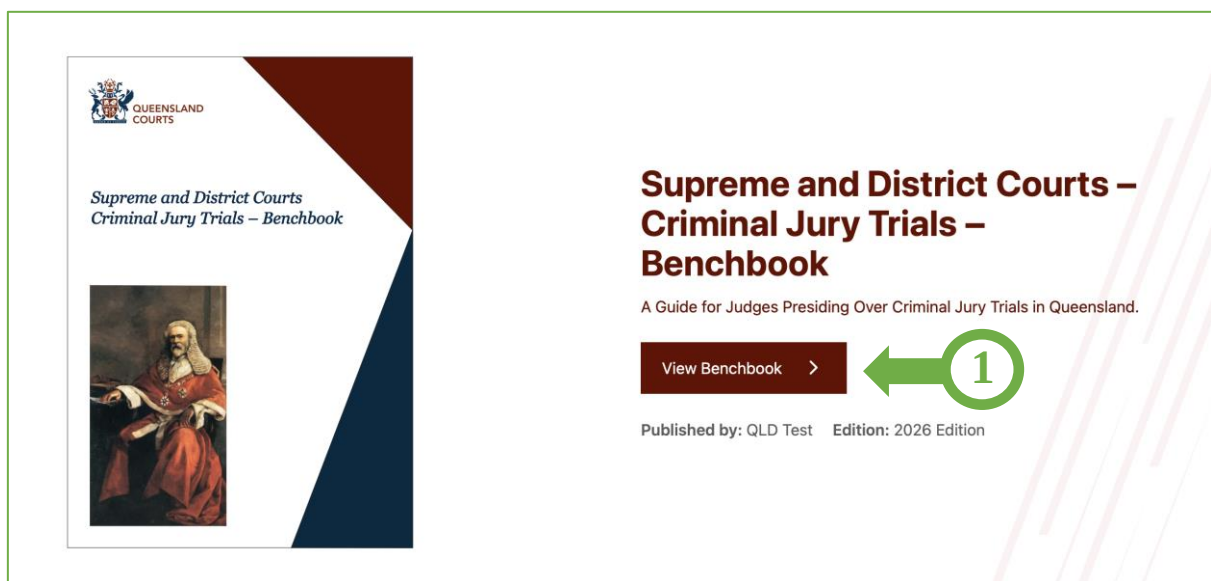


In this tutorial:

- Navigating the Benchbook
- Using 'PDF View' and 'Document View', and their respective advantages

1. This is the homepage for the Criminal Jury Trials Benchbook. Click 'View Benchbook' to open the Benchbook from the cover.

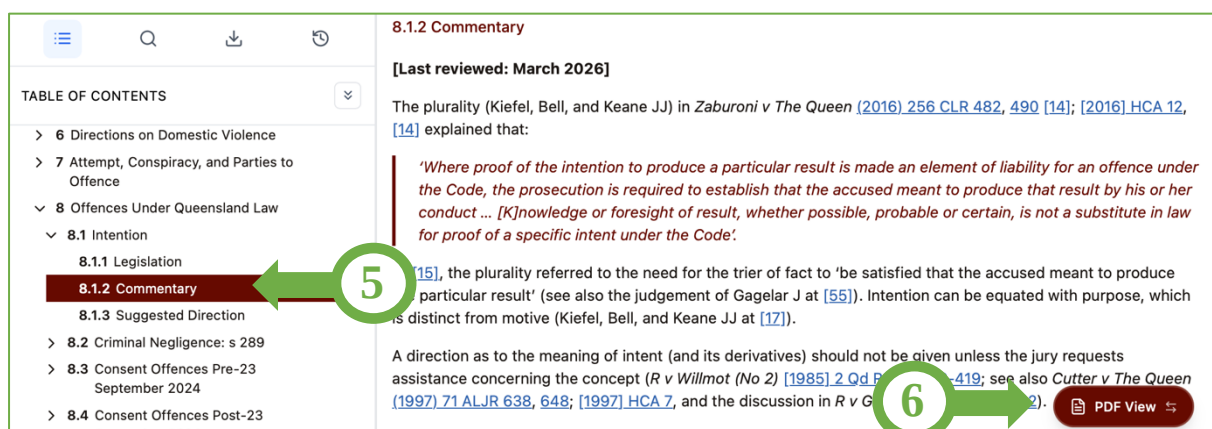


2. In the top header, you can find the main search bar.
3. On the left-hand side, you can see the navigation panel. The four icons along the top are, respectively:
 - Table of Contents (selected by default)
 - Search
 - Download Current Chapter
 - See Past Versions

4. The table of contents displays the 19 sections of the Benchbook. Click the chevron next to any section to expand its chapters, and click directly on any heading to navigate to it.



5. Most chapters include Legislation, Commentary, and Suggested Directions. Click each sub-heading to jump straight to that location within the chapter.



6. At the bottom right of the screen, you will always see one of two buttons:



Click these to swap to that 'View'. Click again to swap back.

Ch 2.20 Document View:

2.20 Disposition of Charge Against Co-Defendant

2.20.1 Legislation

[Last reviewed: February 2026]

Nil.

2.20.2 Commentary

[Last reviewed: February 2026]

Any plea of guilty by a co-defendant ought to have been entered in the absence of the jury. Should the jury learn of that plea, the jury should be instructed, in effect, that the plea of guilty is to be disregarded. A suggested direction is provided to that effect.

2.20.3 Suggested Direction

[Last reviewed: February 2026]

The case against co-defendant [insert name] has been disposed of and is no longer before you. That should not influence your verdict[s] with reference to the remaining defendant[s].

You must base your verdict[s] solely on the evidence that relates to the remaining defendant[s].

(Where the jury learns of a co-defendant's guilty plea, the following direction may be given):

[Insert name of defendant] changed [his/her] plea to guilty of the charge of [insert charge]. Do not let that affect your views about the other defendant[s]. The position of each must be separately considered. So put aside the fact that [insert name] has pleaded guilty. Instead, consider the case against the remaining defendant[s] on the evidence relevant to [him/her] in deciding whether the prosecution has established its case against [him/her].

Cite as Supreme and District Courts – Criminal Jury Trials – Benchbook, Queensland Supreme and District Courts Criminal Directions Benchbook, Chapter 2

PDF View

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Document

What are the differences between Document View and PDF View?

	Document View	PDF View
Content	Identical.	Identical.
Table of Contents	Identical.	Identical.
Scroll	Each chapter is displayed separately. You cannot scroll from one chapter to the next.	You can continuously scroll through the entire Benchbook.
Pagination	There are no visible page numbers. There is a 'Cite as' example in the footer.	Page numbers sit in the footer of on every page of the PDF.

Sizing	No built-in resizing functionality. You can resize the entire webpage using 'Ctrl + Plus' or 'Command + Plus'.	The PDF can be resized independently using the '+' and '-' buttons in the top right corner.
Copying text (See the tutorial, <i>Copying Text</i> for more information)	Text can be copied with both the built-in copy functionality and by manually selecting text.	Text can only be copied using the built-in copy functionality.
Search	Search terms are highlighted.	Search terms are not highlighted.