

USVA Government Unit 9: Judicial Branch  
Courtroom Terms

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Plaintiff	
Indictment	
Public defender	
Docket	
Presumption of Innocence	
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### Courtroom Terms

- **Defendant**- an individual, company, or institution sued or accused in a court of law.
- **Prosecutor**- a public official who institutes legal proceedings against someone – the lawyer trying to convict someone.
- **Plaintiff**- a person who brings a case against another person in a court of law. The person with the complaint.
- **Indictment**- a formal written statement charging a person with an offense. Written by a prosecuting authority and found to have merit by a jury (such as a grand jury)
- **Public defender** -a lawyer employed at public expense in a criminal trial to represent a defendant
- **Docket** - a calendar or list of cases for trial or people having cases pending
- **Presumption of Innocence**- the burden of proof is on the one who declares, not on one who denies, is the principle that one is considered innocent unless proven guilty.
- **Arraignment**- A criminal proceeding where the defendant is officially called before a court informed of the offense charged in the complaint, information, indictment, and asked to enter a plea
- **Conviction** – finding someone guilty of a crime
- **Acquittal** – finding someone not guilty of a crime, when the burden of proof has not been met
- **Mandatory Minimum Sentences**- Judges are bound by law; these sentences are produced through the legislature, not the judicial system. ... Mandatory sentences are typically given to people convicted of certain serious and/or violent crimes, and require a prison sentence.
- **Extradition** -process by which the physical custody of a person charged with committing a crime or convicted of a crime whose punishment has not yet been fully served, is formally transferred, by authorities of one jurisdiction to those of another at the request of the
- **Hung Jury**- a judicial jury that cannot agree upon a verdict after extended deliberation
- **House Arrest**- a person is confined by the authorities to a certain residence
- **Probation**- the release of an offender from detention, subject to a period of good behavior under supervision.
- **Half-way house**- a center for helping former drug addicts, prisoners, psychiatric patients, or others to adjust to life in general society.
- **Legal Remedy**- also judicial relief or a judicial remedy, is the means with which a court of law, usually in the exercise of civil law jurisdiction, enforces a right, imposes a penalty, or makes another court order to impose its will. Basically, when a court tells someone to do something.