

Ministry of Education and Science of the
Republic of Kazakhstan



PRESENTATION

The theme: **Courtroom objects**

Group: 119-14

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A courtroom or courthall is the enclosed space in which courts of law are held in front of a judge. A number of courtrooms, which may also be known as "courts", may be housed in a courthouse. It is a place where a judge, defendant, plaintiff, and often a jury, gather to hear arguments of a legal case and determine if the accused is guilty or not.





JUDGE

CHAMBERS

WITNESS
STAND

JURY
ROOM

COURT
CLERK

COURT
REPORTER

JURY BOX

INTERPRETER

COUNSEL

BAILIFF

AUDIENCE



The **bench** is not a chair, but the large desk behind which a judge sits at the front of a courtroom. It is also a metaphor for the judge's role in a court proceeding. So, if you hear someone refer to a “bench trial,” that is a trial with only a judge and no jury, or a “bench warrant” is a warrant issued by a judge on his or her own initiative (usually because of someone missing court or being in contempt of an order by the judge). When one asks to “approach the bench,” they are asking both for permission to speak privately with the judge outside the hearing of the jury and to actually step closer to the judge's desk. Traditionally, it was considered disrespectful for anyone to place a hand or document on the bench without the judge's express permission, so if you are asked to approach, avoid the natural inclination to lean against the judge's desk or to flop evidence or documents onto it.



Gavel is a small mallet used by the presiding officer of a meeting, a judge, etc., usually to signal for attention or order.

Similar mallet used by an auctioneer to indicate acceptance of the final bid.



A diagram illustrating a witness stand setup. An attorney stands on the left, pointing towards a witness seated at a desk on the right. A rectangular box labeled 'Exhibit' is positioned between them. The witness stand is a raised platform. A vertical dimension line indicates a height of 6-7 inches for the stand's base. Labels include 'Attorney', 'Witness', and 'Exhibit'.

Attorney

6-7"

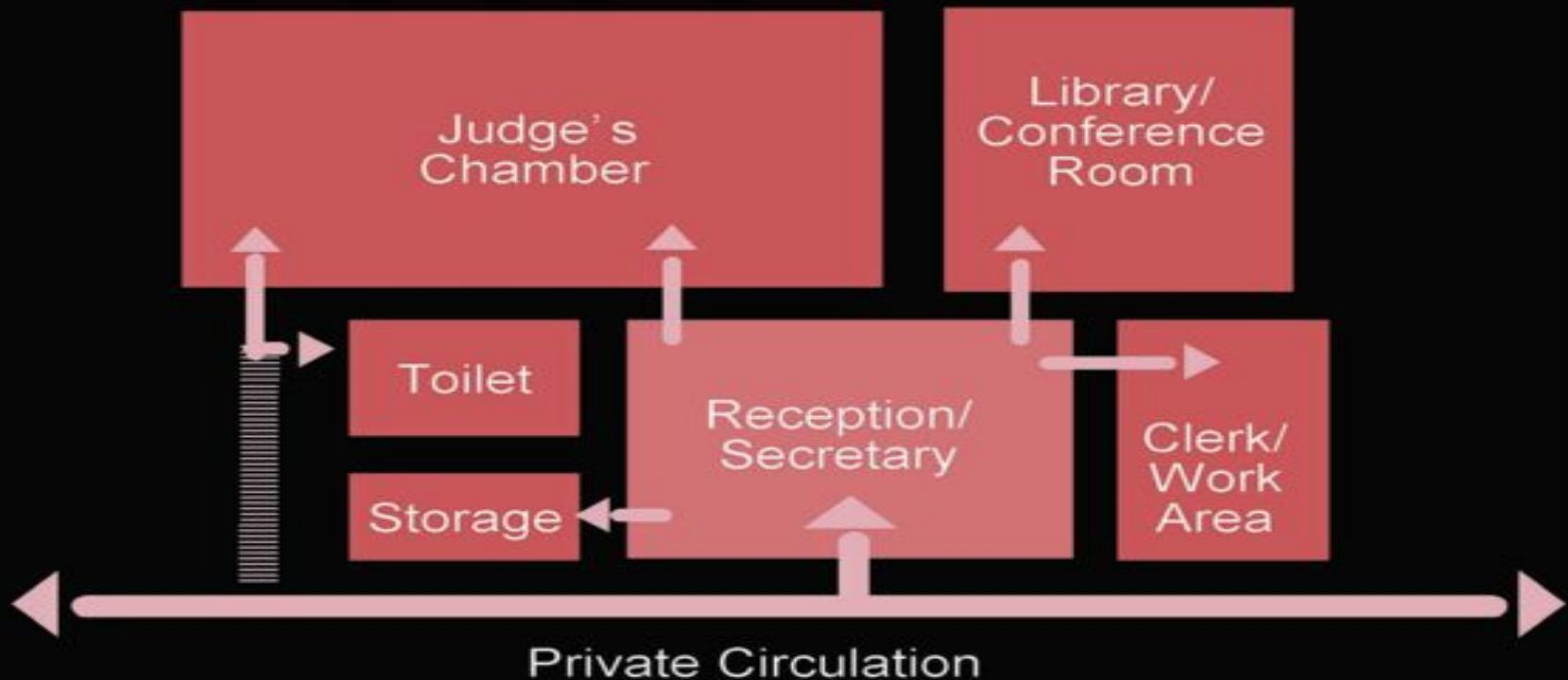
Witness

Witness Stand



Traditionally, witnesses were required to stand while testifying, and were given a small area in the courtroom, normally surrounded by a railing against which they could lean and raised above the ground to aid in voice projection, from which to do so. In modern courtrooms, witnesses are able to sit, but the small area where they are asked to sit while testifying it still called a “witness stand.” Some courtrooms still have a partition around this area, but others may simply have a conspicuously placed chair. Once called to testify, one may not generally leave “the stand” until instructed or allowed to do so by the judge. Leaving the witness stand is called “stepping down,” even though it may no longer be elevated.

A judge's chambers are generally his offices, and usually include a small conference room in which a hearing may occur. Sometimes the chamber hearing room (or just “hearing room” in many modern courthouses) is separate from the judge's actual office, or shared by several judges. If one reads a notice of hearing that says a matter will be heard “in chambers,” that simply means the judge will not be using his courtroom, but instead will use a smaller hearing room. Similarly, if someone is asked to see the judge in his or her chambers, that means he wants to speak to them (usually privately) in his office.



Most courtrooms will have an area to one side or the other of the well (the area past the bar) with several rows of seats and a dividing wall of some sort. This is the **jury box**. In traditional proceedings, this is where a jury will sit to hear testimony and review the evidence. Many criminal courtrooms also use the jury box to hold inmates awaiting hearings like arraignments/first appearances, evidentiary hearings, etc. Some smaller courtrooms that are used exclusively for bench trials (where there is no jury) may lack a jury box.



Typically, the party with the burden of proof (i.e., the prosecutor in criminal cases and the plaintiff or petitioner in civil ones) sits at the counsel table closest to the jury. Since this party has the greater burden to prove their case, this is supposed to give them a better opportunity to see the jurors' reactions and to be seen by them, in turn. Some stories even suggest that this allowed the prosecutor or plaintiff to whisper things under his breath so the jurors could hear it. Of course, such conduct would be grounds for a mistrial and sanctions against the party who did it, so you will not likely see any whispered conversations with jurors in a modern courtroom.

