IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

JOHN C. DEPP, II,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	CL-2019-2911
)	
AMBER LAURA HEARD,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

ORDER

THIS CAUSE came before the Court upon Defendant Amber Laura Heard's Post-Trial Motions.

AFTER REVIEW of Defendant's Post-Trial Motions, Plaintiff's Opposition, and the relevant statutes and caselaw; it is therefore

ORDERED as follows:

Defendant Amber Laura Heard's Post-Trial Motions I through VI are **DENIED** for the reasons stated on the record.

Defendant Amber Laura Heard's Post-Trial Motion VII is likewise **DENIED** for the reasons outlined below.

The purpose of *voir dire* is to obtain a fair and impartial jury. Voir dire is necessary to ascertain "whether any juror has any interest in the case, or any bias or prejudice in relation to it, and that he in fact stands indifferent in the cause." ²

The Summons issued to Juror Fifteen listed his legal name and address and no birth date was noted. The Court has pulled Juror Fifteen's Jury Questionnaire (attached as redacted; filed under seal). Juror Fifteen completed the Jury Questionnaire as himself filling in his proper birth date. The information presented

¹ Turner v. Commonwealth, 221 Va. 513, 522 (1980), cert denied, 451 U.S. 1011, 101 S. Ct. 2347, 68 L.E.2d 863 (1981).

² Rust v. Reid, 124 Va. 1, 16 (1918).

on the Jury Questionnaire matches the information Juror Fifteen provided to the Court. Juror Fifteen was vetted by the Court on the record and met the statutory requirements for service. The parties also questioned the jury panel for a full day and informed the Court that the jury panel was acceptable. Therefore, Due Process was guaranteed and provided to all parties in this litigation. *Voir dire* was conducted in a fair and impartial manner, with the Court and both parties examining the potential jurors. There is no evidence of fraud or wrongdoing.

Further, the Defendant was provided the jury list five days prior to the commencement of trial and knew or should have known about the mistake at any time during the seven-week pendency of this trial. She had every opportunity to object to or to *voir dire* on the issue. Parties generally must make objections at the time a ruling or order is made to put the Court on notice that an issue is meant to be preserved.³ Despite Defendant's assertion in footnote 9 of her Motion, Va. Code § 8.01-353(A) clearly states:

"Any error in the information shown on such copy of the jury panel shall not be grounds for a mistrial or assignable as error on appeal, and the parties in the case shall be responsible for verifying the accuracy of such information."

(emphasis added). Consequently, Defendant (as well as Plaintiff) had an affirmative obligation to ensure the accuracy of the information provided for the jury panel. A party cannot wait until receiving an adverse verdict to object, for the first time, on an issue known since the beginning of trial. The issue has been waived.

Even if, *arguendo*, the objection has not been waived, objections to any alleged discrepancies in jury lists and any legal disabilities of potential jurors must be made in accordance with Virginia Code Section 8.01-352. That Section provides, in relevant part:

"Unless objection to such irregularity or disability is made pursuant to subsection A herein and unless it appears that the irregularity was intentional or that the irregularity or disability be such as to probably cause injustice . . . in a civil case to the party making the

³ See, e.g., Campbell v. Commonwealth, 12 Va. App. 476, 477 (1991) (en banc).

objection, then such irregularity or disability shall not be cause for summoning a new panel or juror or for setting aside a verdict or granting a new trial."

Va. Code § 8.01-352(B). Furthermore, while parties must make this objection while following the above procedure, the party moving under this Code Section must provide some evidence of prejudice. Defendant has neither followed the proper procedure nor shown evidence of prejudice.

Defendant does not allege Juror Fifteen's inclusion on the jury prejudiced her in any way. The juror was vetted, sat for the entire jury, deliberated, and reached a verdict. The only evidence before this Court is that this juror and all jurors followed their oaths, the Court's instructions, and orders. This Court is bound by the competent decision of the jury.⁴

ENTERED this 13th day of July

The Honorable Penney S. Azcarate

THIS ORDER IS FINAL.

ENDORSEMENT OF THIS ORDER BY COUNSEL OF RECORD FOR THE PARTIES IS WAIVED IN THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT PURSUANT TO RULE 1:13 OF THE SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA.

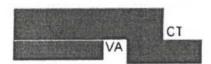
⁴ See Yellow Cab Corp. of Abingdon v. Henderson, 231 Va. 260, 265 (1941) (noting that possibilities of prejudice are not sufficient to overturn a jury verdict and the orderly administration of justice should not be overturned absent a clear showing of prejudice). See, e.g., Mighty v. Commonwealth, 17 Va. App. 495, 498 (1993) (sustaining the judgment of a trial court's decision where two felons sat on the jury because the defendant made no showing of "probable injustice").



JUROR DATA







You must submit this information within 10 days

Submit online at https://www.fairfax.county.gov/juror OR mail this original form. See Special Instructions below

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE COURT WITH REQUESTS TO BE EXCUSED FROM JURY SERVICE AT THIS TIME.

If this questionnaire is intended for someone who is away (college, overseas, etc.), they can submit the questionnaire online at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/juror

Change of Address

STREET ADDRESS DO NOT write in your address below unless your printed address is incorrect.

CITY

STATE ZIP + 4

In accordance with Virginia law, your name has been randomly selected as a prospective juror for the Fairfax County Circuit Court for next year's term of court. This is not a summons to appear. Please complete this CONFIDENTIAL questionnaire online or by mail within 10 days. If you are qualified, you may be summoned for jury duty within the next year. Fallure to return a completed questionnaire online or by mail may result In your being summoned to complete the form in the Circuit Court Clerk's office

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- · Online Option:
 - 1. Visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/juror and fill in the criteria to log in. Follow the screen prompts to complete the
- 2. You will need the Barcode Number which is located at the top of this form
- 3. If you choose this option, do not mail in the questionnaire
- · Mailing Option:
 - 1. Complete in Black ink only
- 2. Complete by answering each question or checking the appropriate box, then sign and date this questionnaire, if incomplete, it will be returned to you
- 3. Return this questionnaire in the enclosed return envelope
- 4. If you choose this option, do not submit online

SELF

CELL PHONE

DATE OF BIRTH

IT MANAGEMENT

DAYTIME PHONE

Do you own real estate in Fairfax County or the City of Fairfax? **Yes

CONTINUE ON BACK











JURY QUESTIONNAIRE CONTINUED

You must submit this information within 10 days.

Submit online at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/juror OR mail this original form.

QUALIFICATIONS

Ye Ye	20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 2	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	I have been a resident of Virginia for the past 12 months I have been a legal resident of Fairfax city county for the past 5 months. I am 18 years of age or older I am able to communicate in the English language I have reported as a juror in a Circuit Court within the last 3 years If yes, list the year and Court Name I am unable to serve as a juror due to mental impairment. (Please include a doctor's explanation.) I have been convicted of treason or felony. If yes, please explain If yes to question 8, I have had my civil rights restored Yes No, or I have had only my right to vote restored Yes No Date restored	
		-	POSSIBLE EXEMPTIONS	
CHEC	THE AP	PR	OPRIATE BOX IF YOU WISH TO CLAIM AN EXEMPTION.	
1. I am 70 years of age or older and do not wish to serve. Date of birth MUST be provided on front				
2 I am necessarily and personally responsible during normal court hours for providing the continuous care required by (i)				
			ridren age 16 years or younger of whom I have legal custody, or (ii) a person having a physical or mental	
Па	The part of the same		(Please include a written explanation.)	
			er breast-feeding a child. per of the armed services of the United States or the diplomatic service of the United States appointed under	
			Service Act, who will be serving outside of the United States	
			Va. Code §8.01-341, I am a licensed practicing attorney, a judge of any court, a member of the State	
	Corporate	on (Commission, a member of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.	
11.000	Pursuant ail officer		/a Code §8.01-341, I am a magistrate or sworn state/local law enforcement, state/local correctional or	
	because t hose sen	he nce	ed to serve on a jury. (i) a business, commercial or agricultural enterprise must close or cease to function services I provide are essential to the operations of the enterprise and I am the only person who performs is, or (ii) a political subdivision will suffer undue hardship in carrying out essential services because I am the ir as defined in § 65.2-102 who performs those services. (Please Include a written explanation.)	
			If you have a medical condition that potentially prevents your service as a juror, please include a request to ridoctor for consideration by the jury commissioners.	
	F	or g	juidance on the questionnaire process, you may contact the Circuit Court at: 703-246-7690	
IHE	REBY CE	R	IFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.	
SIG	NATURE		DATE August 26, 2021	
			If ADA accommodations are needed, please call (703) 246-2292. TTY 711.	
			4	

А

