

# Supreme Court of Colorado

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CHIEF JUSTICE

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July 15, 2011

Dear Legal Community:

Please find attached to this letter the most recent work of the Plain Language Subcommittee<sup>1</sup>. This group is attempting to rewrite some of the criminal jury instructions into more understandable language. This segment of their work includes Chapter 3 of the Colorado Criminal Jury Instructions and a rewrite of Chapter 1:04. These redrafted instructions are enclosed as Attachment 2. Please note that instruction number 3:04 is a revised presumption of innocence/reasonable doubt instruction.

The committee is anxious to receive critical feedback concerning these suggested instructions. We would greatly appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to review this work and give us your thoughts. Please send responses to [jury.instructions@judicial.state.co.us](mailto:jury.instructions@judicial.state.co.us) by August 15, 2011, if at all possible.

Thank you for your assistance on this important project.

Sincerely Yours,



Chief Justice Michael L. Bender

Enclosure: Attachment 2

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<sup>1</sup> The Plain Language Jury Instruction Committee is a subcommittee of the State Supreme Court's Jury Committee. The State's Judicial Advisory Council has endorsed the efforts of our subcommittee. The subcommittee includes several judges, including Chief Justice Michael L. Bender of the Supreme Court, Judge Brian Boatright of the Jefferson County District Court, Judge Catherine Lemon of the Denver District Court, and Judge James B. Breese of the Denver County Court. Other committee members include Bob Grant, a retired Adams County District Attorney; Blake Renner and Jay Grant, of the Denver Public Defenders Office; Thomas Hammond, a private attorney who participated for part of this past year; Ruth Falkenberg and Penny McPherson, who are lay citizens; several experienced legal writers and/or linguists—Professor Tim Hurley, a legal writing professor at DU Sturm College of Law; Dr. Anthony Lozano, a retired linguistics professor from CU; and Leona Martinez, editor of the Colorado Lawyer; and support staff from the Office of the State Court Administrator.