



Federal District courtrooms are where trials take place. District courts can hear both civil and criminal cases.

United States District Judge

A federal judge sits on the bench, wears a black robe, and presides over trials.

Witness

A person called upon by either side in a lawsuit to give testimony before the court or jury.

Jury

The group of persons selected to hear the evidence in a trial and render a verdict on matters of fact.

Bar

Separates proceedings from the public seating. Attorneys for each party sit just in front of the bar.

Public

Seating for the public to view the proceedings. Members of the public are allowed to attend most trials.



Court Staff

Law clerks, court reporters, and courtroom deputies support the proceedings.

Court Security Officer

Keeps the courtroom secure.

Courts of Appeals

courtrooms are different than district courtrooms because they are where oral arguments take place—there is no jury or witness stand. Instead, attorneys for the parties sit at their respective tables and argue directly to the panel of three judges.