



## Litigation e-Newsletter



### Knowledge Acquisition

DOAR's Jury Research Group, in partnership with leading educational and research institutions, is conducting several research programs to study the effects of recent innovations within today's high tech courtroom. Specifically, what measurable effects does the use of juror note-taking, multimedia presentations and 3-D animations have on jurors? This research is ongoing and results will be available upon completion and final analysis. The following is a brief summary of current programs:

#### Multimedia Presentations

Researchers from DOAR Litigation Support & Trial Services, Quinnipiac University School of Law, and Baruch College, are conducting experimental research on the effect of graphic presentations in courtroom settings. By gathering data from 80 mock jurors, researchers hope to illuminate the effects of graphic presentations in three key areas. First, researchers are examining the effect of graphic presentations on juror decision-making, juror retention and comprehension of case facts, juror emotional response to the parties and the case, and juror evaluation of attorney competency and credibility. Second, researchers are examining the varying effects of different graphic components, e.g., animations, layouts, and visual representation strategies, on the aforementioned juror processes. Third, researchers are examining the impact of graphic presentations made by both the plaintiff and the defense, the plaintiff only, and the defense only. To receive information on the results of this study, please contact [Chad Lackey, Ph.D.](#), Senior Research Associate.

#### 3-D Animations

Researchers from DOAR Litigation Support and Trial Services have teamed with researchers, Veronica Dahir and James Richardson, from the University of Nevada, Reno to study the effects of graphics, particularly 3-D animations, on jurors' comprehension of perceived strong and weak arguments. Specifically, the

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researchers focus on two hypotheses: the elaboration-enhancement hypothesis and the elaboration-disruption hypothesis. The elaboration-enhancement hypothesis proposes that good graphics enhance strong arguments and exacerbate weak arguments. Conversely, the elaboration-disruption hypothesis proposes that graphics increase the persuasiveness of weak arguments but diminish the persuasiveness of strong arguments. By gathering data from a 180 jury-eligible participants, the study assesses the effects of animations on liability ratings and damage awards, attitude towards the intervening effects of memory as well as comprehension on decision-making.

To discuss this study, please contact [Jessica Evans, J.D.](#), Research Associate.

### **Juror Note-Taking**

DOAR researchers are conducting independent research on juror note-taking. Utilizing an ethnographic approach, this exploratory study will examine the manner in which jurors incorporate notes into the group decision-making process. Video taped deliberations of six panels of mock jurors will be examined. In addition to gaining a better understanding of how note-taking may impact deliberations, understanding how jurors utilize notes may have practical implications for trial preparation and strategy. To receive information on the upcoming results of this study, please contact [Kimberlee Nawyn](#), Senior Research Associate.

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