

November 23, 1999

Mr. Richard G. Mosley, Q.C.
Assistant Deputy Minister
Criminal Law Policy and Community Justice Branch
Department of Justice - Canada
284 Wellington St., Room 5119
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8

Dear Mr. Mosley,

Re: Peremptory Challenges

I am writing in response to your letter dated November 2, 1999 about a proposed amendment to increase peremptory challenges within the *Criminal Code*. This suggestion followed an earlier letter requesting comments as to whether the *Code* should be amended to codify the practice of selecting an additional two jurors to have available until the beginning of the trial.

This subject was discussed at the October 22 meeting of our National Criminal Justice Section and Department of Justice representatives. CBA Section members suggested at that time that if the number of jurors was to be increased, the number of peremptory challenges should also be increased proportionately. Accordingly, we fully support the proposed amendment to add two challenges to each of the three paragraphs within subsection 634(2).

Thank you for considering our views.

Yours truly,

Isabel Schurman
Chair
National Criminal Justice Section