

Mock Trial

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Commencing With the Trial

The bailiff will command all in the courtroom to rise, and introduce the judge as he enters the room. When the judge sits down, everyone else sits. The judge will announce the next case on the “docket” and declare the court to be in session. After a few introductory remarks, the judge will recognize the prosecution, and then the defense for opening statements.

Opening Statements

- First, the prosecuting attorney will present his/her case against the defendant, introducing the charges and his/her argument.
- Second, the defense attorney will present his/her case as to why the defendant should not be convicted of the crime.

Witness Testimony

- Prosecution calls his/her witnesses and directly examines them.
- Cross-examination by the defense of the prosecution’s witnesses.
- Prosecution re-examines, then rests his/her case.
- Defense calls his/her witnesses and directly examines them.
- Cross-examination by the prosecution of the defense’s witnesses.
- Defense re-examines, then rests his/her case.

Closing Arguments

- Prosecution closing argument why defendant should be found guilty.
- Defense closing argument why defendant should be found not guilty.
- The judge places the court in recess for jury deliberation.

Jury Deliberation

- The judge will give the jury their charge, informing them of what they are specifically trying to decide.
- The jury deliberates, where they discuss the testimony, arguments, and evidence, and make a decision about whether or not to find the defendant guilty or not guilty on each of the “counts” against him/her. The jury’s decision must be unanimous.

Verdict and Sentencing

- The judge is again introduced by the bailiff. The judge will call in the jury, and ask the foreman to deliver the jury’s verdict.
- If guilty, the judge will pass sentence on the accused. If not-guilty, the judge will dismiss the case and the defendant goes free.

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