

**University of Tennessee College of Law Center for Advocacy & Dispute Resolution  
& The Tennessee Journal of Law & Policy  
Summers-Wyatt Symposium  
“Asking Jurors to do the Impossible”**

**Friday, March 27, 2009  
University of Tennessee College of Law  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

- 9:30 – 9:35 Welcome & Introduction
- 9:35 – 10:35 **Symposium Keynote Address: “Asking Jurors to do the Impossible”  
Peter Tiersma, Ph.D., J.D.**  
Dr. Tiersma will address how the legal profession may be “Asking Jurors to do the Impossible” when we fail to equip them with meaningful instructions about the law.
- 10:35 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 12:15 **Interdisciplinary Panel Response to Keynote Address  
Janet Ainsworth, M.A., J.D.; John W. Clark, Ph.D.; Bethany K. Dumas, Ph.D., J.D.; & David Ross, Ph.D.**  
The panelists will respond to Dr. Tiersma’s keynote address with interdisciplinary insight and suggestions from the fields of law, psychology, social psychology, and linguistics.
- 12:15 – 12:45 Lunch
- 12:45 – 1:45 **Afternoon Keynote Address: “Modern American Jury”  
Judge B. Michael Dann, LL.B, LL.M**  
Judge Dann will address implementation of jury trial innovations within the modern American jury system.
- 1:45 – 2:00 Break
- 2:00 – 3:00 **Tennessee Jury Instruction Session  
Led by panels of Tennessee judges and moderated by Dr. Tiersma, Professor Ainsworth, Dr. Clark, Dr. Dumas, and Dr. Ross**  
A host of Tennessee judges will join law students, lawyers, and citizens in considering and re-drafting problematic jury instructions. As they re-draft instructions, session participants will wrestle with the fundamental ethical questions of whether jurors are being asked to “do the impossible” and how judges and lawyers can help to make the jury’s entrustment “possible.” The morning experts will facilitate participants’ efforts and make suggestions.

3:00 – 3:15

Break

3:15 – 4:15

**Tennessee Jury Instruction Session**

**Led by panels of Tennessee judges and moderated by Dr. Tiersma  
Professor Ainsworth, Dr. Clark, Dr. Dumas, and Dr. Ross**

Judges will continue to join law students, lawyers, and citizens in considering and re-drafting problematic jury instructions. In re-drafting instructions, participants will continue to wrestle with the fundamental ethical questions of whether jurors are being asked to “do the impossible” and how judges and lawyers can help to make the jury’s entrustment “possible.” The morning experts will facilitate participants’ efforts and make suggestions.

4:15 – 4:30:

**Dr. Tiersma  
Helping Jurors Do their Job**

Based on the work completed during the Tennessee Jury Instruction Sessions, Dr. Tiersma will suggest a final revision of problematic instructions and explain how the revisions will assist jurors in doing their jobs.