

Supreme Court  
of the  
State of New York



**JUAN M. MERCHAN**  
JUDGE OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS  
SUPREME COURT, CRIMINAL TERM  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CHAMBERS  
100 CENTRE STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

Via Email

April 8, 2024

Todd Blanche, Esq.  
99 Wall Street  
Suite 4460  
New York, NY 10005

ADA Joshua Steinglass  
New York County District Attorney's Office  
One Hogan Place  
New York, NY 10013

Re: *People v. Trump*, Ind. No. 71543-2023

Dear Counsel:

I write to you regarding jury selection. This letter will address three separate issues: 1. Excusing jurors who self-identify as unable to serve; 2. Instructions regarding the use of an anonymous jury; 3. The jury questionnaire and the permissible scope of *voir-dire*.

1. Excusing jurors who self-identify as unable to serve.

This Court typically conducts jury selection in the following manner: I read the caption and introduce the defendant and counsel. I identify the charges against the defendant and briefly outline the nature of the case, providing a brief summary of the allegations<sup>1</sup>. I explain, among other things,

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<sup>1</sup> On February 15, 2024, the Court invited the parties to submit a one-paragraph summary of the case to be read to the prospective jurors. The parties were unable to agree on the language of the proposed summary and therefore, submitted separate versions. After carefully considering each of the two proposed summaries, this Court has crafted what it believes, is a fair and appropriate narrative of the case, including that the Defendant denies the allegations. The summary is attached as Court's 1. The purpose of the narrative is to provide prospective jurors a fair and balanced summary of the case to assist them in deciding whether there is anything about the nature of the