A wide variety of moral compasses is sitting in every jury box

Jurors bring to court a system of moral beliefs that colors how they perceive, remember, and interpret trial evidence, as well as how they vote.

Dr. SunWolf’s latest book offers insights into jury dynamics. God-Thinking: Every Juror’s Moral Brain, Religious Beliefs, and the Effects on a Trial Verdict, invites new thinking about how every juror’s moral compass affects trial outcomes. As SunWolf points out, “Citizens bring their religions with them to court, use their spiritual beliefs to judge the evidence or behaviors of witnesses, and rely upon moral compasses during deliberations about verdicts.”

Moral Hazards in Every Jury Box

Drawing on the latest scholarship about the psychology of good and evil, neurotheology, and the believing brain, God-Thinking offers trial practitioners, attorneys, judges, and consultants practical tips about how to evaluate a juror’s moral outlook and adjust their strategies accordingly. You will get an intriguing, practical review of the newest research on:

- The Neuroscience of Fair Play
- The Social Psychology of Good and Evil
- The God Gene
- The Biology of Belief
- The Science of Moral Dilemmas

Dr. SunWolf, a long-time trial and appellate attorney, shares specific new trial tools, including:

- Questionnaire items that uncover a juror’s moral compass
- Voir dire questions and conversations about the jury pool’s religious thinking
- Motions that take a juror’s thinking about good and evil into account
- Pre-trial investigations that reveal a community’s religious landscape
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About the Author
A long-time trial and appellate attorney, Dr. SunWolf is a professor of communication at Santa Clara University, and a visiting professor at Santa Clara University School of Law. She lectures at continuing legal education programs throughout the country and has been fascinated with juries and their intriguing customs since her first trial in the early 1970s.

Dr. SunWolf received her Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara, studying juries and social behaviors. Her research with juries and children’s peer groups has won numerous national awards. Dr. SunWolf is the originator of decisional regret theory, which explains how jurors cope with the anxiety of anticipated verdict-regret by telling one another counterfactual stories.

Dr. SunWolf’s insights into persuasion, social thinking, and group decision-making are collected in the award-winning Practical Jury Dynamics2: From One Juror’s Trial Perceptions to the Group’s Decision-Making Processes from LexisNexis®, consistently applauded by top litigators:

Jury work is frightening, fatiguing, and leaves little time for intellectual research or reading interesting professional writings. SunWolf goes beyond all of that. Her books and teachings are ESSENTIAL to every person who dares to call herself or himself a trial lawyer. It does not matter the depth of experience of the lawyer, the type of case, or the venue—she has something to make the lawyer better on every page.
—Roger J. Dodd, trial attorney and best-selling author, Valdosta, GA

SunWolf dissects the juror’s mind using analytic tools borrowed from numerous disciplines, distilling insights, then synthesizing them into practical and immediately applicable lessons for trial lawyers. SunWolf has been on the cutting edge of practice for over twenty years.
—Lisa Monet Wayne, Past President NACDL, Denver, CO

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