

The Bill of Rights and the Trial Process Key Terms

Judge – acts as a legal referee to ensure that proper trial procedure is followed, and issues rulings on points of law. In a bench trial, the judge gives the verdict in place of a jury.

Jury – present if demanded in a civil case, and present in a criminal case unless waived by the defendant

Plaintiff – in a civil case, the person who files the complaint

Defendant – person against whom a civil or criminal complaint is filed

Defense Attorney – the lawyer representing the defendant

Prosecutor – in a criminal case, the lawyer who acts as the legal representative of the people of the State in prosecuting the accused defendant

Witness – gives testimony relating to the case during the trial

Court Reporter – records every word spoken during the trial on a stenograph machine or a recording device

Deputy Sheriff or Bailiff – keeps order in the court, guards defendants in criminal cases and maintains custody of the jury

Clerk – maintains the court's docket, court orders, and exhibits during a trial

Police – entrusted to serve and protect the public, to control and prevent crime

- a. **First Responding Officer** – the first officer who responds and arrives at the scene of a call requesting police assistance
- b. **Investigating Officer** – the officer assigned to investigate a criminal case
- c. **Arresting Officer** – the officer who makes the arrest of the accused