

PRACTICE NOTE

Jury Selection

The Jury Act is now in force. Commencing October 1st, 1991, changes will be made in the process of jury selection in the Judicial Centres at Grand Bank, Grand Falls, Gander, Corner Brook and St. John's.

There will be one large panel from which all juries required for trials during each month will be chosen. All jury selection will be done on the first sitting day of the month unless otherwise ordered.

One judge will preside over the jury selection for all trials. That judge need not preside over the trial. Each case will be called in turn and when the jury has been chosen for the first case, the names of all members of the panel who have been asked to stand aside or who have been challenged in that case will go back into the selection box to be eligible to be chosen for the next trial and so on. As each jury is selected, the jury will either be directed to another courtroom where the trial will commence or be told to return on the date which has been selected as the trial date.

In future when trial dates are set, the accused will be advised to be present on the first day of the month in which his trial is set for the purpose of jury selection and then on another date at which time the trial will commence. For those trials which have already been set, your co-operation is requested in ensuring that all counsel and the accused are present for the selection process.

We will be using this process for a limited number of cases in the St. John's Judicial Center in September. The solicitors involved in the September cases have been advised to that effect. For cases scheduled in October or later, no special notice will be given.

It is recognized that there may be cases which, for some reason, will require that a panel be summonsed specially for that case. Any request for a separate jury panel for a particular trial should be made when the trial date is being given.

DATED at St. John's, Newfoundland this 8th day of August, A.D. 1991.

Sgd. T. Alex Hickman

T. ALEX HICKMAN
Chief Justice