

Roles of the Members of a Trial

Prosecution & Defense

- Creates a list of main arguments
- Names a list of witnesses

Prosecution Lawyers

- Address the jury
- Present the arguments
- Question witnesses in order to convince the jury of the defendant's guilt

Prosecution Witnesses

- Respond to questions posed by the lawyers for the prosecution
- Respond to questions posed by the lawyers for the defense

Prosecution Clerk

- Makes sure everyone participates in meetings and during the trial
- Keeps the entire prosecution team within the time limits for their presentation
- Helps the group prioritize arguments and make the best use of the limited time, as needed

Defense Lawyers

- Address the jury
- Present the arguments
- Question witnesses in order to convince the jury of the defendant's innocence

Defense Witnesses

- Respond to questions posed by the lawyers for the prosecution
- Respond to questions posed by the lawyers for the defense

Defense Clerk

- Makes sure everyone participates in meetings and during the trial
- Keeps the entire defense team within the time limits for their presentation
- Helps the group prioritize arguments and make the best use of the limited time, as needed

Jury

- Serves as the audience for all arguments presented in the trial
- Evaluates the arguments presented by the prosecution and the defense in order to determine the guilt or innocence of the defendant
- Judges the effectiveness and merit of the arguments and evidence presented by the prosecution and defense teams
- Votes on the outcome of the trial according to the established criteria only

Jury Clerk

- Makes sure everyone participates in meetings and during the trial
- Keeps the jury pool within the time limits for their presentation

The Judge

- Decides which disputed facts (evidence) may be presented to the jury
- Provides jury instructions and explains what the applicable law is to the jury

Witnesses

- Have specific knowledge of what happened
- Do tell the jury what they think or feel
- Do not present gossip

Expert Witnesses

- Know the specific facts in the case
- Use their specialized knowledge to help the jury understand complex evidence