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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LORENZO ADAMSON,  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
CHRISTOPHER O'BRIEN; DANIEL  
DUDLEY; and BRIAN STANSBURY,  
Defendants.

Case No.4:13-cv-05233 DMR

**[PROPOSED] PRELIMINARY JURY  
INSTRUCTIONS**

Counsel shall raise any objections to these proposed preliminary jury instructions on  
Monday, November 9, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

United States District Court  
Northern District of California

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**DUTY OF JURY**

Ladies and gentlemen: You are now the jury in this case. It is my duty to instruct you on the law.

You must not infer from these instructions or from anything I may say or do as indicating that I have an opinion regarding the evidence or what your verdict should be.

It is your duty to find the facts from all the evidence in the case. To those facts you will apply the law as I give it to you. You must follow the law as I give it to you whether you agree with it or not. And you must not be influenced by any personal likes or dislikes, opinions, prejudices, or sympathy. That means that you must decide the case solely on the evidence before you. You will recall that you took an oath to do so.

In following my instructions, you must follow all of them and not single out some and ignore others; they are all important.

**CLAIMS AND DEFENSES**

To help you follow the evidence, I will give you a brief summary of the positions of the parties:

Plaintiff Lorenzo Adamson and Defendants Sgt. Brian Stansbury and Officers Daniel Dudley and Christopher O'Brien are all San Francisco Police Officers. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants subjected him to excessive force following a traffic stop. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendants committed a violent act against him on the basis of his race. Plaintiff has the burden of proving these claims.

Defendants deny these claims, and allege that they used reasonable force to protect themselves and to take Plaintiff into custody.

**BURDEN OF PROOF—PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE**

When a party has the burden of proof on any claim by a preponderance of the evidence, it means you must be persuaded by the evidence that the claim is more probably true than not true.

You should base your decision on all of the evidence, regardless of which party presented it.

**TWO OR MORE PARTIES—DIFFERENT LEGAL RIGHTS**

You should decide the case as to each defendant party separately. Unless otherwise stated, the

1 instructions apply to all parties.

2 **EVIDENCE**

3 The evidence you are to consider in deciding what the facts are consists of:

- 4 1. the sworn testimony of any witness;
- 5 2. the exhibits which are received into evidence; and
- 6 3. any facts to which the lawyers have agreed.

7 In reaching your verdict, you may consider only the testimony and exhibits received into  
8 evidence. Certain things are not evidence, and you may not consider them in deciding what the  
9 facts are. I will list them for you:

10 (1) Arguments and statements by lawyers are not evidence. The lawyers are not witnesses.  
11 What they have said in their opening statements, will say in their closing arguments, and at  
12 other times is intended to help you interpret the evidence, but it is not evidence. If the facts  
13 as you remember them differ from the way the lawyers have stated them, your memory of  
14 them controls.

15 (2) Questions and objections by lawyers are not evidence. Attorneys have a duty to their  
16 clients to object when they believe a question is improper under the rules of evidence. You  
17 should not be influenced by the objection or by the court's ruling on it.

18 (3) Testimony that has been excluded or stricken, or that you have been instructed to  
19 disregard, is not evidence and must not be considered. In addition sometimes testimony  
20 and exhibits are received only for a limited purpose; when I give a limiting instruction, you  
21 must consider that evidence only for that limited purpose and for no other.

22 (4) Anything you may have seen or heard when the court was not in session is not  
23 evidence. You are to decide the case solely on the evidence received at the trial.

24 **DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE**

25 Evidence may be direct or circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as  
26 testimony by a witness about what that witness personally saw or heard or did. Circumstantial  
27 evidence is proof of one or more facts from which you could find another fact. You should  
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1 consider both kinds of evidence. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to  
2 either direct or circumstantial evidence. It is for you to decide how much weight to give to any  
3 evidence.

#### 4 **RULING ON OBJECTIONS**

5 There are rules of evidence that control what can be received into evidence. When a lawyer  
6 asks a question or offers an exhibit into evidence and a lawyer on the other side thinks that it is not  
7 permitted by the rules of evidence, that lawyer may object. If I overrule the objection, the  
8 question may be answered or the exhibit received. If I sustain the objection, the question cannot  
9 be answered, and the exhibit cannot be received. Whenever I sustain an objection to a question,  
10 you must ignore the question and must not guess what the answer might have been.

11 Sometimes I may order that evidence be stricken from the record and that you disregard or  
12 ignore the evidence. That means that when you are deciding the case, you must not consider the  
13 evidence that I told you to disregard.

#### 14 **CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES**

15 In deciding the facts in this case, you may have to decide which testimony to believe and  
16 which testimony not to believe. You may believe everything a witness says, or part of it, or none  
17 of it. Proof of a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of witnesses who testify about it.

18 In considering the testimony of any witness, you may take into account:

- 19
- 20 (1) the opportunity and ability of the witness to see or hear or know the things testified to;
  - 21 (2) the witness's memory;
  - 22 (3) the witness's manner while testifying;
  - 23 (4) the witness's interest in the outcome of the case and any bias or prejudice;
  - 24 (5) whether other evidence contradicted the witness's testimony;
  - 25 (6) the reasonableness of the witness's testimony in light of all the evidence; and
  - 26 (7) any other factors that bear on believability.
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1 The weight of the evidence as to a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of witnesses  
2 who testify about it.

3 **CONDUCT OF THE JURY**

4 I will now say a few words about your conduct as jurors.

5 First, keep an open mind throughout the trial, and do not decide what the verdict should be  
6 until you and your fellow jurors have completed your deliberations at the end of the case.

7 Second, because you must decide this case based only on the evidence received in the case and  
8 on my instructions as to the law that applies, you must not be exposed to any other information  
9 about the case or to the issues it involves during the course of your jury duty. Thus, until the end  
10 of the case or unless I tell you otherwise:  
11

12 Do not communicate with anyone in any way and do not let anyone else communicate with  
13 you in any way about the merits of the case or anything to do with it. This includes discussing the  
14 case in person, in writing, by phone or electronic means, via e-mail, text messaging, or any  
15 Internet chat room, blog, Web site or other feature. This applies to communicating with your  
16 fellow jurors until I give you the case for deliberation, and it applies to communicating with  
17 everyone else including your family members, your employer, the media or press, and the people  
18 involved in the trial, although you may notify your family and your employer that you have been  
19 seated as a juror in the case. But, if you are asked or approached in any way about your jury  
20 service or anything about this case, you must respond that you have been ordered not to discuss  
21 the matter and to report the contact to the court.  
22

23 Because you will receive all the evidence and legal instruction you properly may consider to  
24 return a verdict: do not read, watch, or listen to any news or media accounts or commentary about  
25 the case or anything to do with it; do not do any research, such as consulting dictionaries,  
26 searching the Internet or using other reference materials; and do not make any investigation or in  
27 any other way try to learn about the case on your own.  
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The law requires these restrictions to ensure the parties have a fair trial based on the same evidence that each party has had an opportunity to address. A juror who violates these restrictions jeopardizes the fairness of these proceedings. If any juror is exposed to any outside information, please notify the court immediately.

**NO TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE TO JURY**

During deliberations, you will have to make your decision based on what you recall of the evidence. You will not have a transcript of the trial. I urge you to pay close attention to the testimony as it is given.

If at any time you cannot hear or see the testimony, evidence, questions or arguments, let me know so that I can correct the problem.

**TAKING NOTES**

If you wish, you may take notes to help you remember the evidence. If you do take notes, please keep them to yourself until you and your fellow jurors go to the jury room to decide the case. Do not let note-taking distract you. When you leave each day, your notes should be left in the jury room. No one will read your notes. They will be destroyed at the conclusion of the case.

Whether or not you take notes, you should rely on your own memory of the evidence. Notes are only to assist your memory. You should not be overly influenced by your notes or those of your fellow jurors.

**BENCH CONFERENCES AND RECESSES**

From time to time during the trial, it may become necessary for me to talk with the attorneys out of the hearing of the jury, either by having a conference at the bench when the jury is present in the courtroom, or by calling a recess. Please understand that while you are waiting, we are working. The purpose of these conferences is not to keep relevant information from you, but to decide how certain evidence is to be treated under the rules of evidence and to avoid confusion and error.

Of course, we will do what we can to keep the number and length of these conferences to a minimum. I may not always grant an attorney's request for a conference. Do not consider my

1 granting or denying a request for a conference as any indication of my opinion of the case or of  
2 what your verdict should be.

### 3 **OUTLINE OF TRIAL**

4 Trials proceed in the following way: First, each side may make an opening statement. An  
5 opening statement is not evidence. It is simply an outline to help you understand what that party  
6 expects the evidence will show. A party is not required to make an opening statement.

7 The plaintiff will then present evidence, and counsel for the defendant may cross-examine.  
8 Then the defendant may present evidence, and counsel for the plaintiff may cross-examine.

9 After the evidence has been presented, I will instruct you on the law that applies to the case  
10 and the attorneys will make closing arguments.

11 After that, you will go to the jury room to deliberate on your verdict.

### 12 **USE OF INTERROGATORIES OF A PARTY**

13 Evidence may be presented to you in the form of answers of one of the parties to written  
14 interrogatories submitted by the other side. These answers were given in writing and under oath,  
15 before the actual trial, in response to questions that were submitted in writing under established  
16 court procedures. You should consider the answers, insofar as possible, in the same way as if they  
17 were made from the witness stand.

### 18 **EXPERT OPINION**

19 Some witnesses, because of education or experience, are permitted to state opinions and the  
20 reasons for those opinions.

21 Opinion testimony should be judged just like any other testimony. You may accept it or reject  
22 it, and give it as much weight as you think it deserves, considering the witness's education and  
23 experience, the reasons given for the opinion, and all the other evidence in the case.

### 24 **CHARTS AND SUMMARIES NOT RECEIVED IN EVIDENCE**

25 Certain charts and summaries not received in evidence may be shown to you in order to help  
26 explain the contents of books, records, documents, or other evidence in the case. They are not  
27 themselves evidence or proof of any facts. If they do not correctly reflect the facts or figures  
28 shown by the evidence in the case, you should disregard these charts and summaries and

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determine the facts from the underlying evidence.

**CHARTS AND SUMMARIES IN EVIDENCE**

Certain charts and summaries may be received into evidence to illustrate information brought out in the trial. Charts and summaries are only as good as the underlying evidence that supports them. You should, therefore, give them only such weight as you think the underlying evidence deserves.

Dated: November 5, 2015



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Donna M. Ryu  
United States Magistrate Judge