

Objections by Counsel

During this trial, there have been occasions when the attorneys have objected to a question that was asked of a witness. You should not penalize an attorney, or more importantly, his client, for objecting. It is the attorney's right and duty to protect the client's interests by objecting to what the attorney may believe is evidence that does not satisfy the requirements of the rules of evidence.

If I sustained the objection, it is important that you not speculate about what the answer to the objected-to question might have been. By sustaining the objection, the Court has determined that the evidence should not be considered by you.

Bias and Prejudice

Your verdict must be based solely upon the evidence developed at trial or the lack of evidence. Neither bias in favor of any person or cause, prejudice against any person or cause, nor sympathy of any kind should be permitted to influence you in the course of your deliberations. You may not consider any personal feelings you may have about the race, religion, national origin, sex or age of Mr. Alcantara or any witness. It would be equally improper for you to allow any feelings you might have about the nature of the crimes charged to interfere with your decision-making process.

All that Mr. Alcantara and the government are entitled to, or, for that matter expect, is a verdict based upon your fair, scrupulous and conscientious examination of the evidence before you and your application of the law as I have explained it to you.