

Who Does What in Court

Criminal Justice

The roles in a criminal courtroom and what each one is responsible for.

Functions, not job titles: names differ between systems.

Role	Responsible for
Judge or magistrate	Law, procedure, admissibility and sentence
Prosecutor	Proving the case, with duties of fairness and disclosure
Defence lawyer	Testing the case in the client's interest
Jury or lay bench	Deciding contested questions of fact
Court staff	Listing, records and the running of the hearing
Probation service	Pre-sentence reports and supervision proposals

Educational reference. Some systems have no jury and some no lay magistracy; the functions are still allocated somewhere.