

Supreme Court of Texas

Misc. Docket No. 23-9044

Preliminary Approval of Amendments to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 221, 222, 225, and 504.2

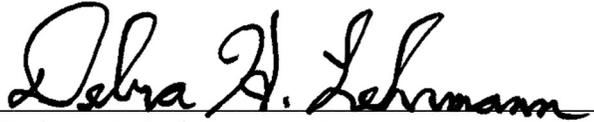
ORDERED that:

1. The Court invites public comments on proposed amendments to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 221, 222, 225, and 504.2.
2. To effectuate the Act of May 28, 2023, 88th Leg., R.S., ch. 861 (H.B. 3474), the amendments are effective September 1, 2023. But the amendments may later be changed in response to public comments. The Court requests public comments be submitted in writing to rulescomments@txcourts.gov by November 1, 2023.
3. The Clerk is directed to:
 - a. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State;
 - b. cause a copy of this Order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*;
 - c. send a copy of this Order to each elected member of the Legislature; and
 - d. submit a copy of this Order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

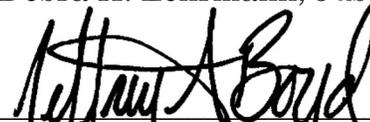
Dated: July 14, 2023.



Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



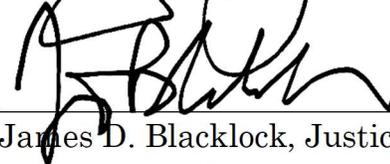
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



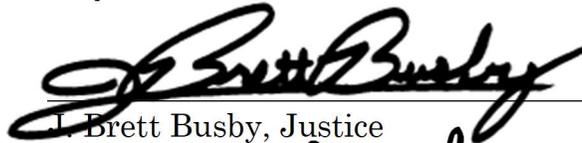
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



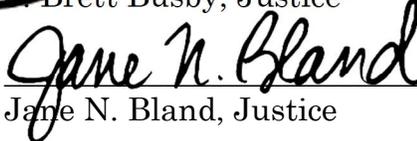
John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice



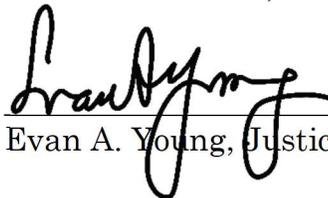
J. Brett Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice



Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



Evan A. Young, Justice

TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

RULE 221. CHALLENGE TO THE ARRAY

When the jurors summoned have not been selected by jury commissioners or by drawing the names from a jury wheel, any party to a suit which is to be tried by a jury may, before the jury is drawn challenge the array upon the ground that the officersheriff or clerk summoning the jury has acted corruptly, and has wilfully summoned jurors known to be prejudiced against the party challenging or biased in favor of the adverse party. All such challenges must be in writing setting forth distinctly the grounds of such challenge and supported by the affidavit of the party or some other credible person. When such challenge is made, the court shall hear evidence and decide without delay whether or not the challenge shall be sustained.

RULE 222. WHEN CHALLENGE IS SUSTAINED

If the challenge be sustained, the array of jurors summoned shall be discharged, and the court shall order other jurors summoned in their stead, and shall direct that the officersheriff or clerk who summoned the persons so discharged, and on account of whose misconduct the challenge has been sustained, shall not summon any other jurors in the case.

RULE 225. SUMMONING TALESMAN

When there are not as many as twenty-four names drawn from the box, if in the district court, or as many as twelve, if in the county court, the court shall direct the sheriff or clerk to summon such number of qualified persons as the court deems necessary to complete the panel. The names of those thus summoned shall be placed in the box and drawn and entered upon the slips as provided in the preceding rules.

RULE 504. JURY

RULE 504.2. EMPANELING THE JURY

- (a) *Drawing Jury and Oath.* If no method of electronic draw has been implemented, the judge must write the names of all prospective jurors present on separate slips of paper as nearly alike as may be, place them in a box, mix them well, and then draw the names one by one from the box. The judge must list the names drawn and deliver a copy to each of the parties or their attorneys.

- (b) *Oath.* After the draw, the judge must swear the panel as follows: “You solemnly swear or affirm that you will give true and correct answers to all questions asked of you concerning your qualifications as a juror.”
- (c) *Questioning the Jury.* The judge, the parties, or their attorneys will be allowed to question jurors as to their ability to serve impartially in the trial but may not ask the jurors how they will rule in the case. The judge will have discretion to allow or disallow specific questions and determine the amount of time each side will have for this process.
- (d) *Challenge for Cause.* A party may challenge any juror for cause. A challenge for cause is an objection made to a juror alleging some fact, such as a bias or prejudice, that disqualifies the juror from serving in the case or that renders the juror unfit to sit on the jury. The challenge must be made during jury questioning. The party must explain to the judge why the juror should be excluded from the jury. The judge must evaluate the questions and answers given and either grant or deny the challenge. When a challenge for cause has been sustained, the juror must be excused.
- (e) *Challenges Not for Cause.* After the judge determines any challenges for cause, each party may select up to 3 jurors to excuse for any reason or no reason at all. But no prospective juror may be excused for membership in a constitutionally protected class.
- (f) *The Jury.* After all challenges, the first 6 prospective jurors remaining on the list constitute the jury to try the case.
- (g) *If Jury Is Incomplete.* If challenges reduce the number of prospective jurors below 6, the judge may direct the sheriff, ~~or constable,~~ or clerk to summon others and allow them to be questioned and challenged by the parties as before, until at least 6 remain.
- (h) *Jury Sworn.* When the jury has been selected, the judge must require them to take substantially the following oath: “You solemnly swear or affirm that you will render a true verdict according to the law and the evidence presented.”