02.27 CLOSING INSTRUCTIONS — REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTIES

One of the parties in this case is represented by an attorney. The other is not. A party may have an attorney at trial, or a party may act on [his] [her] own behalf. A party should not be treated differently based on [his] [her] decision to use or not to use an attorney. You should draw no conclusions about the merits of the case or any issue you have to decide just because one party has chosen to be represented by an attorney and the other party has chosen to represent [himself] [herself].

# Use Note

This instruction should be given if one of the parties has a lawyer and the other does not. If neither party has a lawyer, then this instruction should be omitted. This instruction may also be omitted if the court has given an opening instruction on representatives of parties (e.g., Pattern Instruction 01.04).

# Comment

The jury should be told that the presence or absence of a lawyer is not an invitation to favorable or unfavorable consideration of a party. Parties are to be judged on the evidence presented, whether they have lawyers or not.