

LAW and ORDER

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Arguing with a lawyer is like wrestling with a pig in mud — sooner or later, you realize they like it.

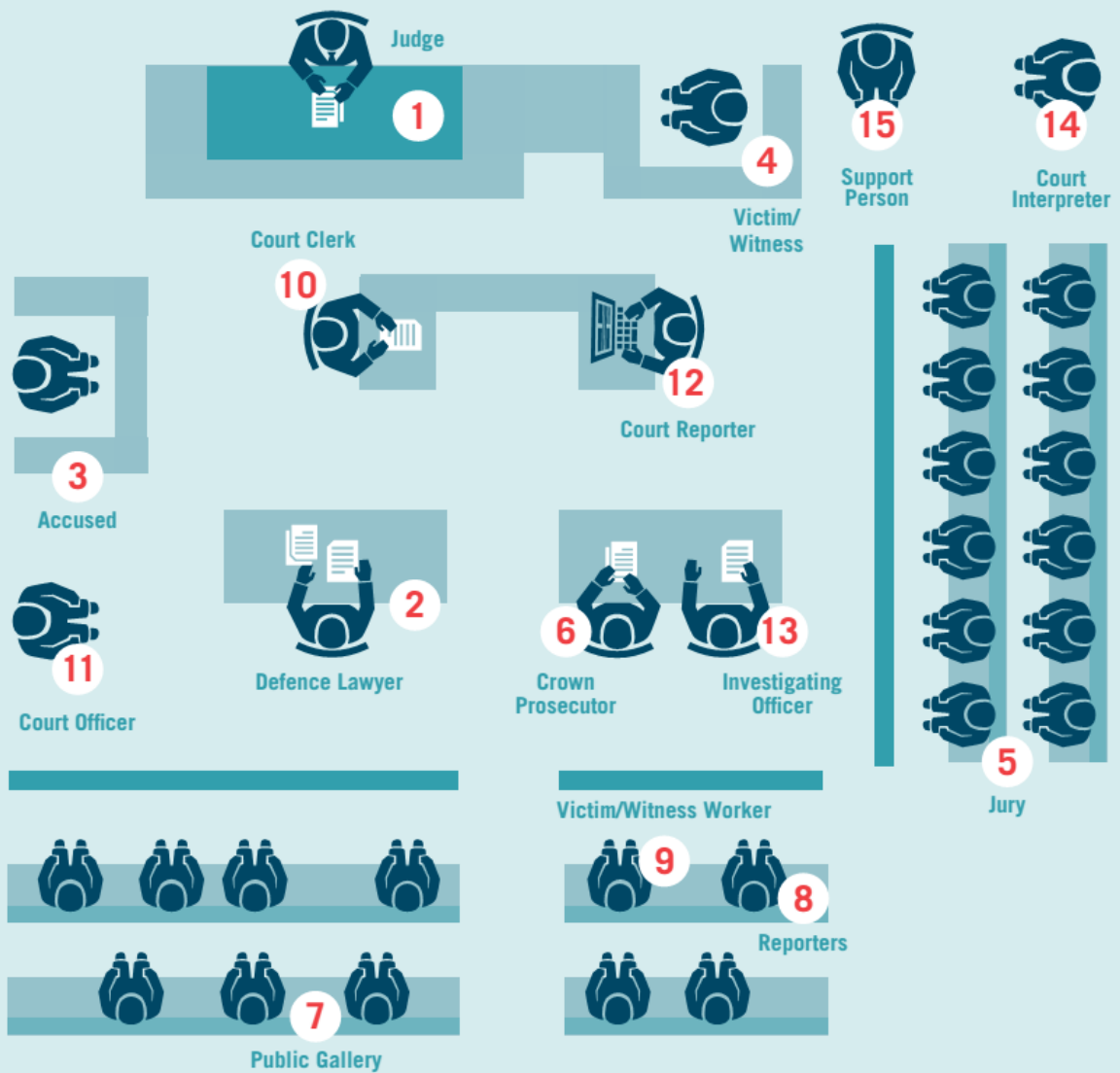
PEOPLE IN COURT



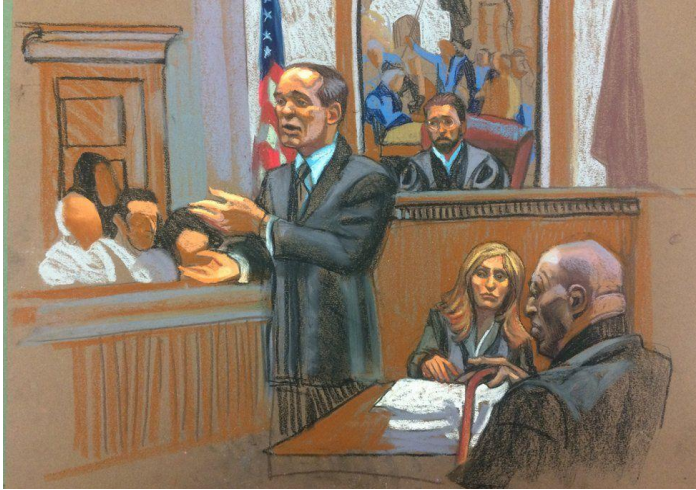
IN THE COURTROOM

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This picture is one example of what a courtroom may look like and the people the victim may see inside.



1. The judge or justice is in charge of the Court. He or she listens to what is said in court and decides if the accused is guilty, unless there is a jury that makes this decision instead.
2. A defence lawyer is a lawyer who represents a person charged with a criminal offence.



3. The accused is the person charged with committing a criminal offence.



4. A victim/witness testifies in court to provide evidence in the case. The witness can be called to give evidence by the prosecutor or by the defence.
5. Some criminal trials involve a jury. The jury is a group of twelve persons who listen to what is said in court and decide if the accused committed the offence.



6. A prosecutor is a government lawyer who presents the evidence to show that an offence was committed by the accused. This person may also be called a Crown Attorney.

7. The public gallery is a seating area in the courtroom where members of the public may sit to observe what happens in court.



8. Reporters are often in the courtroom to report information about the case. The Court can order that reporters not publish certain information in order to protect the identity of a victim or witness.

9. A victim/witness worker can provide information and help to victims during the criminal justice process, for example by helping a victim or witness cope with testifying at trial or to present a victim impact statement when the offender is sentenced.

10. The court clerk helps the judge in the courtroom, for example by making the court schedule, calling the Court to order, or reading the charges against the accused to everyone in court.

11. The court officer helps to keep people safe in the courtroom. If the accused is being kept in jail, the court officer will escort the accused to and from the courtroom.

12. The court reporter records what is said in the courtroom by repeating what he or she hears into a recording machine or by typing it into a computer.

13. The investigating officer is the police officer who investigated the crime and who helps make sure the prosecutor has all the information he or she needs to make a case against the accused.

14. The court interpreter translates what is said in court so the witness or accused can use the official language they feel most comfortable using.

15. A support person is a person who the Court has agreed can be present and close to the witness when he or she gives testimony in court. This person may not be present in all situations.

10 Legal Phrases With Meanings & Examples

#1 To lawyer up

- **Meaning:** To hire a lawyers
- **Example:** *He's lawyered up and plans to sue the company.*

#2 Against the law

- **Meaning:** Illegal or forbidden by law
- **Example:** *It is against the law to provide inaccurate information when applying for food stamps.*

#3 To bend the law

- **Meaning:** To do something that does not technically break the law but could be considered inappropriate or unfair
- **Example:** *We won't do anything illegal; we'll just bend the law a little.*

#4 The jury is (still) out [on something]

- **Meaning:** (Something) hasn't been decided yet or it hasn't yet become clear
- **Example:** *Tom asked if we are proceeding with the ad campaign, but the jury is out on that.*

#5 Open and shut case

- **Meaning:** A legal case or an argument that is clear-cut; a simple and straightforward situation that admits no doubt or dispute
- **Example:** *With all the evidence against the defendant, I expect this to be an open-and-shut case.*

#6 A slap on the wrist

- **Meaning:** A mild punishment or warning

- **Example:** *Even though everyone knows they broke so many regulations, they only received a slap on the wrist.*

#7 The spirit of the law

- **Meaning:** The initial purpose or aim of a law when it was written; the intended meaning of a law (as opposed to its literal interpretation)
- **Example:** *Although the CEO of that company is technically acting legally, she is violating the spirit of the law. Her main goal is to increase her own profits at the expense of their employees.*

#8 The letter of the law

- **Meaning:** Exactly what the law says. When you follow "the letter of the law", you follow the rules perfectly, without leaving any room for interpretation. If you follow "the spirit of the law", you take the law interpreting it for practical purposes.
- **Example:** *The letter of the law says that he has to pay back the damages, but that judge is likely going to follow the spirit of the law and let it slide.*

#9 Vested interest

- **Meaning:** (1) An interest recognized as belonging to a particular person (usually in land or money held in trust). (2) A permanent right given to an employee under a pension plan. (3) A special interest in an existing system, arrangement, or institution for particular personal reasons.
- **Example:** *An independent lab should have no vested interest in the outcome of tests.*

#10 Above the law

- **Meaning:** In a position where one can avoid being bound by the laws that govern ordinary people. It describes a person who is exempt from following the rules—or at least thinks he or she is exempt.
- **Example:** *He's not even trying to hide the fact that he's stealing. He acts like he's above the law.*