



**HMDC MODEL CONGRESS
(FALL 2024, Week 7)**

What We Will Discuss (Today)

Here is the agenda for today's lesson...

Review of the Homework (ex. Quiz Questions)

Brief Review of Court Proceedings

Activity: Court Proceedings (Simulation of the Judicial Process)

Activity: City Council Meeting (Simulation of Local Government)

Reviewing the Homework (Quiz 6)

PLEASE REVIEW AS A GROUP

The Judge

The Judge presides over the trial, ensures legal procedures are followed, and maintains order in the courtroom. They make rulings on objections, instruct the jury on the law, and may determine sentences if a defendant is found guilty.

The Judge

The Judge oversees all aspects of the trial, from jury selection to the final verdict, ensuring that all proceedings adhere to established legal standards and protocols. They must interpret and apply the law impartially, make rulings on the admissibility of evidence and objections, and provide clear instructions to the jury on how to apply the law to the facts presented. The Judge's role is crucial in maintaining the integrity of the judicial process and ensuring that both the rights of the accused and the interests of justice are protected throughout the trial.

- Rules on objections: 'Objection sustained. The jury will disregard that statement.'
- Instructs the jury: 'Members of the jury, you must base your verdict solely on the evidence presented in this courtroom.'
- Maintains order: 'Order in the court. Counsel, approach the bench.'

The Attorneys

Attorneys represent their clients in court, presenting evidence and arguments to support their case. Prosecutors represent the state and aim to prove the defendant's guilt, while defense attorneys protect the rights of the accused and challenge the prosecution's evidence.

Prosecutor(s)

Prosecutors represent the government and seek justice by proving the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. They present evidence, question witnesses, and argue for conviction. The Prosecutor must balance the pursuit of justice with ethical considerations, ensuring that the rights of the accused are respected while vigorously advocating for the interests of the state and victims.

- Opening statement: 'Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the evidence will show that the defendants recklessly endangered our community...'
- Witness examination: 'Detective, can you describe what you found at the water treatment facility?'
- Closing argument: 'The facts are clear: the defendants' actions caused widespread panic and put our entire city at risk.'

Defense Attorneys

Defense Attorneys protect the legal rights of the accused. They challenge the prosecution's evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and work to create reasonable doubt in the minds of the jury. This role demands a comprehensive understanding of criminal law, exceptional analytical skills, and the ability to construct alternative narratives that explain the evidence in a way favorable to their client.

- Opening statement: 'The prosecution's case is built on fear, not facts. We will show that no real harm was done...'
- Cross-examination: 'Doctor, isn't it true that no one suffered any serious health effects from this incident?'
- Closing argument: 'These are good kids who made a mistake. They don't deserve to have their lives ruined over a harmless prank.'

The Witnesses

Witnesses provide crucial testimony in court, sharing their firsthand knowledge or expert opinions related to the case. Their role is to present facts or professional insights that help the jury understand the events in question and reach a fair verdict.

Police Investigator

The Police Investigator leads the investigation into the water contamination incident. They gather evidence, interview suspects and witnesses, and compile a comprehensive report of their findings. Their testimony provides a factual account of the investigation process and the evidence collected.

- Describes the investigation: 'We received multiple reports of discolored water and growing panic in the community on the morning of July 15th.'
- Details evidence found: 'We discovered empty containers of food coloring and other chemicals near the facility, which matched the substances found in the water supply.'
- Recounts suspect interaction: 'During initial questioning, one of the boys confessed to the prank, though I must note that Miranda rights had not been read at that time.'

City Health Official

The City Health Official provides expert testimony on the public health impact of the water contamination incident. They present data on hospital admissions, reported symptoms, and potential long-term health effects. Their testimony helps establish the severity of the incident from a public health perspective.

- Reports on hospital visits: 'We saw a significant increase in emergency room visits following the water contamination incident.'
- Describes symptoms: 'While most cases were related to anxiety and panic, some patients exhibited mild symptoms such as nausea, skin irritation, and stomach discomfort.'
- Assesses potential risks: 'Although no severe health consequences were observed, the potential for more serious outcomes was a major concern during the initial stages of the crisis.'

City Water Engineer

The City Water Engineer provides technical expertise on the city's water system and the impact of the contamination. They explain the extent of the contamination, the process of cleaning the water supply, and the potential risks if different substances had been used. Their testimony helps establish the seriousness of tampering with the water supply.

- Describes contamination extent: 'While the substances introduced were not severely toxic, they could have had more serious consequences if mixed differently or in larger quantities.'
- Explains cleanup process: 'We had to flush the entire system and conduct multiple rounds of testing to ensure water safety.'
- Details costs: 'The incident required significant manpower and resources, costing the city over \$500,000 to address the contamination and restore public confidence.'

Environmental Scientist

The Environmental Scientist provides expert analysis on the actual health risks posed by the contaminated water. They present findings from water sample tests and compare contaminant levels to established safety standards. Their testimony helps put the incident into perspective from a scientific standpoint.

- Presents analysis results: 'Our tests showed that while the substances caused noticeable discoloration and odor, they did not pose a significant health risk to the population.'
- Compares to safety standards: 'The concentrations of contaminants were well below harmful levels as defined by EPA guidelines.'
- Offers perspective: 'From a scientific standpoint, this incident was more of a nuisance than a genuine public health emergency.'

The Jury

The jury plays a crucial role in the justice system, serving as impartial fact-finders who determine the verdict based on the evidence presented. Jurors must approach their duty with an open mind, carefully consider all testimony and evidence, and make a decision based solely on the facts and the law as instructed by the judge. It's essential for jurors to set aside personal biases and preconceptions, and to make their decision only after hearing all the evidence and deliberating with fellow jurors.

The Jury Foreperson

The Jury Foreperson leads the jury's deliberations and acts as a spokesperson for the jury in the courtroom. They ensure that all jurors have an opportunity to express their views, guide the discussion, and deliver the verdict to the court. The Foreperson's role is crucial in maintaining order during deliberations and ensuring that the jury reaches a fair and impartial decision.

- Initiates deliberation: 'Let's start by reviewing the charges and the judge's instructions. Everyone should have a chance to speak before we take any votes.'
- Manages discussion: 'We don't have a unanimous decision yet. Let's discuss this further and see if we can reach an agreement.'
- Delivers verdict: 'Your Honor, on the charge of reckless endangerment, we find the defendant...'

The Jury (Advice)

Jurors serve as impartial fact-finders, determining the verdict based solely on the evidence presented in court. They must approach their duty with an open mind, carefully considering all testimony and evidence before reaching a decision. Jurors play a crucial role in ensuring justice is served by applying the law as instructed by the judge to the facts of the case.

- Listen attentively to all testimony and evidence, taking notes if permitted
- Remain impartial throughout the trial, setting aside personal biases and preconceptions
- Avoid discussing the case with anyone, including fellow jurors, until deliberations begin
- Follow the judge's instructions carefully regarding the application of law to the facts
- Participate actively in deliberations, respecting others' opinions while expressing your own views

Break Time (~10 min)

During/After the break...

1. Lawyers = Prepare closing statements.
2. Non-Lawyers = review your bills for the City Council Meeting.
3. After the break: The Trial Resumes!