



A **Judge** is an elected or appointed official with the authority to hear and decide cases in a court of law. The judge acts like a referee in the courtroom, making sure both sides follow the laws, and that everyone is treated in a fair and just manner.



A **Lawyer** or **Attorney** is a person who is licensed to act as a representative for someone involved in a legal matter. They help people by giving them advice and speaking on behalf of their clients during a court dispute.

You will most likely see both **Sheriff's Deputies** and **Police Officers** at the courthouse; however, they are both there doing very different things.



**Sheriff's Deputies** are at the courthouse to ensure the safety of everyone present, and also to transport jail inmates to and from the courtroom. Sheriff's deputies are the only law enforcement officers who are permitted to carry weapons inside the courthouse.

**Police Officers** are usually at the courthouse to serve as witnesses to a crime. All police officers reporting to the courthouse must lock up their weapons in a secure location before entering the courthouse.



**Jurors** are the individuals who are selected to serve on a panel of 12 people that listen to both sides of a case and decide which side is telling the truth, and whether there is enough evidence the person standing trial actually committed a crime. Jurors often wear a badge provided to them by the court so they are easily identified.

And last but not least, you can't forget about the people just like **You and Me** that are at the courthouse. People come to court for many different reasons. They could be there to serve as witnesses during a trial, serving on a jury, involved in a dispute or other legal action, or simply to observe court. Because remember, the courthouse is always open to the public!

