

**101 OPENING STATEMENTS**

The lawyers will now make opening statements. The purpose of an opening statement is to give the lawyers an opportunity to tell you what they expect the evidence will show so that you will better understand the evidence as it is introduced during the trial. I must caution you, however, that the opening statements are not evidence.

**COMMENT**

Wis JI-Criminal 101 was originally published in 1999. This revision was approved by the Committee in February 2001.

The 2001 revision modified the second sentence to substitute the phrase "give the lawyers an opportunity to tell you what they expect the evidence will show" for "outline for you what each side expects to prove." The revision is believed to be a more accurate statement.