien, the current committee's liaison with the Illinois Supreme Court, and all past Supreme Court liaisons; Michelle J. Courier, the current committee's liaison with the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, and all past AOIC liaisons; Professor John Erbes, the current committee Reporter, and all past committee Reporters; all of the former members of the committee; and, all of the past chairs of the committee.

The Special Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions-Criminal is dedicated to improving criminal justice by providing clear and accurate instructions. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as chair of this committee with so many intelligent, hard-working, and conscientious lawyers and judges.

Honorable Daniel B. Shanes
Chief Judge, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit (Lake County)
Chair, Special Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions-Criminal