



# HS Intro to Public Services

**Thursday, April 23, 2020**



## HS Intro to Public Services

Lesson for Thursday, April 23: Pre-Law Pathway - Roles in the Court System - Defense Attorneys

### **Learning Target:**

Students will identify what defense attorneys do within the legal system and the service(s) they provide to clients.



# Definitions

- **Defense attorney** (counsel): Any attorney (private or public defender) who acts on behalf of a client being investigated or prosecuted for alleged criminal conduct, or a client seeking legal advice regarding a potential, ongoing or past criminal matter or subpoena. (*Source: American Bar Association*)
- **Prosecutor**: The attorney who investigates or prosecutes criminal cases, or who provides legal advice regarding a criminal matter to government lawyers, agents, or offices participating in the investigation or prosecution of criminal cases. (*Source: American Bar Association*)
  - **District Attorney**: Top prosecutor for a government body (*city, county, etc.*)



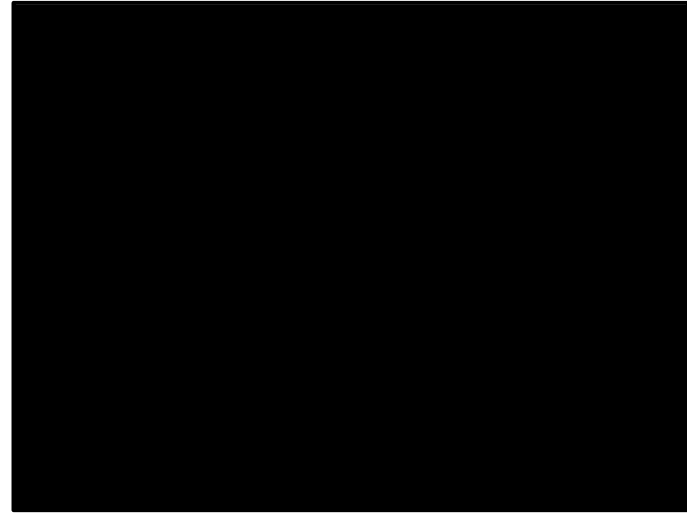
# Opening Exercise

- Read [this](#) article. Then, reflect on the following question:
  - *Do you believe inmates should be released during this time? Why/why not?*



# Activity #1

- Watch the video included on this slide with Joey Wolfe, a public defender with a non-profit in the Seattle, Washington area. Then, answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper:
  - 1) How many people does he currently have on his caseload?
  - 2) He calls the legal system “scary” and “intimidating” for defendants. Do you agree with this statement? Why/why not?
  - 3) He mentions that a large part of his job is figuring out what aspects of the defendant’s life the city is concerned about and what his client is concerned about/willing to change. What do you feel like he means by this?





# Activity #1 - ANSWERS

- Watch the video with Joey Wolfe, a public defender with a non-profit in the Seattle, Washington area. Then, answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper:
  - 1) How many people does he currently have on his caseload? *About 70*
  - 2) He calls the legal system “scary” and “intimidating” for defendants. Do you agree with this statement? Why/why not? *Answers will vary, but should be well thought out*
  - 3) He mentions that a large part of his job is figuring out what aspects of the defendant’s life the city is concerned about and what his client is concerned about/willing to change. What do you feel like he means by this? *Answers will vary, but should be well thought out*



## Activity #2

- Read [this](#) article. Then, answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper:
  - 1) After reading this, do you feel like defense attorneys are trying to *take advantage of* the COVID-19 pandemic? Why/why not?
  - 2) Why do you think the prosecutor in the article made the post that he did/said what he said?
  - 3) The article mentions that no cases of COVID-19 have been found in Iowa jails. One of the prosecutors quoted in the article says the perception that jails are “breeding grounds” for the virus aren’t accurate there. If it’s not a problem in jails, and if steps are being taken to keep it from being a problem, then -- to play a devil’s advocate -- why should prosecutors let *anyone* out? Couldn’t the people being released be at greater risk of exposure by getting out? Explain your answer.



## Activity #2 - ANSWERS

- Read [this](#) article. Then, answer the following questions on a Google Doc or your own paper:
  - 1) After reading this, do you feel like defense attorneys are trying to *take advantage* of the COVID-19 pandemic? Why/why not? *Answers will vary, but should be well thought out*
  - 2) Why do you think the prosecutor in the article made the post that he did/said what he said? *Answers will vary, but should be well thought out*
  - 3) The article mentions that no cases of COVID-19 have been found in Iowa jails. One of the prosecutors quoted in the article says the perception that jails are “breeding grounds” for the virus aren’t accurate there. If it’s not a problem in jails, and if steps are being taken to keep it from being a problem, then -- to play a devil’s advocate -- why should prosecutors let *anyone* out? Couldn’t the people being released be at greater risk of exposure by getting out? Explain your answer.





# Additional Resources

- [Missouri State Public Defender FAQ](#)
- [American Bar Association - Find Legal Help](#)