

# Who Are the People in Court?

Many people work in a court. Everyone has a job to do.

First, there is the **judge**. In many courts, the judge will be wearing a black robe. The judge usually sits at the front of the courtroom on the **bench**. The judge's name is often on a sign near the bench.

The judge does many things. First, the judge is like a referee at a ball game. The judge makes sure that everyone plays by the rules.

Sometimes the judge is also the person who decides the argument that people came to court about. For example, if two people come to court because they disagree about money, the judge might be the person who finally decides who gets the money.

Other times, a group of people decides who wins the argument. These people are called **jurors**. Jurors are people who come to court to listen to each side of a

disagreement. Then the jurors decide how the disagreement will be settled. A group of jurors is called a **jury**.





When people go to court, they often have **lawyers**.

Lawyers are also called **attorneys**.

Lawyers give advice to people on their disagreements in court. It is

the lawyer's job

to talk to the judge and

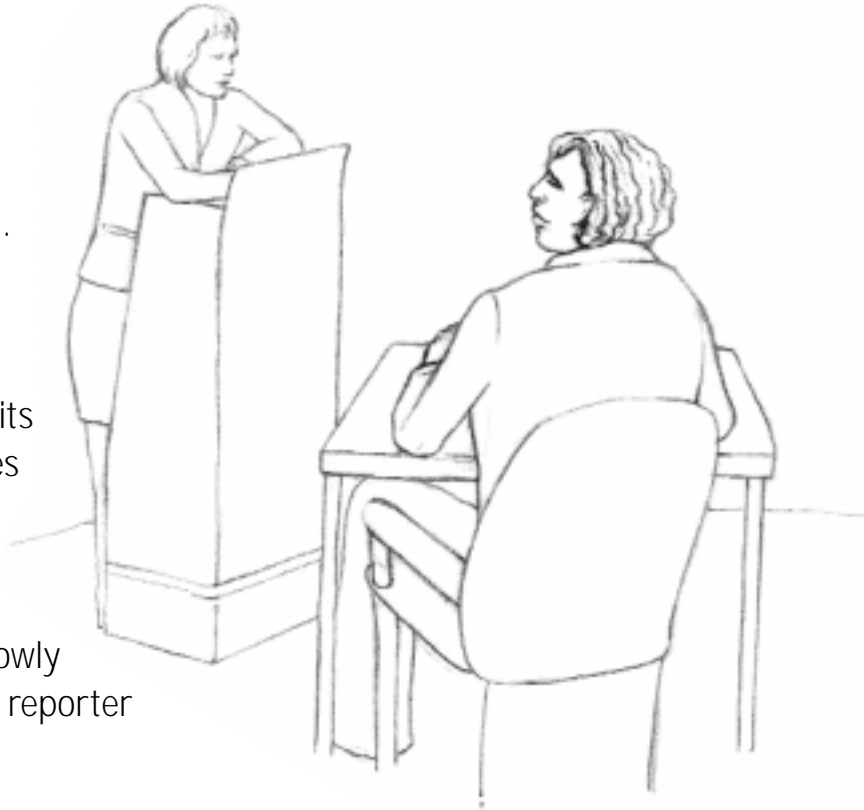
jurors for the people who come to court. You don't have to have a lawyer to go to court. When a lawyer talks for someone who has come to court, it means that the lawyer "represents" the person. Each lawyer represents only one person in court. So, if many people are involved in a disagreement, there might be more than one lawyer in court. All kinds of people have lawyers, even children! Lawyers usually sit next to the person they represent in the court.

You can probably spot the **bailiff** very easily. The bailiff is the person who makes sure the people who go to court obey the rules. The bailiff is usually wearing a uniform, like a police officer's uniform. The bailiff is a special police officer just for the court.



Courts also have **interpreters** for people who don't speak or understand English. The interpreter's job is to translate what is said in court.

The **court reporter** is the person who writes down everything that everybody says in court. Wow! Can you imagine writing down all the words people say? The court reporter usually sits near the judge and types on a small machine. Court reporters type very fast, and everyone in court has to speak slowly and clearly so the court reporter can hear what they say.



All courts have **clerks** as well. A court clerk keeps all the papers about the cases in the court and organizes them. The clerk keeps track of the decisions or orders that the judge makes during court and also keeps the court's schedule.

**Witnesses** are people who come to court to tell what they have seen or heard. For example, if someone is accused of stealing something, a witness might come to court to say what they saw happen. When witnesses come to court, they have to raise their hand and make a special promise, called an oath, to tell the truth. They take a special seat and the lawyers ask them questions. Cases that last a long time may have lots of witnesses.

