

# COURTWATCHING FORM

Courtwatcher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Courtwatcher \_\_\_\_\_ Time In: \_\_\_\_\_ A.M./P.M. Time Out: \_\_\_\_\_ A.M./P.M.  
Total Time Observing Court Proceedings  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other — \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: Hours  
Minutes

Court Observed Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Courtroom: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ State Court (Champaign County Courthouse)  
\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. District Court (Federal Courthouse) Case Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Case Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Criminal \_\_\_\_\_ Civil \_\_\_\_\_ Habeas Corpus \_\_\_\_\_ Other — Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Proceeding(s) Observed Attorneys and Other Appearances  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jury Trial Name(s) of Counsel for Prosecution/Plaintiff(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bench Trial  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jury Selection Name(s) of Counsel for Defendant(s)/Respondent(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Conference (Pretrial or Plea)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Arraignment Others Appearing In Court: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Defendant in Court  
\_\_\_\_\_ Defendant via Closed-Circuit TV  
Hearin —T e/Pu ose:

**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?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Not at all persuasive \_\_\_\_\_ Mostly unpersuasive \_\_\_\_\_ Somewhat persuasive \_\_\_\_\_ Reasonably persuasive \_\_\_\_\_  
Very persuasive

**Criminal Prosecution Hearing or Trial [if applicable]**

Sex of Defendant(s):  Male  Female Interpreter needed? (Yes/No) \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, for what language? \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Age of Defendant(s): Under 18  18-24  25-32  32-40  40-50  50-60  Over 60

Race of Defendant(s): Caucasian  African-American  Latino/Hispanic  Asian  Native American

Appearance of Defendant(s):  Suit/dress  Street clothes  Jail clothing/jumpsuit  Handcuffs/shackles

Type of Charge(s):  Felony  Misdemeanor  Traffic/Petty Name(s) of Charge(s): \_\_\_\_\_

How much of the proceedings did the Defendant(s) appear to understand?  
 None of the proceedings  Very little  Approximately half  Most  All of the proceedings

How well did the Defendant(s) appear to understand his/her rights and options?  
 Not at all  Very little  Reasonably well  Very well  Full

if necessary.

**ARRAIGNMENT COURT - CRIMINAL PRETRIALS**

**Key to Abbreviations**

D = Defendant

W — White/Caucasian

B = Black/African-American

His. = Hispanic/Latino

As. = Asian

NA = Native American

1.	D'S Surname, First Initial	Sex	D'S Race				Age (approx)	D appeared to understand rights/options		Interpreter Needed?		Arraignment Type		Comments (Problems with video arraignment, etc.)
			w	B	His.	s.		Yes	No	Yes	No	By video	In person	
1.														
2.														
3.														
4.														
5.														
6.														
7.														
8.														
9.														
10.														
11.														
12.														
13.														
14.														
15.														
16.														
17.														
18.														
19.														
20.														

**MULTIPLE PARTY CIVIL COURT HEARINGS**

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

	Parties's Surname, First Initial (P = Plaintiff, Defendant)	Sex (M/F)	Parties's Race					Age (approx)	Type of Proceeding (Family/Civil/Injun- ction/Probate)	Parties Present?		Comments
			w	B	His.	As.				Yes	No	
P1.												
DI.												
D2.												
E.												
D3.												
P4.												
P5.												
D7.												

if

**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	alternate juror	By judge	By prosecution/ plaintiff	By defendant	

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



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

Court watching 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

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

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