



November, 2008

Dear Judge:

In the near future, those of you who use the print version of Ohio Jury Instructions published by LexisNexis will receive a new revised edition of OJI reorganized into self-contained civil and criminal volumes. The current Vol. 1 "General Instructions" has been eliminated. Applicable general instructions are included in the civil and criminal volumes. There will be one civil volume, now organized by general subject matter areas, and one criminal volume; however, there will be three binders. The criminal volume will be contained in two binders with a separate tab for "Traffic" offenses.

The purpose of the reorganization is to simplify use of OJI by judges and practitioners. Users will no longer have to switch back and forth between the current Vol. 1 "General Instructions" and the substantive instructions contained in the remaining volumes. Also, the numbering of all instructions has been revised and simplified. Instructions will now be identified as "CV"(Civil) and "CR"(Criminal). For example, current 4 OJI 503.01, dealing with Aggravated Murder, becomes CR 503.01. A "Correlation Table" will be included in each volume containing previous and new section numbers. All volumes will have newly designed, slightly larger loose-leaf binders. The format of individual instructions has not changed.

Many of you use "on-line" versions of OJI provided by LexisNexis, WestLaw, and Casemaker. To insure uniformity and to avoid confusion, the Ohio Judicial Conference has required LexisNexis to provide a complete OJI database with updated numbering of all instructions to WestLaw and Casemaker. Absent unexpected problems, usable on-line versions should be available from all publishers at, or near, the time you receive the new print version.

The Ohio Jury Instructions Committee has devoted much time and effort to this project. Allen County Common Pleas Judge Jeffrey Reed from our Criminal Subcommittee, Editorial Consultant Professor Gregory Travaglio, and Editorial Assistant Jennifer Hansen deserve special recognition for their leadership.

As always, we remain committed to providing complete and accurate instructions to assist you in providing the law to Ohio jurors.

Sincerely,

Hon. John F. Bender, Co-chairman
Hon. H. F. Inderlied, Jr. (Ret.), Co-chairman