

Virtual Jury Selection: A Practical Guide for Court Professionals

Presented by the State Bar of Georgia. Special thanks to the Chief Justice's COVID-19 Taskforce, Justice Shawn LaGrua, and the Superior Court of Fulton County.

September 1, 2021

Elizabeth Fite President, State Bar of Georgia

Introduction



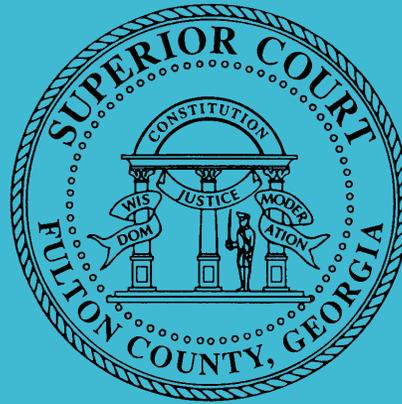
Justice Shawn LaGrua Georgia Supreme Court

Opening remarks



Christopher S. Brasher Chief Judge, Superior Court Atlanta Judicial Circuit

Introduction and overview of
Virtual Jury Selection Process



Virtual Voir Dire Process

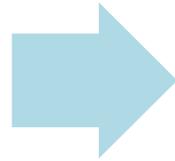


**FULTON
COUNTY**

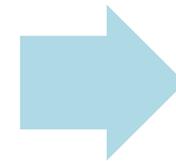
Virtual Voir Dire Process Overview



Jury Services' Process
Phase 1

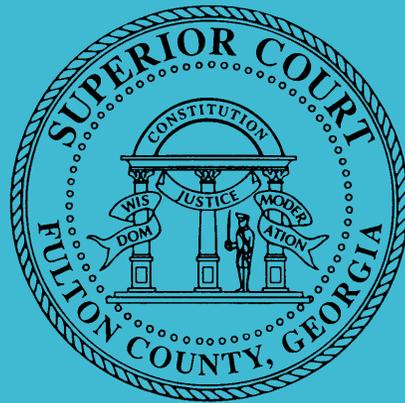


Courtroom Process
Phase 2

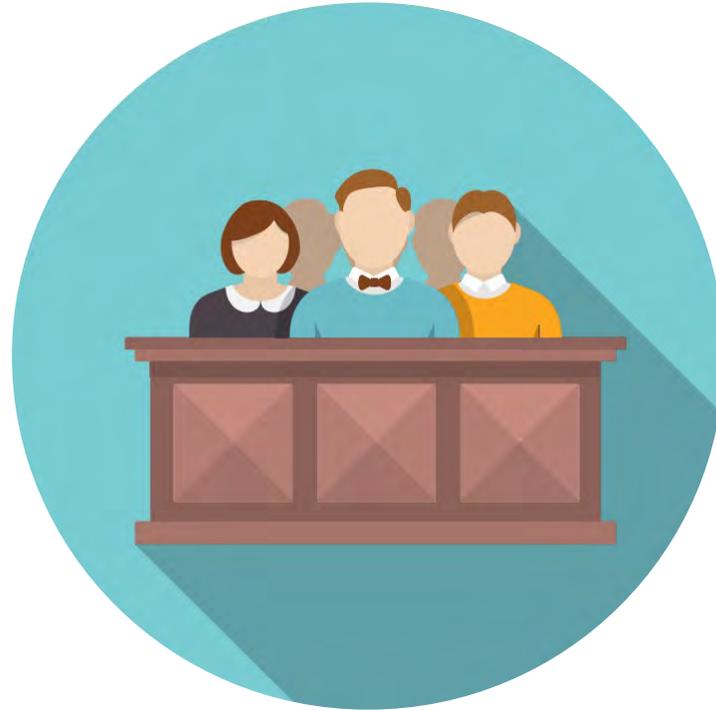


Technology Process
Phase 3

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Jury Clerk
Superior & State Courts
Fulton County



Virtual Voir Dire Process Overview



Jury Services' Process *Phase 1*

PHASE 1



Jury Services' Process

Zoom Account Set-up

- Jury Services sets up unique Zoom accounts for virtual voir dire days with unique meeting IDs and passcodes

Summons Jurors

- Summons postcards mailed to jurors 30-45 days in advance of service date; juror can scan QR Code or log onto the address provided to complete online questionnaire



PHASE 1

CONTINUED



Jury Services' Process

Online Juror Questionnaire: Juror Email Address

- Juror completes online juror questionnaire and provides email address; juror answers technology questions

TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONNAIRE

Jurors will be qualified for service remotely through the user of the Zoom video conferencing application. In order to participate, you will need a device (Computer, Cellphone, Tablet) with audio and video, and a reliable internet connection. If chosen to serve as a juror for a particular case, you will report to the courthouse as directed by the trial Judge.

Please review the questions below.

If your answer to any of the questions is NO, please contact us at info.juryservices@fultoncountyga.gov, or 404-612-4600. Please note, if you do not have the equipment or internet access, Fulton County will provide this to you at the Courthouse.

1. I have a device that I can use to appear remotely for jury selection (Computer, Tablet, Cellphone)
2. My device has a web camera
3. I have access to high speed or broadband internet
4. The internet plan on the device I will use has unlimited data
5. I have a private place where I can use the internet without interruption from others

Technology Questions

- Jurors who do not have technology call Jury Services to be assigned a "Tech Station" at the courthouse; jurors report to courthouse for Zoom process

PHASE 1

CONTINUED



Jury Services' Process

Email Zoom Invite to Juror

- On date and time of virtual jury selection indicated on summons, juror logs into Zoom using link sent to email address
- Jurors without technology report to courthouse and use a pre-assigned technology station

Jury Services Hosts Zoom Check-In

- Jury Services hosts Zoom juror check in process
- Jury Services checks in jurors into JMS software for payment
- Jury Services renames, panels, assigns numbers and arranges tiles in order of juror number

Jury Services notifies courtroom jurors are ready

- Jury Services notifies courtroom jurors are ready
- Courtroom logs onto Zoom invite as "Judge.VoirDire" a Zoom account pre-configured with IT recommended Zoom settings

Jury Services Transfer Hosting to Courtroom Staff

- Jury Services transfers hosting to voir dire Zoom account
- Courtroom takes over voir dire process

PHASE 1

CONTINUED

Check-in Process Demo



JURY STAFF CHECKS IN JURORS



Virtual Voir Dire Process



Courtroom Process

Phase 2

PHASE 2



Courtroom Process

Each judge has a dedicated virtual jury selection Zoom account

- Judge.VoirDire@fultoncountyga.gov
- This account's settings remain pre-programmed for all virtual voir dire events

Each judge's staff pre-programs the recommended Zoom settings before the jury selection

- IT developed recommended settings with Bench input
- Virtual jury selection Zoom skills are a bit more involved than virtual court hearings, but focus on the same skill set

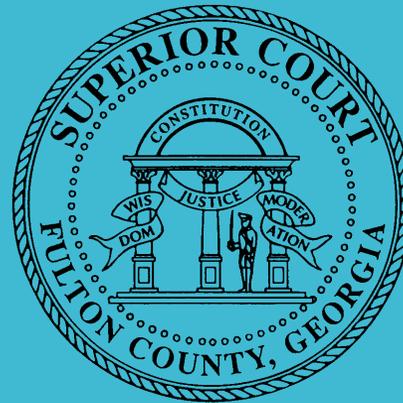
The courtroom joins the Zoom link at 9:45AM after check-in is complete

- Pre-trial discussions take place on another courtroom Zoom meeting; parties leave courtroom link to sign onto voir dire meeting
- Court staff invites courtroom equipment to Zoom meeting
- Attorneys are instructed to join voir dire Zoom at 9:50AM

Voir dire begins

- Judges agree on a virtual voir dire script
- Determine breakout rooms needed
- Move jurors between various breakout rooms

Adejuwon Anjoorin
Deputy Director, IT
Atlanta Judicial Circuit



Virtual Voir Dire Process



Technology Process

Phase 3



- Zoom Meetings is a video conferencing platform
- Utilizes:
 - An email address
 - A Zoom license
 - A PC or mobile device
 - A person

Zoom
License



E-mail Address



zoomrooms

- Zoom Rooms is an upgrade to Zoom meetings
- It is Zoom Meetings + Automation Capabilities that optimizes the conference room experience
- Utilizes:
 - An email address
 - A Zoom license
 - A PC or mobile device
 - A Virtual Controller

Zoom Rooms
License



E-mail Address



Why Zoom Rooms?

Automation capability provides easy remote control and administration of devices through a virtual controller

Courtroom Layout



Mobile Video Conference Cart



Waiting Area Mounted TV





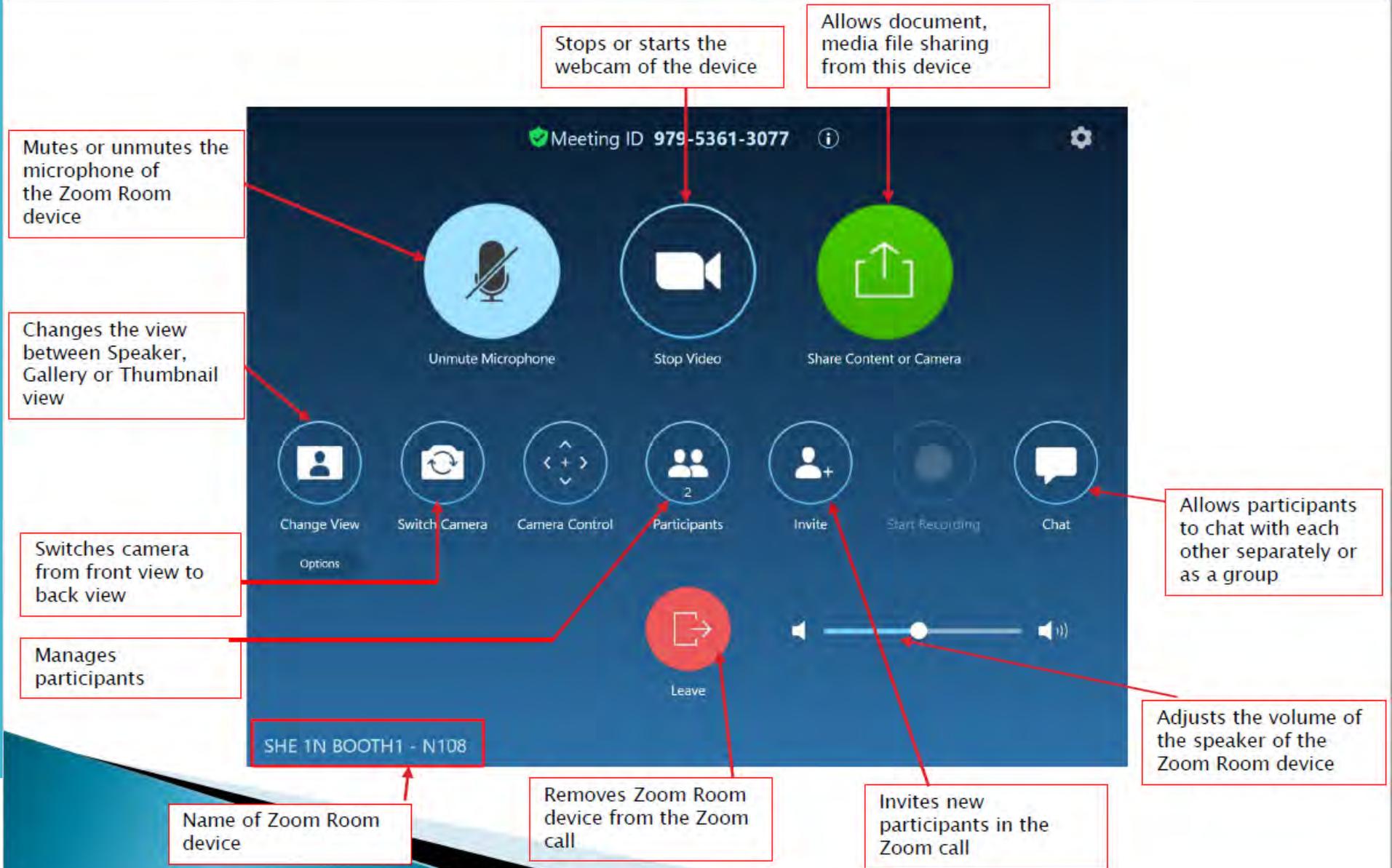
Zoom Skills Required

- Zoom know-how requirements for Jury and Court Staff:
 - Setup Zoom settings for dedicated voir dire account
 - Rename and reorder jurors on the Zoom call
 - Place and remove jurors into or from breakout rooms
 - Stream Zoom live to YouTube
 - Add or remove participants to or from the call
 - Add or remove Zoom Rooms to or from the call
 - Identify source of echo and mute device as necessary
 - Assist jurors with minor Zoom issues such as:
 - How to use the mute button
 - The different views available on their device
 - Rejoining the meeting should they get disconnected

Fulton Jury Services Division and Court IT created training documentation, videos, and organized training for chambers staff

THE VIRTUAL CONTROLLER

The Virtual Controller facilitates the remote administration of a Zoom Room



Technology Requirements



- **Strong and Reliable Wi-Fi**
 - FCIT installed one Wireless Access Point per Courtroom
- **Potential Network Upgrades**
 - QoS for video conferencing may be considered
 - Subnet for video conferencing may be considered
 - Redundant Internet Sources
- **Devices & Licenses**
 - 24-inch All-In-One Computers ~\$1100
 - DTEN Zoom Room Device ~\$650
 - Digital Elmo Visual Presenter ~\$450
 - 75" TV Mobile Video Conference Cart ~\$2000
 - Zoom Rooms License \$49/month/room
 - Mini PCs ~ \$1100
 - Peripherals – keyboard, mouse, webcams
- **Sound System compatible with modern AV systems**



THE PROCESS IN ACTION



THE JUDGE STARTS THE
VOIR DIRE COURTROOM PROCESS

Concluding Remarks:

Judge Brasher
Justice LaGrua
President Fite

Questions?