

# A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH A JUDGE

## PREPARATION FOR JUDGE

Preceding the presentation of the lesson, the attached "Press Conference Questions" should be cut into strips. There should be a question for each student in the class. Copy and cut a "Press Pass" name tag for each student.

### 1. ACTIVITY

After the teacher has introduced you to the class, explain to students that during the school year you will be coming to their classroom to work with them and their teacher on some special lessons.

Tell students that in order for them to get better acquainted with you, they are going to take part in a pretend press conference. They will have the opportunity to ask you questions about being a judge. Students will question you just as television and newspaper reporters question the president during a press conference. At the end of the press conference you might want to ask the students some questions.

Give each student in the class a "Press Conference Question." Tell students to look for a number in the right corner of question slip. The students should ask the questions in numerical order. Explain to students that when it is their turn, they should stand, introduce themselves and name the news organization they represent, and then ask their question.

Briefly respond to the students' questions so that every student has the opportunity to ask his/her question in the time allotted for the activity.

### 2. DEBRIEF (Review)

Discuss any or all of the following questions:

What is something new that you learned about a judge that you didn't know before?

What do you think would be the most difficult thing about being a judge? Explain.

What would be the best thing about being a judge?

Do you think you would like to be a judge? Why or why not?

Do you think the verdict should be decided by a judge or jury?

## JUDGES PRESS CONFERENCE



News Organization: **CNN**

Question: Why did you want to become a judge?

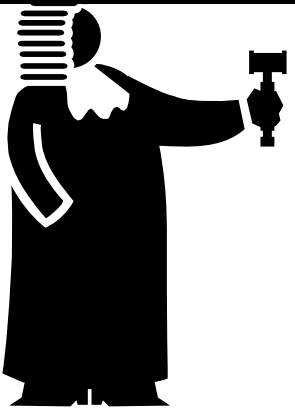
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News Organization: **ABC News**

Question: How long have you been a judge and is anyone else in your family a judge?

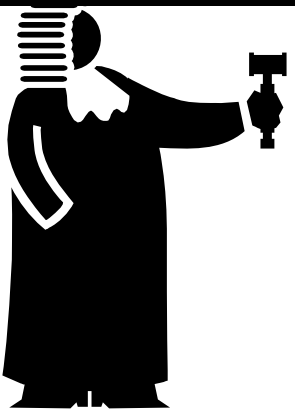
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News Organization: **Chicago Tribune**

Question: What is your educational background?

3



News Organization: **Los Angeles Times**

Question: What types of cases do you handle in the courtroom?

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## JUDGES PRESS CONFERENCE



News Organization: **CBS News**

Question: What are the different kinds of judges?

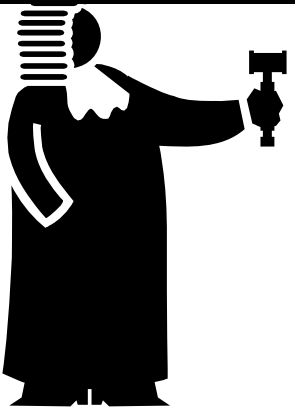
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News Organization: **NBC News**

Question: Do you have to be an attorney in order to become a judge?

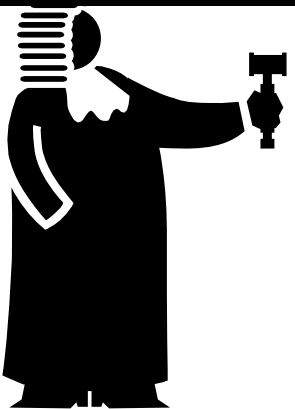
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News Organization: **Time Magazine**

Question: Would you explain what you consider to be the most rewarding thing about being a judge?

7



News Organization: **Newsweek Magazine**

Question: What do you wish you had known about becoming a judge before you became one?

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## JUDGES PRESS CONFERENCE



News Organization: **C-Span**

Question: What is the most interesting case over which you have presided?

9



News Organization: **Miami Herald**

Question: What is the most important thing that a judge does?

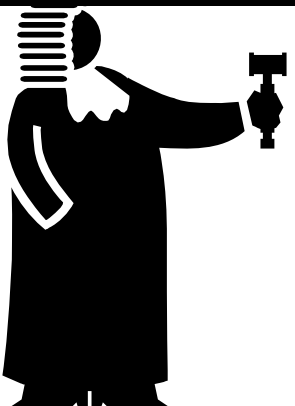
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News Organization: **The Associated Press**

Question: What do you consider to be the most important right that people have?

11



News Organization: **Fox News**

Question: Would you like to become a Supreme Court Justice? Why or why not?

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## JUDGES PRESS CONFERENCE



News Organization: **El Paso Times**

Question: If you could have a second career, what would you like to do and why?

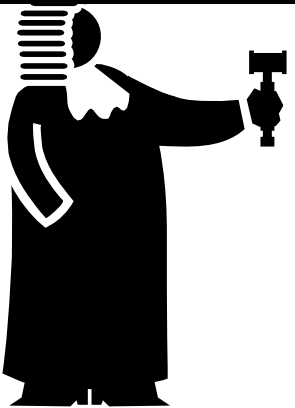
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News Organization: **Wall Street Journal**

Question: What advice do you have for a young person who is thinking of going into law?

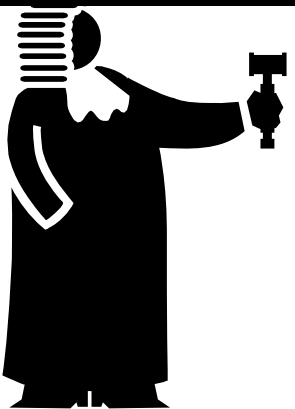
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News Organization: **U.S. News & World Report**

Question: What is the funniest thing that has ever happened to you during a case that you over which you have presided?

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News Organization: **San Antonio Express-News**

Question: Do judges receive information on a case before it is heard? Why or why not?

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## JUDGES PRESS CONFERENCE



News Organization: **Fort Worth Star Telegram**

Question: What skills, talents, or abilities should a person have if they want to become a judge?

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News Organization: **MSNBC**

Question: What do you do when you are not in the courtroom hearing a case?

18



News Organization: **Houston Chronicle**

Question: Is there ever a time that you would excuse yourself from hearing a case? Why or why not?

19



News Organization: **British Broadcasting Company**

Question: What do people not understand about the law profession that you wish they understood?

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## JUDGES PRESS CONFERENCE



News Organization: **Austin American Statesman**

Question: Are there more men and women judges? Do you think this is good? Why or why not?

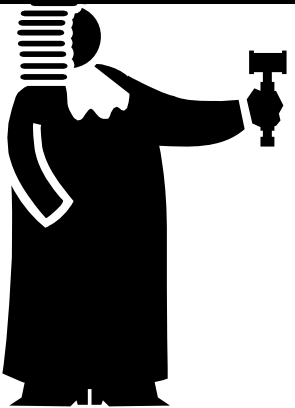
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News Organization: **New York Times**

Question: Who decides the verdict in a case?

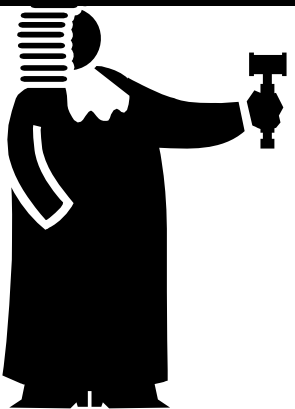
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News Organization: **United Press International**

Question: What are your responsibilities in the courtroom?

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News Organization: **Washington Post**

Question: How much time do most judges spend in the courtroom each month?

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## JUDGES PRESS CONFERENCE



News Organization: **Dallas Morning News**

Question: Who decides the punishment phase of a case? Why?

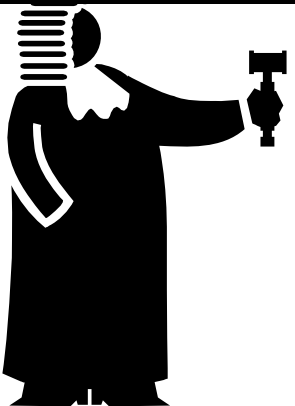
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News Organization: **National Public Radio**

Question: How do you become a judge in Texas?

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News Organization: **WKID-TV**

Question: If you could do it over again, would you still become a judge? Why or why not?

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