

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

LAWRENCE WILLIAMS,

Defendant.

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FINAL PRETRIAL  
CONFERENCE ORDER

10-cr-46-bbc

On July 9, 2010, this court held the final pretrial conference. Defendant Lawrence Williams was present with his attorney, William Jones. The government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Graber.

Prior to the hearing, the court circulated proposed voir dire questions. Defendant Williams had no proposed changes to the court's packet. The government asked for several changes and proposed several additional questions. I granted one change regarding the drug laws question and added a question about plea bargaining and immunity. A copy of the final set of voir dire questions is attached to this order.

Prior to the hearing, the court circulated a packet of proposed jury instructions. After significant discussion about several different issues, we ended up changing nothing at this point. Williams, by counsel, likely will be asking to be heard on whether the jury must find in a special verdict question which objective of the alleged conspiracy he joined. The government opposes any such motion for reasons stated at the hearing. Next, although the parties agreed before the hearing began that they preferred the Seventh Circuit pattern instruction on buyer-seller conduct, after discussion at the hearing, Williams, by counsel, indicated that he would like to review *United States v. Colon*, 549 F.3d 565 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2008) before finally agreeing to use the current pattern instruction.

Third, we discussed the parties' motions *in limine*. The government submitted a five-part motion *in limine* (dkt. 37). Williams does not dispute parts 1 or 2, but wishes to be heard on 3, 4

and 5. He wishes to be able to impeach government witness Johnny Matthews with the maximum penalties Matthews faced prior to cooperating with the government.

Both sides know the format and procedure for raising impeachment issues under Rules 608(b) and 609 outside the presence of the jury.

Next, the government indicated that in light of recent law, it no longer will be offering documents through Rules 902 or 911, but feels compelled to offer document custodians to lay the foundation for admissibility.

Finally, the government has offered evidence under Rule 404(b) and Rule 609 (*see* dkts. 38 and 39) which Williams opposes (*see* dkt. 42). The parties will present their positions at the final hearing with Judge Crabb.

Williams's remaining *in limine* issue was to exclude conversations between government witness Matthews and other people while Matthews was in jail. *See* dkt. 44. The government contends that this was part of the charged conspiracy and will back this up with a *Santiago* proffer at the final hearing. The parties had no other substantive matters to bring to the court's attention.

The parties are predicting three days for trial. They have asked for two alternate jurors. They are prepared to use the court's ELMO. Attorney Jones is aware that he is responsible for obtaining street clothes for Williams to wear at trial. The parties had no other matters to bring to the court's attention.

Entered this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER  
Magistrate Judge

Voir Dire: United States v. Williams 10-cr-46-bbc

Statement of the case: This is a criminal case, in which the defendant, Lawrence Williams, is charged with being a member of an unlawful conspiracy to distribute cocaine and cocaine base (also called crack cocaine). The defendant has entered a plea of not guilty to the charge against him.

Have any of you heard of this case before today? Would this affect your ability to serve impartially as a juror in this case?

1. Scheduling: this case will begin today and will conclude by this Wednesday. Are any of you actually unable to sit as jurors because of this schedule?

2. Is there anything about the nature of the charges in this case that might affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

3. The court reads Pattern Jury Instructions of the Seventh Circuit:

The defendant is presumed to be innocent of the charge against him. This presumption remains with the defendant throughout every stage of the trial and during your deliberations on the verdict, and is not overcome unless from all the evidence in the case you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty.

The government has the burden of proving the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt, and this burden remains on the government throughout the case. The defendant is not required to prove his innocence or to produce any evidence.

The defendant has an absolute right not to testify. The fact that the defendant does not testify cannot be considered by you in any way in arriving at your verdict.

Would any of you be unable or unwilling to follow these instructions?

4. Ask counsel to introduce themselves, the defendant and the case agent. Ask whether jurors know them.

5. Invite each juror, in turn, to rise, and provide the following information:

Name, age, and city or town of residence.

Marital status and number of children, if any.

Current occupation (former if retired).

Current (or former) occupation of your spouse and any adult children.

Any military service, including branch, rank and approximate date of discharge.

Level of education, and major areas of study, if any.

Memberships in any groups or organizations.

Hobbies and leisure-time activities.

Favorite types of reading material.

Favorite types of television shows.

Whether you regularly listen to talk radio, and if so, to which programs.

Whether you regularly use the internet to visit sites other than e-mail or personal business, and if so, what types of sites you visit most often.

6. Do any of you in the jury box know each other from before today?

7. The defendant is African American. Would any of you find it difficult to serve as an impartial juror in a case in which an African American man is charged with a crime involving cocaine and involving cocaine base?

8. Have any of you, your relatives or any close friends ever belonged to any group that is concerned in any way with marijuana, alcohol, or other drugs, either for or against them? What is the name of that group, and what is your involvement in it? Would this affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

9. Do any of you think that the drug laws in this country, including the laws concerning cocaine and cocaine base (also known as crack cocaine), or the enforcement of these laws are either too harsh or too lenient?

10. Do any of you believe that a person charged with drug crimes is probably a dangerous person simply because he is charged with a drug crime?

11. Do any of you, your family or close friends work in a health related field which treats or counsels people who have problems related to alcohol or other drugs? Would this affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

12. Have any of you, your relatives or close friends ever needed, sought, or obtained any sort of counseling or treatment for a problem related to alcohol or any other drug? [Sidebar if necessary]. Would this affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

13. Have any of you, your relatives, or close friends ever been accused of, or convicted of any criminal offense, or any civil offense involving cocaine or marijuana? [Sidebar if necessary]. Would this affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

14. Do any of you, by virtue of past dealings with the United States government, or for any reason, have any bias for or against the government in a criminal case?

15. Have any of you, your relatives, or close friends ever worked for the local, county, state, or federal government? Would this affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

16. Have any of you, your relatives, or close friends ever worked for, or had other professional contact with any law enforcement, investigative or security company or agency, or any prison? Would this affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

17. Have any of you ever belonged to any organization or group that excluded people because of their race, gender, or religion?

18. Would any of you judge the credibility of a witness who was a law enforcement officer or government employee differently from other witnesses solely because of his or her official position?

19. Would any of you judge the credibility of a witness who had been convicted of a crime in the past differently from other witnesses solely because of this prior conviction?

20. You may hear testimony from witnesses who have agreed to testify for the government in exchange for benefits, such as a reduction in their criminal sentences, or immunity from prosecution. Do any of you have such strong feelings about plea bargaining or immunity offers that it would affect your ability to be an impartial juror in this case?

21. Would any of you judge the testimony of a witness who was African American differently from other witnesses solely because of the witness's race?

22. If the defendant were to choose to testify, would any of you judge his credibility differently from other witnesses solely because it was the defendant who was testifying?

23. Have any of you, your relatives, or close friends ever been the victim of any crime? Would this affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

24. Have any of you, your relatives, or close friends ever been a witness in a trial? Is there anything about this experience that might affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

25. Have any of you, your relatives, or close friends ever had any negative experience with any lawyer, any court, or any legal proceeding that would affect your ability to be impartial in this case?

26. How many of you have served previously as a juror in another case? Please tell us in which court you served, approximately when, the type of cases you heard, whether you were foreperson, and the verdicts.

27. If at the conclusion of the trial you were to be convinced of the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, is there any one of you who would not, or could not, return a verdict of guilty?

28. If at the conclusion of the trial you were not to be convinced of the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, is there any one of you who would not, or could not, return a verdict of not guilty?

29. The court will instruct you on the law to be applied in this case. You are required to accept and follow the court's instructions in that regard, even though you may disagree with the law. Is there any one of you who cannot accept this requirement?

30. Do you know of any reason whatever, either suggested by these questions or otherwise, why you could not sit as a trial juror with absolute impartiality to all the parties in this case?

## JUROR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

When asked to do so by the court, please stand and provide the following information about yourself:

Name, age, and city or town of residence.

Marital status and number of children, if any.

Current occupation (former if retired).

Current (or former) occupation of your spouse and any adult children.

Any military service, including branch, rank and approximate date of discharge.

Level of education, and major areas of study, if any.

Memberships in any groups or organizations.

Hobbies and leisure-time activities.

Favorite types of reading material.

Favorite types of television shows.

Whether you regularly listen to talk radio, and if so, to which programs.

Whether you regularly use the internet to visit sites other than e-mail or personal business, and if so, what types of sites you visit most often.