

## COURTROOM VOCABULARY WORDS

**Acquittal:** A legal determination that a person who has been charged with a crime is innocent.

**Adjudicate:** To decide judicially in court.

**Appeal:** A request for a higher court to review a decision made by a lower court.

**Arraignment:** When the accused is brought before the court to hear the charges against him or her. They plead guilty or not guilty at this time.

**Bail:** Security (usually money) to insure that the accused person appear at trial.

**Conviction:** The result of a criminal trial in which a person is found guilty.

**Cross-examination:** The questioning of a witness by the lawyer for the opposing side.

**Direct-examination:** The first questioning in a trial of a witness by the lawyer who called that witness.

**Docket:** A written list of all important acts done in court with regard to an individual case from the beginning to end.

**Ex Parte:** By, or for, or on the request of one party only, without notice to any other party.

**Hearing:** A court proceeding before or after the trial of a lawsuit.

**Indictment:** An accusation of a crime, made against a person by a grand jury upon the request of a prosecutor.

**Information:** An accusation of a crime, made against a person by the prosecutor.

**Judgment:** The decision of a court of law.

**Mistrial:** A trial that becomes invalid, is essentially canceled, because of a mistake in procedure.

**Motion:** How a lawyer asks the judge to make a decision.

**Oath:** A declaration of a statement's truth, which renders one willfully asserting an untrue statement punishable for perjury.

**Objection:** The opposing side finds fault with the question being asked the witness.

**Overruled:** The judge, following an objection, decides the questions may continue.

**Parole:** Conditional release from prison before the end of a sentence.

**Perjury:** A deliberate lie said under oath.

**Plaintiff v Defendant:** This is the way a case is always set up in writing. The name of the person or organization filing a lawsuit goes first; the name of the person or organization being charged goes last. The “v” is an abbreviation for the word “versus.”

**Plead:** To answer an allegation.

**Proceeding:** Any hearing or court appearance related to the adjudication of a case.

**Remand:** To send a case back to the court from which it came for further proceedings.

**Reverse:** To set aside a judgment on appeal or proceedings in error.

**Sustained:** The judge, following an objection, agrees that the line of questioning should not continue.

**Verdict:** A verdict of guilty or not guilty is handed down by the jury.

**Sentence:** The punishment given to a person who has been convicted of a crime.

**Warrant:** A written order from a judge or magistrate that allows the police to arrest a person or to conduct a search.

**Your Honor:** The way a judge is addressed in a courtroom.