



# What you will see at Court

## Courtroom Participants

Watch the Justice Journey: In the Courtroom video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgH1fjP29GA>.

This video is from the perspective of a witness in a criminal court case.

Write down the role for the following participants in a court proceedings. If they wear special clothing, find a picture of the clothing.

- a. Judge/Magistrate
  
  
  
- b. Judge's Associate
  
  
  
- c. Court Reporter
  
  
  
- d. Sheriff
  
  
  
- e. Accused
  
  
  
- f. Jury
  
  
  
- g. Prosecution Team
  
  
  
- h. Defence Team



## Courtroom Layout

Label this traditional courtroom photo below with the following labels:

Judge	Public Gallery
Crown Prosecutor's Seat	Judge's Associate
Defence Counsel's Seat	Coat of Arms
Witness Seat	Jury Box
	Dock





## Court room design

The layout of the Courtroom has been well thought out over the centuries and reflects the bedrock values that underpin the Magna Carta, judiciary and the rule of law.

For the below items, how does the design or position in the courtroom reflect the underlying judicial and rule of law principles?

- a. **Coat of Arms:** What does it mean and represent? Why is it located above a judge?
- b. **Judge:** Why does the judge sit in an elevated position? What are the advantages of this?
- c. **Prosecution and Defence Team:** Why are both the prosecution and defence teams given the same amount of space?
- d. **Accused:** Why is it important for the accused to be present at the trial?
- e. **Courtroom door:** Unless it is a sensitive matter, what does the open door represent?
- f. **Location** of court room in relation to other key government buildings: Why is it important that the courts are separate to the parliament buildings?

### References:

- <https://www.ruleoflaw.org.au/principles/>
- <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lawreport/how-courtroom-design-influences-juries/5968016>
- <https://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights/Human-rights-scrutiny/PublicSectorGuidanceSheets/Pages/Fairtrialandfairhearingrights.aspx>
- [http://www.supremecourt.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Publications/Speeches/2016%20Speeches/McDougall\\_20160129.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Publications/Speeches/2016%20Speeches/McDougall_20160129.pdf)



## Technology and Courtrooms

Courtrooms use various technology including audio visual links, remote witness facilities and electronic evidence

- a. Compare and contrast a photo of a modern courtroom with the traditional courtroom
- b. From the video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgH1fjP29GA>, explain how remote witness facilities protect the vulnerable.
- c. List other ways videoconferencing can be used in court cases.
- d. Analyse the impact of technology on court cases. Consider how it may increase the courts efficiency, security and accountability.

### References:

- [http://www.localcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/facilities\\_support/technology.aspx](http://www.localcourt.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/facilities_support/technology.aspx)
- <https://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/wig-chamber/16538-trial-by-immersive-video-link-a-world-first>
- <https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/digital-law-library/judges-speeches/chief-justice-allsop/allsop-cj-20190326>
- <https://itwire.com/development/video-peter-coroneos-talks-with-the-hon-michael-kirby-about-technology,-internet-and-the-law.html>
- [https://www.hcourt.gov.au/assets/publications/speeches/former-justices/kirbyj/kirbyj\\_future1.htm](https://www.hcourt.gov.au/assets/publications/speeches/former-justices/kirbyj/kirbyj_future1.htm)