

## Ten ways to engage a jury

Observations from two attorneys' jury duty experience.



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**W**e recently had the opportunity of sitting on a criminal jury case. The trial lasted five days and included numerous facts and several expert witnesses. As attorneys, we both try jury cases ourselves, so this was an incredibly valuable experience. Here are some of our observations.

1

**The best lawyers do not get in the way of the proof.** We listened intently to the witnesses. The attorneys kept their questions brief and their cross-examination brief. That was a good move. The witnesses are what mattered, and they were well-presented.

2

**It was effective to have the expert witnesses talk directly to the jury.** They are like teachers, and it seemed appropriate to have them look directly at us.

3

**Exhibits must be used in a way that the jury can really see them.** Even with a SMART Board™ many exhibits were too small to see. Also make sure the jury can hear everything. Most jurors are intimidated by the process and will not speak up even if they cannot see or hear well.

4

**Make sure the *voir dire* addresses experiences that may impact the jurors' approach to the case.** During deliberations, all of the jurors in our case focused on the evidence presented in court. Nonetheless, during deliberations it also

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