

STEPS IN A U.S. CIVIL TRIAL

1. Call to order by bailiff and naming the case
2. Swearing in of jury
3. Opening statement by Plaintiff
4. Opening statement by Defendant
5. Swearing in of witness (occurs with each new witness)
6. Direct examination of Plaintiff Witness #1
7. Cross examination of Plaintiff Witness #1
8. Direct examination of Plaintiff Witness #2
9. Cross examination of Plaintiff Witness #2
10. Direct examination of Plaintiff Witness #3
11. Cross examination of Plaintiff Witness #3
12. Direct examination of Defense Witness #1
13. Cross examination of Defense Witness #1
14. Direct examination of Defense Witness #2
15. Cross examination of Defense Witness #2
16. Direct examination of Defense Witness #3
17. Cross examination of Defense Witness #3
18. Closing argument by Plaintiff
19. Closing argument by Defendant
20. Rebuttal by plaintiff
21. Judge's instructions to jury (this takes place in "jury room")
22. Choosing jury foreperson
23. Jury deliberations
24. Jury announces decision
25. If verdict is responsible, damages are to be decided later
26. If verdict is not responsible, case dismissed
27. Judge announces decision at the end of the trial or at a later date.