Introduction to the 2020-2021 Edition

*Jury Selection Strategy & Science* is written by Ted A. Donner, an adjunct professor with Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and Richard Gabriel, one of the world's preeminent trial consultants and the author of *Acquittal: An Insider Reveals the Stories and Strategies Behind Today's Most Infamous Verdicts*. This book is intended to provide insight into effective legal strategies for both criminal and civil trials, the legal authority necessary to conduct effective voir dire, and insight gleaned by the authors from some of history's most remarkable jury trials, including a number of those in which Gabriel served as lead trial consultant (the trials of Phil Spector, Heidi Fleiss, O.J. Simpson and Casey Anthony, for example).

The 2020 Edition has been revised and updated to include a great deal of new material, recognizing the changing landscape of this most important but often difficult area of practice. In addition to adding recent authority and other material relating to most all of the issues addressed in the book, this edition includes the following:

- Chapter 2 (Constitutional Rights) has been updated to include a discussion on the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Ramos v. Louisiana*, 140 S. Ct. 1390 (2020). Ramos finally ensures that criminal defendants will be convicted, in all 50 states, only if a unanimous jury should find guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
- Chapter 12 (Procedural Innovations) has been updated to include new material on how the legal system is grappling with the need to conduct jury trials in a pandemic. With COVID-19 making it necessary for jurors to maintain social distancing, either through video-conferencing or the use of larger rooms, the logistical problems associated with jury trials seem to have grown exponentially.
- Chapter 20 (Bias) has been expanded to include additional material on implicit bias and its increasingly important role in jury selection. As social science has recognized that attorneys may be deciding who should be excused from jury duty based on an unconscious tendency to discriminate, the courts have struggled to keep up. Washington State, most notably (and in part, because of research done by court officials which included this book), is finding ways to address that problem.
- Chapter 26 (Discriminatory Use of Peremptory Challenges) has likewise been updated to address the role of implicit bias and institutional racism in peremptory challenges.
- Chapter 34 (Effect of Current Events and Media) has been added as a chapter to focus on the growing significance of media choices among prospective jurors. From their choice of news to whether they watch CSI, the extent to which jurors’ beliefs may be effected by their views on current events or “fake news,” the topic is important because of how increasingly more important it has become for attorneys to find ways to ask questions that can help them understand how their jury processes whatever information they take in.
- Chapter 40 (Juror Misconduct) has been updated to include a discussion on the Supreme Court's decision in *Peña-Rodríguez v. Colorado*, 137 S. Ct. 855 (2017), a case which—since it was decided—has raised a great many questions over when and under what circumstances a jury's verdict may now be impeached.