



MUNICIPAL COURT



Sumner University
2026

Why are you here? Why am I ?

- Who am I?
- What is a Judge?
- How do you become a Judge?
- What does a Judge do? Overall? Daily?



THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

- Legislative: Create laws
- Executive: Enforce laws
- Judicial: Interpret Laws/Due Process

Each branch created by the Constitution

Branches cannot control each other

Creates Checks and Balances



DIFFERENT ROLES = DIFFERENT RULES

- POLICE /FIRE vs. Community Member
- TEACHER vs. Student /Parent,
- REFEREE vs. Player, Coach
- Legislator v. Constituent
- JUDGE vs. Lawyers/Defendants
- Community Safety is Priority
- Learning Environment For Everyone Is Priority
- Fair Game for Both Teams is Priority
- Community At Large Is Priority
- Equal Access, Unbiased, Impartial, Following the Law Are Priorities



ROLES AND RULES AND
REGIMEN!

LAW &
ORDER

- Recipes
- Sports
- Classroom
- Parenting
- Military
- Driving
- Getting dressed!!!

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LAWS: WHAT ARE THEY GOOD FOR?

LIFE WITHOUT RULES/LAWS

CHAOS

NO PROTECTION

RANDOM DOMINATION

VULNERABLE VICTIMIZED

EAT OR BE EATEN LEADS TO MERE SURVIVAL

LAWS ARE RULES

- PROTECT INDIVIDUAL
- PROTECT COMMUNITY
- PROTECT WORKPLACE
- PROTECT VULNERABLE
- ENCOURAGES THRIVING



What Is The Judge's *Unique* Role?

- ***DUE PROCESS!!!***
- Protect Each Party's Rights
- Make Rulings Following The Law
- Interpret The Law
 - By The Letter
 - By The Spirit
- Fair
- Independent
- Unbiased
- Avoid Impropriety And Appearance Of Impropriety (Canon 1)
- Uphold And Promote The Independence, Integrity And Impartiality Of Judiciary (Canon 1)
- Perform Duties Impartially, Competently, And Diligently (Canon 2)
- Personal Activities To Minimize Conflict With Office (Canon 3)
- No Political Activity



MIRANDA WARNING

1. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
2. ANYTHING YOU SAY CAN AND WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU IN A COURT OF LAW.
3. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK TO A LAWYER AND HAVE HIM PRESENT WITH YOU WHILE YOU ARE BEING QUESTIONED.
4. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, ONE WILL BE APPOINTED TO REPRESENT YOU BEFORE ANY QUESTIONING, IF YOU WISH.
5. YOU CAN DECIDE AT ANY TIME TO EXERCISE THESE RIGHTS AND NOT ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OR MAKE ANY STATEMENTS.

WAIVER

DO YOU UNDERSTAND EACH OF THESE RIGHTS I HAVE EXPLAINED TO YOU?
HAVING THESE RIGHTS IN MIND, DO YOU WISH TO TALK TO US NOW?



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What Does a City Attorney Do?

Advise all City departments

- Provide legal advice to City Councilmembers and Mayor

- Draft and review ordinances (City laws)

- Draft/review contracts

Police Advisor

- Prosecute all misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors

- Process public records requests

- Manage real property assets of the City

- Represent City in all claims and litigation



Prosecutor Role

- Represent interests of the City in the prosecution of crimes, infractions and animal control matters
- Recommendations for conditions of release
- Determine whether, or how, to resolve each case
- Community Court
- Trial
- Appeals to Superior Court



Public Defender Role

- Represent persons accused of crimes
- Generally threshold for representation – below certain income threshold
- Evaluate facts of each case and advise client how/whether to resolve a case
- Protect defendant's constitutional rights
- Trial
- Appeals



Other services provided in Legal...

- **Domestic Violence Advocacy**
- Family or household member / Intimate Partner – domestic violence encompasses numerous different types of relationships
- Pattern of behavior to establish and maintain control over another individual
- May be physical, psychological, emotional, economic, sexual, or threats of action
- **ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!**



Other services provided in Legal...

- **Domestic Violence Advocacy**
- Initial contact with victims to determine needs, i.e., no contact orders, housing, safety planning and resources available
- Advise the victim of court process and keep victim updated as case progresses through system
- Update prosecutor on victim status throughout case
- Collaborate with court, victim, and defendant in some cases to ensure best outcome for all involved



**Okay, now put your
prosecutor hats on!**

To charge or not to charge....



It's a Thursday afternoon around 3:45 p.m. at **Sumner McDonalds**, a popular hangout spot for teens. A 16-year-old named Jordan calls the Sumner Police Department because his backpack is missing.

THE ALLEGED INCIDENT

Jordan reports that their backpack—containing a school laptop, AirPods, and a wallet—went missing when he got up to buy some fries. Jordan says the backpack was sitting on the back of their chair when they left. When they returned five minutes later, it was gone.

A security camera shows another teenager, Timmy (age 17), walking past Jordan's table, looking all around, grabbing the backpack, and walking quickly toward the exit.

POLICE CONTACT

Police locate Timmy across the street in the Sunset Stadium parking lot about 20 minutes later. Timmy is standing in a group of friends holding the backpack on his back. Inside, officers find the laptop and the wallet—but the AirPods are missing.

When asked what happened, Timmy gives the following statement:

"I thought it belonged to this kid named Jack, who I saw at McDonalds after school and who I will see at band practice in 20 minutes. I didn't steal anything."

Jordan insists Timmy had no reason to take the bag and claims the AirPods were definitely inside the front pocket.

Timmy denies ever even opening the backpack.

