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MIAMI, FLORIDA CHAPTER

June 25, 2019

ABOTA MIAMI MEMBERS

RE: New Jury Service Video

Dear Chapter mates:

Part of ABOTA's mission is to work for the preservation of our jury system and to improve methods of procedure at our present trial court system. In Miami-Dade County, the Civil and Criminal Courts use an outdated and uninspired video for our jury pool.

The film currently in use was produced back in 2005 and uses one camera to follow a speaker around the courthouse. Below is a link so you can watch it.

WATCH THE CURRENT VIDEO HERE

This is our prospective juror's first impression!

Please contrast this with the video prepared by CALABOTA. Below is a link.

WATCH CALABOTA'S JURY VIDEO HERE

They use a voiceover by actor Ed Asner and mix graphics with real juror interviews. This much shorter product is informative and, in my opinion, inspiring.

We can do better in Miami-Dade County. I have consulted with a videographer that shoots commercials and television pieces. He has worked for Deco Drive and other programs. He indicated that a video production similar to CALABOTA would cost approximately \$20,000. As a public service gesture (and possibly a slow summer) he agreed to do it for \$8,000. I have consulted with Judges Soto, Bailey and Butchko, and they all think it is a great idea. The videographer, David Siqueiros, may have access to some well-known talent because of his relationship with Deco Drive that may be willing to do a voiceover.

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I spoke to the president of CALABOTA that not only arranged for and produced the video but actually stars in it. He indicated that ABOTA donated it to the court system and that it is in use in many counties to rave reviews. I wonder if we could put something like this together for Miami-Dade County. Perhaps if we could speak with some of the vendors we work with, like court reporters, translating services and other companies – they may wish to contribute to this project. I plan to donate towards it and would seek your help as well. In addition to your money; your thoughts, ideas, suggestions and participation would be greatly appreciated as well. At the end of one of your trials, you could ask the presiding judge if they would ask members of your jury to volunteer for the video. I'm sure I could convince Judge Bailey to let us film in courtroom 6-1.

I welcome your feedback and thank you for taking the time to consider this.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Teffrey R. Davis

Jeffrey R. Davis, 2019 President