

Vocabulary Challenge – The Courts

Match the word with its definition.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|---|
| _____ Adversarial | A. | The process by which one may take a case to a higher court |
| _____ Appeal | B. | This is an additional court opinion in which a judge agrees with the decision reached by the court but not necessarily with the reasoning behind that decision. |
| _____ Bench | C. | This amendment to the Constitution ensures the right to trial by jury in civil cases. |
| _____ Circuit (court) | D. | A serious criminal offense punishable by a prison sentence of more than one year. |
| _____ Civil | E. | A jury's decision on a case. |
| _____ Closing argument | F. | In a legal proceeding, this is the body of men and women selected to examine certain facts and determine truth. |
| _____ Concurring opinion | G. | This person is brought in to provide information, under oath, during the course of a trial. In some instances, this person may be deemed an expert following a line of questioning by the counsel who attempts to lay the appropriate foundation. |
| _____ Counsel | H. | At the start of the trial, this is one side's explanation of what it expects to prove and how it intends to prove it. |
| _____ Court of appeals | I. | The jurisdiction of this court includes all landlord-tenant cases, replevin actions, motor vehicle violations, misdemeanors and certain felonies. In civil cases this Court has exclusive jurisdiction in claims for amounts up to \$5,000, and concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in claims for amounts above \$5,000 but less than \$25,000. |
| _____ Court of special appeals | J. | All law that does not involve criminal matters; it usually deals with the private rights of individuals, groups, or businesses. |
| _____ Criminal (law) | K. | During a trial, this is the questioning of a witness by the side calling the witness to the stand. |
| _____ Cross examination | L. | This is the branch of law dealing with crimes and their punishment. |
| _____ Direct examination | M. | This is the proof used to sway a judge or jury. |
| _____ Dissenting opinion | N. | This is the judicial system used in the United States which allows opposing parties to present their legal conflicts before an impartial judge and jury. |
| _____ District (court) | O. | Court decisions on legal questions that guide future cases with similar questions. |
| _____ Evidence | P. | This is a minor crime typically punishable by not more than one year in jail and/or a small fine. |
| _____ Federal (Courts) | Q. | Guidelines given by the judge to the jury explaining how they should go about deciding the case. This may include a summary of the questions to be decided, the laws that apply, and the burden of proof. |
| _____ Felony | R. | This amendment to the Constitution ensures the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury in criminal prosecutions. |
| _____ Jury | S. | The judge. |
| _____ Jury instructions | T. | The judge or jury charged with finding and deciding the truth of the matter. |

_____ Litigation	U.	These courts are located in all 23 counties and Baltimore City, are the trial courts of general jurisdiction. The circuit courts historically have had greater autonomy and have been funded by the county or city. These courts generally handle the State's major civil cases and more serious criminal matters, along with juvenile cases, family matters such as divorce, and most appeals from the District Court, orphans' courts and administrative agencies. These courts also can hear cases from the District Court (civil or criminal) in which one of the parties has requested a jury trial, under certain circumstances.
_____ Misdemeanor	V.	During a trial, this is the questioning of the opposing side's witnesses.
_____ Motions	W.	This is Maryland's intermediate appellate court which was created in 1966 in response to the rapidly-growing caseload in the original appellate court. Its jurisdiction includes reviewable judgment, decree, order, or other action of the circuit and orphans' courts, unless otherwise provided by law. Judges sitting on the court generally hear and decide cases in panels of three. In some instances, however, all 13 judges may listen to a case, known as an 'en banc' hearing.
_____ Opening statement	X.	The presentation of facts to a court, demonstrating that the testimony of a witness or evidence presented by the opposing party is not true.
_____ Precedent	Y.	The term refers to legal advice. It's also a term used to mean "lawyer".
_____ Rebuttal	Z.	Requests made by one party to a lawsuit that a judge takes specific action or take some other action.
_____ Seventh Amendment	AA.	From Latin, literally meaning "to make sure." Similar to an appeal, but one which the higher court is not required to take for decision.
_____ Sixth Amendment	BB.	This is the highest court in the State (commonly called the Supreme Court in other states and at the federal level). It hears cases almost exclusively by way of certiorari. However, it is mandated by law to hear cases involving the death penalty, legislative redistricting, removal of certain officers, and certifications of questions of law. All seven judges hear oral arguments on each case unless a judge removes him/herself from a case; in this event, a judge from another court, or a retired appellate judge, may be specially assigned to sit in the place of the recused judge.
_____ State (Courts)	CC.	Evidence given by a witness under oath.
_____ Testimony	DD.	This court system primarily reflects the culture of Native Americans and hear a broad range of both civil and criminal cases. The criminal sentencing of this system is limited to an imprisonment of no more than one year and a fine of no more than \$5000.
_____ Tribal (Courts)	EE.	At the end of a trial, this is conducted by a trial attorney to summarize the evidence presented.
_____ Trier of fact	FF.	In a trial or appeal, this is the written opinion of a minority of judges who disagree with the decision of the majority.
_____ Verdict	GG.	The process of taking your case to court or arguing a case in a court of law.
_____ Witness	HH.	This court system hears criminal and civil cases involving federal law. They also hear cases involving parties from different states when the amount of the dispute is more than \$75,000.
_____ Writ of certiorari	II.	Most courts in this jurisdiction resemble the courts in the federal court system in structure and function. They all have trial courts which are typically specialized to deal with specific legal claims.

Answer Sheet

N	Adversarial	DD	Tribal (Courts)
A	Appeal	T	Trier of fact
S	Bench	E	Verdict
U	Circuit (court)	G	Witness
J	Civil	AA	Writ of certiorari
EE	Closing argument		
B	Concurring opinion		
Y	Counsel		
BB	Court of appeals		
W	Court of special appeals		
L	Criminal (law)		
V	Cross examination		
K	Direct examination		
FF	Dissenting opinion		
I	District (court)		
M	Evidence		
HH	Federal (Courts)		
D	Felony		
F	Jury		
Q	Jury instructions		
GG	Litigation		
P	Misdemeanor		
Z	Motions		
H	Opening statement		
O	Precedent		
X	Rebuttal		
C	Seventh Amendment		
R	Sixth Amendment		
II	State (Courts)		
CC	Testimony		