

Presentation Abstract—Professor Thaddeus Hoffmeister

My presentation, *Google, Gadgets and Guilt: Juror Misconduct in the Digital Age*, consists of two parts. Part I begins with a discussion of the Digital Age's influence on juror research and communications. Here, the presentation will examine both the modern and traditional rationales for juror research. Next, the presentation will demonstrate how the Digital Age has not only expanded the opportunities for juror research, but also opened-up fertile new grounds for why jurors want to conduct such research. This part concludes by discussing juror-to-juror communications and showcasing how technology, like with juror research, has led to increased instances of juror misconduct.

Part II analyzes possible steps to limit the negative impact of technology on jurors. While no single solution exists, this part of the presentation will focus on four reform measures that could address, and possibly reduce, the detrimental effects of the Digital Age on jurors. The remedies proposed by this presentation are: (1) penalizing jurors; (2) investigating jurors; (3) allowing jurors to ask questions; and (4) improving juror instructions. After briefly discussing each remedy, this presentation will examine a model jury instruction that was created by the presenter and used in *U.S. v. Barry Bonds*.