Vocabulary

- *Constitution- The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the United States of America.
- *Judicial Branch of Government The branch of government that interprets and applies the laws of the constitution when conflicts arise or a crime has been committed.
- *Rule of Law Decisions in court must be based on the law, must apply to everyone fairly; judges and jury must be impartial.
- *Due Process Legal rights for all persons, and the steps that must be taken when there is a conflict.
- *Burden of Proof the defendant is "innocent" until proven guilty. The Plaintiff has the "burden" to prove the guilt of the defendant with clear evidence.
- *Beyond a reasonable doubt After hearing all of the evidence in a trial, and using common sense, jurors must be practically positive of the guilt of a defendant before deciding on the verdict.



*Impartial – Judges and juries must make their decisions based on the laws from the Constitution, not from personal opinions.
Judges – Referees and guides who are in charge in the courtroom to see that all rules are followed fairly.
Jury – Twelve citizens like you who must work together to decide on the case.
Court Clerk – Handles the judges papers and assists the judge.
Court Reporter – Types every word said in court during the trial
Bailiff – A policeman who makes sure that everyone remains safe.
Defendant - The person who is accused of a crime and is "defending" him or herself.

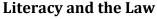
Literacy and the Law

Plaintiff – The one who brings the "com<u>plaint</u>" to the court.

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Lawyer/Attorney/Counsel - Represents and guides people with legal issues. The defendant (defense attorney) and/or plaintiff (prosecuting attorney). Witness - Answers questions that the attorneys ask about what he or she saw heard, felt and touched when he or she witnessed the crime. **Guilty**– The defendant *did* commit the crime. **Innocent** – The defendant *did not* commit the crime. **Verdict** - The final decision in a case. **Exhibit-** Evidence presented in the trial, for example: a gun, emails, or a picture. **Objection** – The attorney "objects" or questions whether the admission of an "exhibit" can be used in a trial, or if the way the other attorney is questioning someone is within the rules.



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Overruled – The judge does not think a rule has been broken.

Sustained – The judge agrees that a rule has been broken.

