

Jury Trials Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on jury trials. This guide covers jury selection, also known as *voir dire*, and requesting a jury trial. "A jury trial is different from a trial by judge only. Jury trials deliver a verdict after it has heard all the evidence." (*Black's Law Dictionary, 11th ed.*) The resources listed below are not exhaustive and may not include the most up-to-date information. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or act as the substitute for legal counsel.

Related guides: *Cross-Examinations, Evidence, Discovery*

Statutes and Codes

Texas Statutes Online www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Civil and Practice Remedies Code

- Ch. 18 Evidence
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CP/htm/CP.18.htm>
- Ch. 30 Miscellaneous Provisions
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CP/htm/CP.30.htm>

Texas Criminal Code

- Ch. 1 General Provisions
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CR/htm/CR.1.htm>
- Ch. 4 Courts and Criminal Jurisdiction
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CR/htm/CR.4.htm>
- Ch. 35 Formation of the Jury
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docs/cr/htm/cr.35.htm>

- Ch. 36 The Trial Before the Jury
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CR/htm/CR.36.htm>
- Ch. 37 The Verdict
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CR/htm/CR.37.htm>

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 8, Ch. 120 Jury Selection
- Vol. 8, Ch. 120C Jury Argument
- Vol. 8, Ch. 121 Trial Motions
- Vol. 8, Ch. 122 Jury Charge
- Vol. 8, Ch. 123 Jury Deliberations and the Verdict

McDonald & Carlson Texas Civil Practice 2D REF KFT 1730 M3

- Vol. 4, Ch. 21 Jury Trial: Right to Jury, Jury Selection, Trial Before Jury, and Directed Verdict
- Vol. 4, Ch. 22 Jury Trial: Charge
- Vol. 4, Ch. 23 Jury Trial: Closing Argument
- Vol. 4, Ch. 24 Jury Trial: Deliberation
- Vol. 4, Ch. 25 Jury Trial: Verdict
- Vol. 4, Ch. 26 Jury Trial: Post-Verdict Motions

Texas Forms Pleading and Practice REF KFT 1730 .A65 T482

- Vol. 12, Ch. 232 Trial §232:9 Demand for Jury Trial
- Vol. 12, Ch. 232 Trial §232:10 Petition-Allegation-Demand for jury trial

Texas Family Law Practice Manual REF KFT 1294. T4S7

- Vol. 1, Ch. 19 Trial Proceedings
 - Form 19-11 Request for Jury Trial
 - Form 19-19 Objections to Jury Charge
 - §19.12 Request for Jury Trial

- §19.16 Submission to Jury
- §19.17 Objection to Jury Charge

**Pattern Voir Dire Questions: Civil and Criminal
REF KF 8978 .B76**

Effective Voir Dire REF KF 8972 K63

Trial Preparation Tools REF KF 8915

- Ch. 7 Jury Selection

**Federal Employment Jury Instructions REF KF
8984 .A65 M36**

- Vols. 1-2

**Proven Jury Arguments & Evidence REF KF 8872
.L57**

**Proving Damages to the Jury REF KF 8925 D36
W74**

Building Trial Notebooks REF KF 8915 .B83

- Vol. 1, Ch. 19 Voir Dire; Juror List
- Vol. 1, Ch. 21 Jury Instructions

CLE Materials

**Advanced Civil Appellate Practice Course
KFT 1755 .A75 S7**

- 2018 Ch. 5 Texas Civil Procedure Update

Advanced Criminal Law Course (PDF only)

- 2023 Ch. 10 Jury Charges
- 2023 Ch. 18 Tips for Getting Your Favorable Jurors Talkin' and Your Unfavorable Jurors Walkin'
- 2023 40 Charging Decisions and Jury Charges in Family Violence Cases
- 2021 Ch. 26.1 Preserving the Right to Jury Trial During a Pandemic: A Daunting Task
- 2021 Ch. 26.2 Jury Trials During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Observations and Recommendations
- 2021 Ch. 31 Charging Decisions and Jury Charges in Family Violence Cases
- 2021 Ch. 50 Jury Selection Under the Limitations of Federal Court

**Advanced Evidence and Discovery Law Course
KFT 1740 .A75 S7**

- 2022 Ch. 17 Post-Judgment Discovery and Enforcement: Making the Debtor Face Cooperation or Confinement

Advanced Family Law KFT 1294 .S83

- 2022 Ch. 8 Cutting Edge Evidence
- 2022 Ch. 16 Enforcement and Contempt: Pleading, Techniques and What to Do (and Not Do)
- 2022 Ch. 55 Twenty Silver Bullets: Procedure and Evidence Tools You Need to Know

**Advanced Trial Strategies for Family Lawyers
(PDF only)**

- 2020 Ch. 13 Trying a Jury Trial: A Dying Art

Advanced Medical Torts KFT 1396 .M43

- 2022 Ch. 5 How Trials Have Changed (PDF only)

Advanced Trial Strategies KFT 1737 .A75 S83

- 2024 Ch. 3 How to Get All the Jurors Talkin' and Your Unfavorable Jurors Walkin'
- 2022 Ch.11.2 Strategies for Minimizing Damages (PDF only)

Jury Trials from the Millennial Perspective (PDF only)

- 2020 Ch. 5 The Future of *Voir Dire*
- 2020 Ch. 9 Using Technology to Work Up & Present Cases for a Modern Jury

Online Resources

Basics of the Texas Judicial System (Texas Judicial Branch) <https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/juror-information/basics-of-the-texas-judicial-system/>

Texas Law Help (www.texaslawhelp.org)

- Jury Trials in Justice Court <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/jury-trials-in-justice-court>
- Family Law Juries: When and Why <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/family-law-juries-when-and-why>

Texas Uniform Jury Handbook (State Bar of Texas)
<https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForLawyers/Judiciary/TexasUniformJuryHandbook/UniformJuryHandbook-Eng-2023-English.pdf>

Juror Information Guide (State Bar of Texas)
<https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutUs/StateBarPresident/LetsDoJusticeforTexas/JurorToolkit.pdf>

Can I Have a Jury Trial for My Divorce in Texas?
<https://www.kirkerdavis.com/can-i-have-a-jury-trial-for-my-divorce-in-texas/>

Understanding Criminal Procedure and Jury Trials in Texas
<https://www.mlgtxas.com/jury-trials>

Legal Assistance

Legal Lines – Ask Attorneys simple legal questions (free service)

- Tarrant County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.tarrantbar.org/>
- Dallas County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=legalline>

Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: 817-336-4101 (\$20 for the first 30 minutes)

