

# State Jury Instructions on the Web

Our standard recently became model. Jury instructions or “instructions to juries,” that is. So says Michigan Court Rule 2.516 [http://www.icle.org/michlaw/rules/mcr/AMENDED/01-22\\_12-18-01\\_or2.html](http://www.icle.org/michlaw/rules/mcr/AMENDED/01-22_12-18-01_or2.html). This change in the *Michigan Court Rules* prompted us to revisit one of our previous Reference from Coast to Coast columns, *What is the Law? Finding Jury Instructions* <http://www.llrx.com/columns/reference19.htm>, originally published November 15, 2000, to check on and update other state jury model/standard instructions, especially the availability of electronic access.

This change also illustrates the need to understand what is meant by the various adjectives preceding “jury instructions.” Jury instructions are frequently described as model, standard, or pattern. *Black’s Law Dictionary, Seventh Edition* (Bryan A. Garner, ed., West Group, 1999) indicates no difference between model and pattern—both meaning an instruction approved by a state court or bar organization and recognized by courts as authoritative. Standard jury instructions are “regularly used” but have no authority other than frequent use. We have seen some publications covering “non-pattern” or “non-standard” instructions. Those jury charges are useful when an attorney is faced with an issue for which there is no model and no standardized usage.

We have identified the “standard” jury instructions materials available in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Since we all fantasize about *free online materials*, we have broken out a list of state jury instructions found in that form. Availability of jury instructions on the web or in databases can change quickly; additional electronic access may appear or change on the web. Keep that possibility in mind should you be looking for

a state’s materials other than those listed here. We found that locating state jury instructions requires flexibility and creative research techniques. No uniform title or topics exist for “standard” or “model” jury instructions from state to state and a researcher should not expect to find an instruction covering each precise legal question. There is no standard form of publication and although state bench/bar groups often are involved in the creation of jury instructions, there is no pattern discernable in authorship.

Our research also finds that many state jury instruction materials remain available only in print, CD-ROM, or disk rather than online. The listing below includes only those titles available electronically—free web sources or fee services such as LexisNexis,<sup>TM</sup> Westlaw<sup>®</sup> or LoisLaw. OCLC’s FirstSearch <http://newfirstsearch.oclc.org>, *Legal Looseleafs in Print, 2002 Edition* <http://www.infosourcespub.com/book5.cfm>, LexisNexis<sup>TM</sup> Source Directory <http://web.nexis.com/sources>, LoisLaw’s Product Information <http://www.loislaw.com/info/content/products.htm>, Westlaw<sup>®</sup> Database Directory <http://directory.westlaw.com> as well as Google<sup>TM</sup> were used to identify and update materials.

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“Trial Practice” appears regularly in the *Michigan Bar Journal*. This column is designed to provide advice and guidance on how to effectively prepare for and conduct trials.

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## Full Text Jury Instructions free online: Alabama through Wyoming—Civil or Criminal

Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Minnesota, Missouri (revisions only), New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, West Virginia (Proposed version only), Wyoming (Civil; revisions only).

### Alaska

*Alaska Civil Pattern Jury Instructions*

[Alaska Bar Association]

<http://www.state.ak.us/courts/juryins.htm>

*Alaska Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions*

[Alaska Bar Association]

<http://www.state.ak.us/courts/crimins.htm>

### Arizona

*RAJI—Criminal* (Revisions only)

[http://www.azbar.org/CLE/criminal\\_raji.cfm](http://www.azbar.org/CLE/criminal_raji.cfm)

*We have identified the “standard” jury instructions materials available in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.*

### Arkansas

Loislaw Arkansas Law Library

### California

*Civil Jury Instructions: Draft Instructions*

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/prevprop.htm>

*Criminal Jury Instructions: Draft Instructions*

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/prevprop.htm>

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/prevprop.htm>

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/prevprop.htm>

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/prevprop.htm>

LexisNexis<sup>TM</sup> CALBAJI

**Netlawlibraries**

<http://www.netlawlibraries.com>

(Available in “Guest Services: *California Civil Jury Instructions*”—left-hand column)

Westlaw®: *California Jury Instructions*, CA-JI; *California Jury Instructions—Civil*, CA-BAJI; *California Jury Instructions—Criminal*, CA-CALJIC

**Colorado**

Loislaw: Colorado Law Library

Westlaw®: *Colorado Jury Instructions—Civil*, CO-JICIV

**Connecticut**

Westlaw®: *Connecticut Criminal Jury Instructions*, CT-JICRIM

**Delaware**

*Pattern jury instructions for civil practice in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware.*

[http://courts.state.de.us/superior/pattern\\_online.htm](http://courts.state.de.us/superior/pattern_online.htm) Delaware: Review Committee

**Florida**

*Statewide Jury Instructions*,  
Ninth Judicial Circuit Court  
<http://www.ninja9.com/JuryInst/juryinstructions-main.htm>

LexisNexis™ FLA/FLJINS

Westlaw®: *Florida Standard Jury Instructions—Civil*, FL-JICIV;  
*Florida Standard Jury Instructions—Criminal*, FL-JICRIM

**Hawaii**

*Hawaii Civil Jury Instructions*  
<http://tako.icsd.hawaii.gov/jud/Civji99.pdf>  
[Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii]

**Idaho**

*Idaho Civil Jury Instructions*  
[Idaho Pattern Jury Instructions  
Committee—1988 Committee]  
[http://www.accuscan.org/products\\_services/IDJIS.htm](http://www.accuscan.org/products_services/IDJIS.htm)

**Illinois**

LexisNexis™ ILL/IFJURY

Loislaw: Illinois Law Library  
<http://www.loislaw.com>

Westlaw®: *Illinois Pattern Civil Jury Instructions—Civil*, IL-IPICIV

## Indiana

LexisNexis™ IND/INCVJI

## Maine

LexisNexis™ MAINE/MEJIM

## Maryland

Westlaw®: *Maryland Jury Instructions—Civil*, MD-JICIV; *Maryland Jury Instructions—Criminal*, MD-JICRIM

## Massachusetts

LexisNexis™ MASS/MACVJI

Loislaw MCLE Online  
 (Massachusetts Superior Court  
 Civil Practice Jury Instructions)

## Michigan

*Model Civil Jury Instructions*  
 [Institute for Continuing Legal Education.  
 Password protected web access:  
<http://www.icle.org/products/mcivji>]

## Minnesota

*Minnesota Criminal Jury Instructions*  
[http://www.pubdef.state.mn.us/homepages/district\\_6/Jury%20Instructions/Default.htm](http://www.pubdef.state.mn.us/homepages/district_6/Jury%20Instructions/Default.htm)

## Missouri

*Missouri Approved Instructions, Civil, Criminal (MAI-CR) "Revisions & Additions"*

This article was originally published in two parts by LLRX.com™ (<http://www.llrx.com>): on June 17, 2002, as Reference from Coast to Coast, Revisiting Jury Instructions (Part 1): Alabama through Mississippi (<http://www.llrx.com/columns/reference38.htm>); and on July 15, 2002, as Reference from Coast to Coast, Revisiting Jury Instructions (Part 2) Missouri—Wyoming (<http://www.llrx.com/columns/reference39.htm>).

[Supreme Court of Missouri]  
<http://www.osca.state.mo.us/sup/index.nsf/d45a7635d4bdfb8f8625662000632638/5ade397e8f61dc1c8625672b0076325e?OpenDocument>

## Nebraska

Westlaw®: NEPRAC [Nevada Practice]; NEJICIV [Nebraska Civil Jury Instructions, 2d]; NEJICRIM [Nebraska Criminal Jury Instructions, 2d]

## New Jersey

*Model Civil Jury Charges*  
<http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/charges/civindx.htm> [New Jersey Supreme Court]

*Model Criminal Jury Charges*  
<http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/criminal/juryindx.htm> [New Jersey Supreme Court]

## New Mexico

*Jury Instructions* [New Mexico Supreme Court] <http://www.technet.nm.net/cgi-bin/noauth/prod/download/download.cgi/download/n/supctforms/jury>

*Uniform Jury Instructions—Civil*  
 NMSA 13-101 et seq.  
<http://198.187.128.12/newmexico/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=fs-main.htm&2.0>

*Uniform Jury Instructions—Criminal*  
 NMSA 14-101 et seq.  
<http://198.187.128.12/newmexico/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=fs-main.htm&2.0>

LoisLaw New Mexico Law Library

## New York

*Criminal Jury Instructions, 2d Edition, New York: CJI* [New York: Office of Court Administration]  
<http://www.courts.state.ny.us/juryinst.htm>

Westlaw®: NY-PJI [New York Pattern Jury Instructions]; NY-PJICW [New York Pattern Jury Instructions and Carmody—Wait 2d New York Practice with Forms]

## Oklahoma

*Oklahoma Uniform Jury Instructions*  
<http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/index.asp?ftdb=STOKJU&level=1>

LoisLaw Oklahoma Law Library

Westlaw®: OK-JICIV (*Vernon's Oklahoma Forms 2d*, Oklahoma Uniform Jury Instructions—Civil); OK-JICRIM (*Vernon's Oklahoma Forms 2d*, Oklahoma Uniform Jury Instructions—Criminal)

## Tennessee

*Tennessee Pattern Jury Instructions (Criminal)*  
<http://www.tndage.com/juryinst/pattern.htm>

Westlaw®: TNPRACJIC [Tennessee Practice Series Tennessee Pattern Jury Instructions—Civil]; TNPRACJICR [Tennessee Practice Series Tennessee Pattern Jury Instructions—Criminal]

## Virginia

LexisNexis™: VA/VAJICV

LexisNexis™: VA/VAJICR

## Washington

Westlaw®: WA-WPI (*Pattern Jury Instructions—Civil*); WA-WPIC (*Pattern Jury Instructions—Criminal*)

## West Virginia

*Proposed Jury Instructions for Civil and Criminal Trials* [Supreme Court of Appeals for West Virginia]  
<http://www.state.wv.us/wvsc/jury/cover.htm>

## Wisconsin

LoisLaw Wisconsin Law Library

## Wyoming

*Revisions to the Civil Pattern Jury Instructions* [Wyoming State Bar]  
[http://www.wyomingbar.org/civil\\_pattern\\_jury\\_instructions.asp](http://www.wyomingbar.org/civil_pattern_jury_instructions.asp) ♦

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