


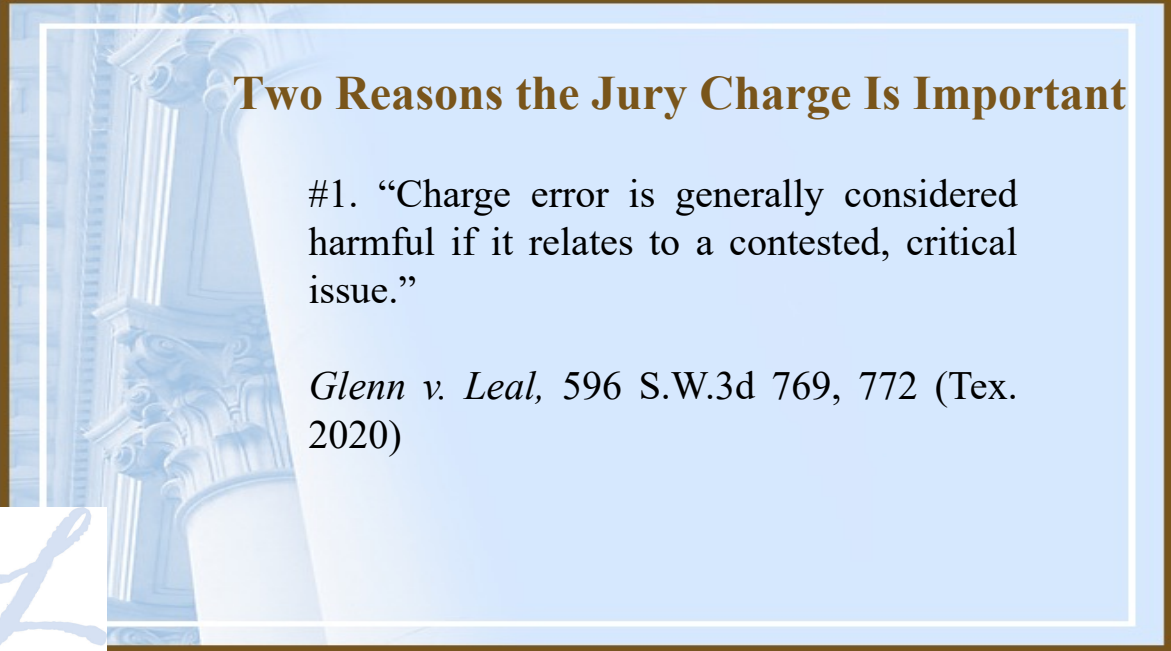
# The Court's Charge 2024

Harvey Brown  
Lanier Law Firm



The Lanier  
Law Firm


1



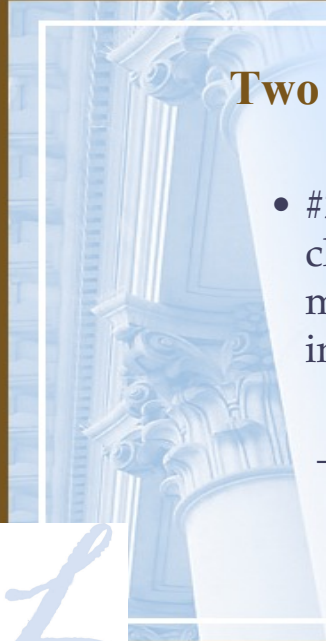
## Two Reasons the Jury Charge Is Important

#1. “Charge error is generally considered harmful if it relates to a contested, critical issue.”

*Glenn v. Leal*, 596 S.W.3d 769, 772 (Tex. 2020)



2



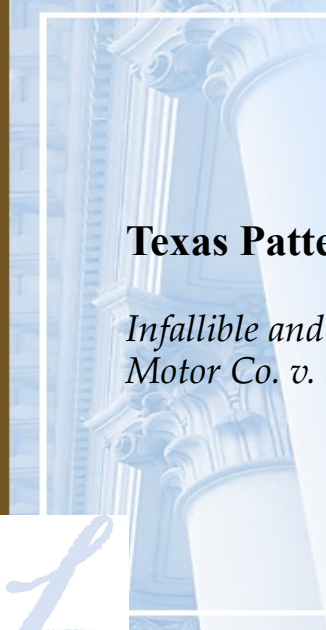
## Two Reasons the Jury Charge Is Important

- #2. When there has been no objection to the charge, the sufficiency of the evidence is measured by the charge's definitions and instructions.
  - Even when the charge gets the law wrong.

*L*

3

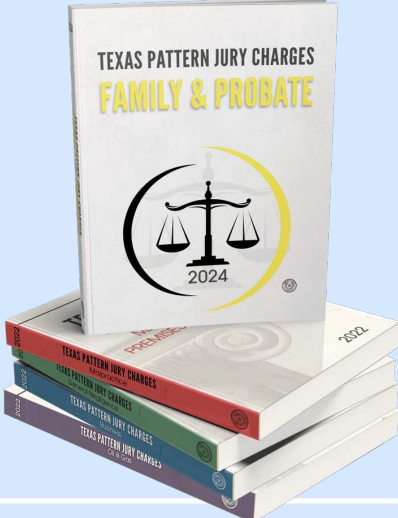
3



## Drafting the Charge

### Texas Pattern Jury Charges

*Infallible and binding? No. Ford Motor Co. v. Ledesma (Tex. 2007)*



*L*

4

## Drafting the Charge

### PJC Comments are your friends

9. *Medical care expenses* incurred in the past.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. *Medical care expenses* that, in reasonable probability, *Paul Payne* will incur in the future.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Negligence at PJC 28.3 (2022)

5

## Drafting the Charge

### PJC Comments are your friends

9. **Reasonable expenses** of necessary *medical care* incurred in the past.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Reasonable expenses of necessary *medical care* that, in reasonable probability, *Paul Payne* will incur in the future.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Negligence PJC 28.3, Comment (2022)

6

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](https://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: The Court's Charge 2024

Also available as part of the eCourse

[2024 eConference on State and Federal Appeals](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals session "Jury Charge Update"