

Who's who in a Magistrates' Court?

Who are these people at court? Match the name of the legal function in italics with the appropriate picture and description.



A
B
C
D
E
F
G

*defence lawyer, defendant, legal advisor (clerk),
magistrates (Justice of Peace, JP), the public,
prosecution lawyer, usher, witness*

1 _____

The _____ are in charge of the courtroom. Usually there are three of them. The _____ wear ordinary clothes; they do not wear wigs or gowns like Judges in the Crown Courts. The _____ decide if the person has broken the law after hearing the evidence from both the prosecution and the defence.

2 _____

The _____ sits at the front of the court and takes care of all the papers that are needed during a trial. The _____ is a professional lawyer whose job is to make sure that magistrates follow legal rules and also advises magistrates about specific legal problems.

3 _____

The _____ is the person who has been accused of breaking the law. The _____ sits in the dock and is not usually allowed to speak to you.

4 _____

It is the _____'s job to help the defendant. The _____ also asks the witnesses questions and tries to show that the defendant did not break the law.

5 _____

The _____ wears a black robe and tells you when it is your turn to come into the courtroom.

6 _____

The _____ answers questions from a place in the courtroom called the _____ box.

7 _____

The _____ tries to show the defendant has broken the law. He or she does this by presenting evidence and asking the witness questions about what they saw or heard or what happened to them.

8 _____

A magistrates' court is open to _____. They can sit quietly and listen at the back of the court.