

USA CHARACTER PACK

The United States uses an adversarial jury trial system.

- The judge acts as a neutral referee
- Lawyers control questioning and argument
- A jury decides guilt or innocence
- The judge does not investigate or does not decide facts

1. USA JUDGE – Katherine Willis

Age: 47

Role: Criminal Court Judge

Court Address: “Your Honor”

Practical Personality

- Has empathy for working-class defendants because she grew up poor – but fights against showing

favoritism.

- Dislikes sloppy lawyering: rambling, emotional speeches, repeated questions.
- Values order, efficiency, and **clear logic.**
- Believes the justice system works best when the jury has clean, well-presented facts.

Mild Bias

- **Sensitive about workplace injuries** (family accident in the past).
- Slightly stricter when the victim is harmed while doing their job.
- Still committed to fairness.

(This bias helps roleplay but **should not dominate the verdict** — the jury decides.)

Judge's Mandatory Duties

Students must do the following:

- Start the trial with:

“Court is now in session. Please be

seated.”

- Explain jury instructions in the beginning.
- Rule on objections with **“sustained”** or **“overruled.”**
- Control who speaks and when.
- Maintain courtroom order:

“Counsel, control your tone.”

“Witness, answer only the question asked.”

- Allow or deny witnesses.
- Give the jury final legal instructions.
- Accept or reject plea offers.
- Provide sentencing *if* the jury returns a guilty verdict.

When the Judge Can Interrupt

Judge Willis may interrupt:

- If the lawyer is leading a witness in direct exam
- If a witness begins rambling
- If lawyers argue with each other

- If questioning becomes hostile
- If someone breaks courtroom etiquette

Sample phrases:

- “Counsel, rephrase.”
- “The witness will answer the question.”
- “Move on, counselor.”

Judge’s Sentencing Options

If jury finds **not guilty** → immediate release.

If guilty, the judge may choose:

Misdemeanor Assault

- 0–1 year in county jail
- Fine
- Anger management
- Probation

Felony Assault (Serious Injury)

- 1–5 years state prison
- No-contact order
- Work program
- Probation possible depending on intent

Lesser Charge Option

- Reckless endangerment (if jury believes accident or confusion)

Precedent Guide (What the Judge Uses to Make Decisions)

1. Burden of proof

Prosecution must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

2. Circumstantial evidence is allowed

(Holland v. U.S.)

→ Judge must remind jury that indirect evidence still counts.

3. Victim memory may be flawed

(Neil v. Biggers)

→ Judge must allow testimony but encourage careful evaluation.

4. Mistake-of-perception is

possible

(People v. Goetz)

→ Judge should allow arguments about panic or confusion.

5. Small police report mistakes don't kill the case

(Hasting, 1983)

Judge Checklist

When listening to testimony, the judge writes down:

- Timeline details
- Inconsistencies
- Physical evidence weight
- Whether the lawyers follow rules
- Whether objections are correct
- Credibility of each witness
- Possible alternative explanations

2. USA PROSECUTOR — Assistant District Attorney

Jordan Hale

Age: 35

Role: Represents the State

Practical Personality

- Assertive, confident in court, but not theatrical.
- Prefers direct questions, fast structure.
- Believes workplace violence must be punished strongly.

Internal Leanings (mild bias)

- Trusts physical evidence more than witness memory.
- Slight suspiciousness toward defendants who “can’t remember.”

Prosecutor’s Mission

- Prove defendant entered illegally.
- Prove defendant injured the guard (intentional or reckless).
- Show the jury a clear story.

Tools the Prosecutor Can Use

Direct Examination

Ask simple, open questions:

- “What did you see?”
- “What happened next?”

Cross-Examination

Challenge the defendant and defense witnesses:

- “Isn’t it true that...?”
- “Why were you inside the warehouse?”

Objections the Prosecutor May Use

- Leading (during defense direct exam)
- Relevance
- Speculation
- Hearsay
- Asked and answered

Key Precedent for Prosecutor

- Circumstantial evidence can prove guilt

- Memory inconsistencies don't destroy testimony
- Confused defendants may be covering guilt

3. USA DEFENSE LAWYER

– Melissa Hart

Age: 33

Role: Protects defendant's rights

Practical Personality

- Calm, strategic
- Focuses on doubt and inconsistencies
- Stays polite even when pressured

Internal Leanings

- Believes many young defendants are misjudged
- Dislikes unclear police procedures

Defense Lawyer's Mission

- Show the defendant is confused, not criminal

- Suggest a **third person** may have been present
- Challenge the reliability of the victim's memory
- Highlight lack of fingerprints or direct proof

Tools the Defense Lawyer Uses

Cross-Examination:

- Attack assumptions
- Point out alternative explanations
- Ask the guard about memory gaps
- Question sloppy procedures by police

Objections Defense May Use:

- Leading (when prosecutor does it incorrectly)
- Hearsay
- Speculation
- Relevance

- Badgering the witness

Key Precedents for Defense

- Doubt = acquittal
- Trauma affects memory
- Mistaken identity is possible
- No fingerprints → no direct proof

4. DEFENDANT – Riley

Morgan

Age: 22

Address Judge As: “Your Honor”

Who they are:

22-year-old part-time delivery rider, occasionally helps at warehouses.

What happened (public knowledge):

- Found inside the warehouse when police arrived
- Had minor scrapes and bruises
- Has no criminal record
- Received a trespassing warning at age

Private knowledge :

- Heard a loud yell or noise
- Does not remember everything clearly
- Picked up a flashlight
- Did not intend to harm anyone
- Did not intend to steal anything

Goal:

- Avoid conviction
- Convince the court there was no criminal intent
- Show actions were due to confusion or panic

Things to avoid:

- Guessing or inventing details
- Becoming defensive or emotional
- Blaming the victim
- Over-explaining when unsure

5.VICTIM – Elias Grant

Age: 34

Address to judges: :“Your Honor”

Who they are:

34-year-old night-shift warehouse security guard.

What happened (public knowledge):

- Found unconscious near the loading dock
- Suffered a head injury
- Has partial memory loss
- May have a permanent limp

Private knowledge :

- Does not clearly remember who injured him
- Remembers shouting at someone
- Is embarrassed about memory gaps

Goal:

- Seek justice
- Make the court take the injury seriously
- Avoid accusing the wrong person

Things to avoid:

- Guessing the attacker's identity
- Filling memory gaps with assumptions

- Exaggerating what he remembers

How the Defendant Must Behave in USA Court

- Stay seated unless testifying
- Only speak when:
 - answering lawyer's questions
 - answering judge directly
- Never interrupt
- Avoid emotional reactions
- Keep eyes on the lawyer asking questions
- Say "I'm not sure" if memory unclear (DO NOT overexplain)

6. USA WITNESSES

WITNESS A – SAMIR PATEL

Role:

Nearby warehouse worker who saw movement near the scene.

Public knowledge:

- Was working at a nearby warehouse at night
- Saw two figures running near the loading area
- Could not see faces
- Has poor night vision

Private knowledge:

- Vision was especially unclear
- Had 2 beers earlier (will not mention unless directly forced)
- Only saw movement, not actions

Goal:

- Tell the truth without guessing
- Avoid being blamed
- Avoid embarrassment

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR — DANA STERLING

Role:

Supervisor responsible for warehouse operations and security.