



Interpreting the Court's Docket

Prior to your arrival for your Courthouse Experience Tour, your Tour Guide will have checked the day's court docket, daily schedule of the individual assignments for each judge. It is organized with three columns; the column on the left has the judge's name and the courtroom they are in. The middle column shows what's scheduled in each courtroom for the morning. The column on the right has the afternoon schedule.

You'll receive suggestions as to which courtrooms are most likely to be of interest to your students and which rooms and proceedings will be off limits. With that, we encourage teachers and chaperones to familiarize themselves with the docket abbreviations. A list of docket abbreviations are below to help you understand what is going on in each courtroom.

Docket Terminology List

Assigned to Drug Team – Simply write, “Check Courtroom” on the docket.

Chief Criminal Judge – Assigns the cases.

CPC - Criminal Procedure Court. The judge in this court is presiding over procedural matters relating to criminal trials such as entering pleas or conducting arraignments. In many situations the defendant will not actually be present in the courtroom.

D.I.S.P. - Deferred Imposition of Sentence Program. This is a program set up for defendants to have the formal judgment of their sentence deferred pending the outcome of conditions assigned during a probationary period. For instance, if a person is arrested for a D.U.I. they may have their sentence deferred so long as they follow through with substance counseling assigned by the judge.

Family Law - The judge is hearing cases involving Family Law. You will need to call the judge regarding the specific kinds of cases going on that day to see if its appropriate for groups.

F.E.D. - Forced Entry and Detainer (eviction)

In Chambers - Cross out. Judge is unavailable.

Judicial Settlement Conferences - Conferences between the two parties and the judge as they reach a settlement in the case. In this situation, the disputing parties in a civil case decided to settle rather than follow through with a trial. This saves the court time it would otherwise have to devote to a trial, and it saves each party the costs associated with a trial such as attorney fees.

Juvenile Court - Family Law Division cases regarding juveniles. This is located away from the Multnomah County courthouse, so cross it out.

J.C. #___ - Justice Center Courtroom (usually when a judge is not in their usual courtroom). The Guide should cross this judge off of the Docket for that day.

Leave - This judge is not holding trial.

Misdemeanor Team - The judge is assigned to hearing misdemeanor cases. You will need to call the judge to figure out what kind of misdemeanor cases they will be hearing.

Plea - The defendant in a criminal trial will be entering their plea in front of the court. Generally, they are entering a guilty plea.

Presiding Court - The Presiding Judge, the Hon. Judith H. Matarazzo, determines the schedule for the Multnomah County Circuit Courts for the following day. The court docket is produced at this time.

PSP – Pretrial Supervisory Program. Requests to be let out of jail while awaiting trial.

S.E.D. – Support Enforcement Division (child/spousal support enforcement done by the District Attorney's office)

Smith v. Peoples Insurance (example) - Whenever you see two names together with the “v” between them, this indicates a civil trial. You will need to call the judge to find out what it is about.

Special Set – The Presiding Judge specifically assigned this judge the case or cases at hand. Sometimes you see Special Set followed by Criminal/Civil. This means that this judge is going to hear a host of criminal and civil cases. Unfortunately, the cases are usually not described so you will need to call the judge and ask them what they are about.

S.T.A.R.T. – Start Court. Property crime and drug treatment. Stands for “Success, Through Accountability Restitution Treatment”. Usually Judge Bloch. Mandatory Program requested by Probation Officers for those already convicted and serving time. Generally property crime offenders with drug and alcohol problems.

S.T.O.P. - Sanctions Treatment Opportunity Progress Adult Drug Court. S.T.O.P Court offers non-violent drug offenders a chance to have the charges against them dropped if they complete a treatment program.

ST v. Smith (example) - This refers to a criminal trial. ST stands for the State of Oregon and Smith is the name of the defendant. Sometimes the subject matter of the trial is listed.

T.L. Cont'd - The trial from the previous day, or a trial that began in the morning, is scheduled to be continued.

Voir Dire - The two parties are going through the process of selecting a jury for a criminal or civil trial. The judge, attorneys representing the parties, and the pool of potential jurors will be present in the courtroom. These proceedings are open to the public, but seating may be limited due to the number of jurors.