



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

DIRECTOR OF STATE COURTS

P.O. BOX 1688

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688

Patience D. Roggensack
Chief Justice

16 East State Capitol
Telephone 608-266-6828
Fax 608-267-0980

Hon. Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts

ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN 21-01

DATE: January 22, 2021

TO: Circuit Court Judges
District Court Administrators

FROM: Randy R. Koschnick
Director of State Courts

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Jury Instructions

In cooperation with the University of Wisconsin Law School, I am pleased to announce that the Office of Judicial Education, in partnership with the Wisconsin State Law Library, will provide free online access to updated criminal, civil, and juvenile jury instructions beginning January 25, 2021.

Wisconsin Jury Instructions assist judges and attorneys in providing instructions to jurors who must reach verdicts during trials.

The law school, which has partnered with the Wisconsin Judiciary in producing jury instructions for more than six decades, has determined that transitioning the jury instructions to a public digital platform is in the best interest of the legal community and the state.

Not only will this transition provide greater access to the approved material, it will also increase the efficiency at which instructions can be disseminated.

While this transition will alter the method of publication and distribution of jury instructions, it will have very little impact on the traditional model of content creation. All three Jury Instructions Committees of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference will carry on with their standard schedules and a dedicated reporter will continue to serve each committee.

Additionally, supplements to the instructions will still be compiled in the conventional annual release format. These releases will be made available for download from the State Law Library website so that physical binders may be kept up-to-date on the user's end, if desired.

Finally, all new/approved material will continue to be uploaded to CCAP and made available via the judicial dashboard as soon as it is formally published.

The law school has been a key partner in development and distribution of jury instructions over the years. I'd like to thank the law school for its contribution to this critical aspect of our justice system.

If you have any questions concerning this transition and the model going forward, please contact Bryce Pierson, Legal Advisor – Jury Instruction, at bryce.pierson@wicourts.gov.

Cc: Morgan Young
Amy Crowder