



MODEL CRIMINAL JURY INSTRUCTIONS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes of:
Friday, November 18, 2022
Held via Webex

Attendees: Justice Samour (Chair), Judge Dailey (Vice Chair), Chief Judge Blanco, Judge Randall, Judge Tuttle.

Staff: Jeremy Beck (Reporter).

I. Approval of Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes for the August 26, 2022, meeting.

II. Beyond a Reasonable Doubt

The Committee resumed its discussion of whether to update the definition of “beyond a reasonable doubt.” Following renewing debate, the Committee voted 4-2 to update the definition.¹ The Committee unanimously agreed that its act of updating the instruction shouldn’t call into question the constitutional validity of the prior instruction, and it approved a comment to that effect. The Committee then set a subsequent meeting date of December 9, 2022, to finetune the new language.

III. Instructions Affected by New Legislation

The Committee reviewed instructions affected by 2022 legislation, which had previously been reviewed by a subcommittee composed of Chief Judge Blanco, Judge Randall, and Judge Tuttle. The Committee approved these instructions, making minor revisions to new interrogatories related to synthetic opiates.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

¹ The Committee unanimously agreed that Judge Freyre would have voted to update the instruction had she been present.