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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

ALMA BURRELL,
Plaintiff,
v.
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA,
Defendant.

No. CV11-04569 LHK

PRELIMINARY JURY INSTRUCTIONS

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 6, 2013


LUCY H. KOH
United States District Judge

**JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 1
DUTY OF JURY**

1
2 Ladies and gentlemen: You are now the jury in this case. It is my duty to instruct you on the
3 law.

4 These instructions are preliminary instructions to help you understand the principles that
5 apply to civil trials and to help you understand the evidence as you listen to it. You will be allowed
6 to keep this set throughout the trial to which to refer. This set of instructions is not to be taken home
7 and must remain in the jury room when you leave in the evenings. At the end of the trial, I will give
8 you a final set of instructions. It is the final set of instructions which will govern your deliberations.

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

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

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

**JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 2
CLAIMS AND DEFENSES**

1
2 To help you follow the evidence, I will give you a brief summary of the positions of the
3 parties:

4 Plaintiff Alma Burrell claims that she should have been promoted from a Health Care
5 Program Manager II to a Senior Health Care Program Manager but that Defendant County of Santa
6 Clara did not reclassify her due to her race.

7 Defendant County of Santa Clara denies Plaintiff's claims. The County contends that it had
8 legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons for the employment decisions at issue and that it did not base
9 any decision on Plaintiff's race.

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**JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 3
PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE**

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

5 You should base your decision on all of the evidence, regardless of which party presented it.
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**JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 5
WHAT IS EVIDENCE**

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

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

JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 6
WHAT IS NOT EVIDENCE

1
2 In reaching your verdict, you may consider only the testimony and exhibits received into
3 evidence. Certain things are not evidence, and you may not consider them in deciding what the facts
4 are. I will list them for you:

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

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

12 (3) Testimony that has been excluded or stricken, or that you have been instructed to
13 disregard, is not evidence and must not be considered. In addition sometimes testimony and exhibits
14 are received only for a limited purpose; when I give a limiting instruction, you must follow it.

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

JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 7
EVIDENCE FOR LIMITED PURPOSE

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Some evidence may be admitted for a limited purpose only.

When I instruct you that an item of evidence has been admitted for a limited purpose, you must consider it only for that limited purpose and for no other.

JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 8
DIRECT AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

1
2 Evidence may be direct or circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as
3 testimony by a witness about what that witness personally saw or heard or did. Circumstantial
4 evidence is proof of one or more facts from which you could find another fact. You should consider
5 both kinds of evidence. The law makes no distinction between the weight to be given to either direct
6 or circumstantial evidence. It is for you to decide how much weight to give to any evidence.
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**JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 9
RULING ON OBJECTIONS**

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

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

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**JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 10
CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES**

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

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

- (1) The opportunity and ability of the witness to see or hear or know the things testified to;
- (2) The witness's memory;
- (3) The witness's manner while testifying;
- (4) The witness's interest in the outcome of the case and any bias or prejudice;
- (5) Whether other evidence contradicted the witness's testimony;
- (6) The reasonableness of the witness's testimony in light of all the evidence; and
- (7) Any other factors that bear on believability.

The weight of the evidence as to a fact does not necessarily depend on the number of witnesses who testify about it.

**JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 11
CONDUCT OF THE JURY**

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

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

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

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

Because you will receive all the evidence and legal instruction you properly may consider to return a verdict: do not read, watch, or listen to any news or media accounts or commentary about the case or anything to do with it; do not do any research, such as consulting dictionaries, searching the Internet or using other reference materials; and do not make any investigation or in any other way try to learn about the case on your own.

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1 The law requires these restrictions to ensure the parties have a fair trial based on the same
2 evidence that each party has had an opportunity to address. A juror who violates these restrictions
3 jeopardizes the fairness of these proceedings, and a mistrial could result that would require the entire
4 trial process to start over. If any juror is exposed to any outside information, please notify the court
5 immediately.

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JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 12
NO TRANSCRIPT AVAILABLE TO JURY

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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.

JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 13
TAKING NOTES

1
2 If you wish, you may take notes to help you remember the evidence. If you do take notes,
3 please keep them to yourself until you and your fellow jurors go to the jury room to decide the case.
4 Do not let note taking distract you. When you leave, your notes should be left in the jury room. No
5 one will read your notes. They will be destroyed at the conclusion of the case.

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

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JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 14
BENCH CONFERENCES AND RECESSES

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

7 Of course, we will do what we can to keep the number and length of these conferences to a
8 minimum. I may not always grant an attorney's request for a conference. Do not consider my
9 granting or denying a request for a conference as any indication of my opinion of the case or of what
10 your verdict should be.

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JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 15
OUTLINE OF TRIAL

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

5 The Plaintiff will then present evidence, and counsel for the County may cross-examine.
6 Then the County may present evidence, and counsel for the Plaintiff may cross-examine.

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

9 After that, you will go to the jury room to deliberate on your verdict.
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JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 16
EXPERT OPINION

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

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