

WHO IS IN THE COURTROOM

BAILIFF – a court officer responsible for maintaining order in the courtroom.

CLERK - a court employee responsible for maintaining permanent records of all court proceedings and exhibits; and administering the oath to jurors and witnesses.

COURT REPORTER – a court employee who steno graphically or by “voice writing” records court proceedings from which they prepare a transcript that becomes part of the record of the case.

DEFENDANT – in a criminal case, the person accused of committing the crime; in a civil case, the person against whom an action is brought.

GRAND JURY – a body of citizens who listen to the evidence in criminal cases to determine if probable cause exists to return indictments against the person accused of committing crimes.

JUDGE – a government official with the authority to decide lawsuits brought before the court.

JURY – persons selected according to the law and sworn inquire into and declare a verdict of the case.

PLAINTIFF – in a civil case, the person who brings a lawsuit.

PROSECUTOR – an elected or appointed official who brings criminal cases to court for the government.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – an attorney provided by the government to represent criminal defendants who cannot afford to hire a private lawyer.

VICTIM – a person who suffers physical injury, mental suffering, or loss of property because of an actual or attempted criminal act by another person.

WITNESS – a person who testifies under oath in a civil or criminal case as to what he or she knows or has observed.