

What Does a Trial Lawyer Do?

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Any lawyer can go to trial, but not every lawyer is a trial lawyer. Trial lawyers represent clients involved in litigation, both civil and criminal. Trial lawyers have more experience in court than any other lawyer. Here at McElfish Law Firm, our senior lawyer, Raymond McElfish, is a trial lawyer.

In short, a trial lawyer is a person who is educated in the law, has passed the bar exam, and argues their client's case in front of a judge or jury. There are three types of trials in most countries that operate under civil law: criminal, civil, and constitutional. A trial is a legal proceeding, where disputes are heard by an impartial person or group of citizens and a binding decision is obtained.

Criminal lawyers may represent plaintiffs (the people) or defendants (the accused.) Civil litigators take the side of a party in a dispute where no crime is involved. The trial lawyer's job is to persuade a jury of the facts in a case and to display them in a way that best supports their client's position. Each piece of evidence must be presented and disputed according to a complicated set of rules. On days out of court, trial lawyers review files and schedule orders, contact witnesses, take depositions, and talk to clients. On court days, lawyers argue motions, meet with judges, prepare scheduling orders, select jurors, and argue cases. The preparation for a trial can take many months. Due to the tremendous cost of litigation, however, most cases settle before they ever reach trial. Trial law requires excellent analytical skills.

At McElfish law, we specialize in personal injury, wrongful death, accidents, and consumer cases. Our intakes are always free, and you only pay if we win. Visit mcelfishlaw.com for more information.