

COURTWATCHING FORM

Courtwatcher's Name: _____ Date: _____

Type of Courtwatcher
 College of Law Student
 League of Women Voters
 Other - Explain: _____

Total Time Observing Court Proceedings

Time In: _____ A.M./P.M. Time Out: _____ A.M./P.M.
 _____ Hours _____ Minutes

Court Observed	Judge's Name: _____
_____ Courtroom: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> State Court (Champaign County Courthouse) <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. District Court (Federal Courthouse)	Case Number(s): _____
Case Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal <input type="checkbox"/> Civil <input type="checkbox"/> Habeas Corpus <input type="checkbox"/> Other - Explain: _____	

Type of Proceeding(s) Observed	Attorneys and Other Appearances
<input type="checkbox"/> Jury Trial	Name(s) of Counsel for Prosecution/Plaintiff(s): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bench Trial	Name(s) of Counsel for Defendant(s)/Respondent(s): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Jury Selection	Conference (Pretrial or Plea) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Arraignment	Others Appearing In Court: _____
Purpose: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Defendant in Court	
<input type="checkbox"/> Defendant via Closed-Circuit TV	
Hearing - Type/Purpose: _____	

Case Outcome	
Did case conclude while you were present? (Yes/No) _____	If yes, describe outcome: _____
Did you agree with outcome? (Yes/No) _____	Why/Why not? _____
If case did not conclude, next court date in case: _____	Purpose of subsequent proceeding: _____

Witnesses and Objections	
How many witnesses testified? _____	For which party(ies)? _____
Nature of testimony offered: _____	
How many objections did opposing counsel interpose? _____	Nature of objections: _____
How persuasive were the arguments of objecting counsel?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all persuasive <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly unpersuasive <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat persuasive <input type="checkbox"/> Reasonably persuasive <input type="checkbox"/> Very persuasive	
Please give an example to illustrate your answer: _____	

Criminal Prosecution Hearing or Trial [if applicable]	
Sex of Defendant(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Interpreter needed? (Yes/No) _____ If yes, for what language? _____
Approx. Age of Defendant(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-32 <input type="checkbox"/> 32-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-60 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 60	
Race of Defendant(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian <input type="checkbox"/> African-American <input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native American	
Appearance of Defendant(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Suit/dress <input type="checkbox"/> Street clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Jail clothing/jumpsuit _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Handcuffs/shackles	
Type of Charge(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Petty	Name(s) of Charge(s): _____
How much of the proceedings did the Defendant(s) appear to understand?	
<input type="checkbox"/> None of the proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> Very little <input type="checkbox"/> Approximately half <input type="checkbox"/> Most <input type="checkbox"/> All of the proceedings	
How well did the Defendant(s) appear to understand his/her rights and options?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all <input type="checkbox"/> Very little <input type="checkbox"/> Reasonably well <input type="checkbox"/> Very well <input type="checkbox"/> Fully	

Please use extra sheets if necessary to provide a complete answer to any question.

ARRAIGNMENT COURT – CRIMINAL PRETRIALS

Key to Abbreviations

D = Defendant

W = White/Caucasian

B = Black/African-American

His. = Hispanic/Latino

As. = Asian

NA = Native American

	D's Surname, First Initial	D's Sex (M/F)	D's Race					D's Age (approx)	D appeared to understand rights/options ?		Interpreter Needed?		Arraignment Type		Comments (Problems with video arraignment, etc.)
			W	B	His.	As.	NA		Yes	No	Yes	No	By video	In person	
1.															
2.															
3.															
4.															
5.															
6.															
7.															
8.															
9.															
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20.															

MULTIPLE PARTY CIVIL COURT HEARINGS

	Parties's Surname, First Initial (P = Plaintiff, D = Defendant)	Sex (M/F)	Parties's Race					Age (approx)	Type of Proceeding (Family/Civil/Injunction/Probate)	Parties Present?		Comments
			W	B	His.	As.	NA			Yes	No	
P1.												
D1.												
P2.												
D2.												
P3.												
D3.												
P4.												
D4.												
P5.												
D5.												
P6.												
D6.												
P7.												
D7.												

Please use extra sheets if necessary to provide a complete answer to any question.

JURY SELECTION [if applicable]

Number of prospective jurors in venire: _____ **Main questioner(s) of prospective jurors:** _____ Judge _____ Attorneys _____

What was the general demeanor of Counsel for the Prosecution/Plaintiff towards the prospective jurors?
 _____ Very hostile _____ Somewhat hostile _____ Neutral _____ Somewhat pleasant _____ Very pleasant

What was the general demeanor of Counsel for the Defendant/Respondent towards the prospective jurors?
 _____ Very hostile _____ Somewhat hostile _____ Neutral _____ Somewhat pleasant _____ Very pleasant

How respectful of prospective jurors did court personnel (judge, clerk, bailiff) appear to be?
 _____ Not at all respectful _____ Somewhat disrespectful _____ Neutral _____ Somewhat respectful _____ Very respectful

Explain your previous answer: _____

Juror #	Juror's Sex	Juror's Race	Age (approx.)	Juror seated?		Juror excused?			Comments/Observations (If juror is excused, state the reason for excusing the juror, especially if unusual or related to the case.)
				As juror	As alternate juror	By judge	By prosecution/plaintiff	By defendant	

Please use extra sheets if necessary to provide a complete answer to any question.

Judge's Conduct

How engaged did the judge appear to be?

___ Completely indifferent ___ Mostly indifferent ___ Somewhat engaged ___ Highly engaged ___ Completely engaged

What was the judge's general demeanor?

___ Very hostile ___ Somewhat hostile ___ Neutral ___ Somewhat pleasant ___ Very pleasant

How respectful to attorneys and parties (including criminal defendants) did the judge appear to be?

___ Not at all respectful ___ Somewhat disrespectful ___ Neutral ___ Somewhat respectful ___ Very respectful

Please give an example to illustrate your answer: _____

Attorneys' Conduct

How engaged was Counsel for the Prosecution/Plaintiff?

___ Completely indifferent ___ Mostly indifferent ___ Somewhat engaged ___ Highly engaged ___ Completely engaged

What was the general demeanor of Counsel for the Prosecution/Plaintiff?

___ Very hostile ___ Somewhat hostile ___ Neutral ___ Somewhat pleasant ___ Very pleasant

How respectful of the judge and opposing counsel/parties did Counsel for the Prosecution/Plaintiff appear to be?

___ Not at all respectful ___ Somewhat disrespectful ___ Neutral ___ Somewhat respectful ___ Very respectful

How engaged was Counsel for the Defendant/Respondent?

___ Completely indifferent ___ Mostly indifferent ___ Somewhat engaged ___ Highly engaged ___ Completely engaged

What was the general demeanor of Counsel for the Defendant/Respondent?

___ Very hostile ___ Somewhat hostile ___ Neutral ___ Somewhat pleasant ___ Very pleasant

How respectful of the judge and opposing counsel/parties did Counsel for the Defendant/Respondent appear to be?

___ Not at all respectful ___ Somewhat disrespectful ___ Neutral ___ Somewhat respectful ___ Very respectful

Courtwatching Problems (You may comment below)

Did you encounter any obstacle to being admitted to the courtroom to observe the proceeding? (Yes/No) _____

Did court personnel do anything that made you feel unwelcome as a courtroom observer? (Yes/No) _____

Did you observe any unusual activity or delays during the proceeding? (Yes/No) _____

Did you observe any problems or interference from court personnel, attorneys, parties, or spectators? (Yes/No) _____

Did any facilities issues impair your ability to hear and observe this proceeding? (Yes/No) _____

General Comments

Was this a fair proceeding? (Yes/No) _____ Comments on any issues or problems _____

