

Jury Charges



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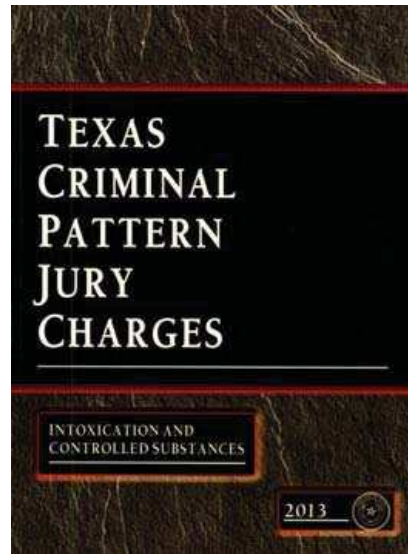
Robert O. Dawson Conference on Criminal Appeals
May 3, 2018

What we'll cover:

1. New pattern jury charges
2. Sua sponte instructions
3. Common issues on appeal

New pattern jury charges

State Law Library
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The screenshot shows the Lexis Advance Research website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Lexis Advance Research logo, a 'Browse' dropdown menu, and user options for 'Client: None', 'History', and 'More'. Below the navigation bar is the Lexis Advance logo and links for 'Advanced Search', 'Tips', and 'Get a Doc Assistance'. A search bar is prominently displayed with the placeholder text 'Enter terms, sources, a citation, or shep: to Shepardize®' and a search button labeled 'Search: Everything'. Below the search bar is an 'Explore Content' section with a dropdown arrow and a grid of content categories. The grid has columns for 'Federal', 'State', 'Practice Area or Industry', and 'International'. The categories listed include Cases, Statutes and Legislation, Administrative Codes and Regulations, Administrative and Agency Materials, Secondary Materials, Forms, Briefs, Pleadings and Motions, Jury Verdicts and Settlements, Expert Witness Analysis, News, Legal News, Dockets, Scientific, Company and Financial, Directories, Practical Guidance, and Public Records. A link for 'Jury Instructions' is highlighted in blue at the bottom left of the grid.

Sua sponte instructions

Sua sponte instructions

Subject to the provisions of Article 36.07 in each felony case and in each misdemeanor case tried in a court of record, the judge shall, before the argument begins, deliver to the jury, except in pleas of guilty, where a jury has been waived, a written charge distinctly setting forth the law applicable to the case; not expressing any opinion as to the weight of the evidence, not summing up the testimony, discussing the facts or using any argument in his charge calculated to arouse the sympathy or excite the passions of the jury.

Tex. Code Crim. Proc. art. 36.14

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