**02.01 Closing Instructions — General Remarks**

Members of the jury, you have now heard and seen all of the evidence in the case and you have heard argument about the meaning of the evidence. We have reached the stage of the trial where I instruct you about the law to be applied.

It is important that each of you listen carefully to the instructions. Your duty as jurors does not end with your fair and impartial consideration of the evidence. Your duty also includes paying careful attention to the instructions so that the law will properly and justly be applied to the parties in this case. You will have a copy of my instructions with you when you go in to the jury room to deliberate and to reach your verdict. But it is still absolutely necessary for you to pay careful attention to the instructions now. Sometimes the spoken word is clearer than the written word, and you should not miss the chance to hear the instructions. I will give them to you as clearly as I can in order to assist you as much as possible.

The order in which the instructions are given has no relation to their importance. The length of instructions also has no relation to importance. Some concepts require more explanation than others, but this does not make longer instructions more important than shorter ones. All of the instructions are important and all should be carefully considered. You should understand each instruction and see how it relates to the others given.

### Use Note

This instruction should be the first of the closing instructions to the jury. It reminds jurors of the seriousness of the instructions and their continuing obligation to be attentive and fair-minded. An instruction on the use of pronouns is found in Instruction 02.03.

### Comment

There is an argument that the jury should not be told that written instructions will accompany it to the jury room, or the jury will become careless in listening to the judge's charge. This instruction points out to the jury the advantage of having both an oral and written version of the charge and has the advantage of letting jurors know that they do not have to memorize every word of the instructions as the judge delivers them.