Everyone can have a **Defense Lawyer** represent them in court. The other attorney present in court is the **Prosecutor** – the lawyer whose job it is to represent “the people” (the citizens and the government). **Prosecutors** work with the police – who conduct the investigation and gather evidence – to prove that the **Defendant** – the person accused of breaking the law in court – is the one who committed the crime. **Prosecutors** are elected by the citizens, and because they represent us, they must obey many strict rules and have high standards of behavior.

**Sticky Situation:** Imagine someone comes to your school and removes all the recess equipment and toys from the building. No one knows who took them or why, but all agree it is unfair because students can no longer enjoy recess as much as they did when they had the recess equipment and toys. Do you think it is important to investigate who removed this equipment from the school, to uncover the truth? Do you think it is important to know who is responsible for taking the equipment? Do you think this is an investigation that students can handle on their own? Do you think students should seek assistance and guidance from a trusted adult? Whom would you ask for help?

**What a Prosecutor Does:** When someone breaks the law, it is called committing a crime. In the United States, when someone is accused of committing a crime, the government – acting on behalf of us, the citizens – must first figure out whether the person is actually guilty of it before punishing them for it. The **Prosecutor**’s job is to work on behalf of all the citizens to find out the truth about crimes. If the **Prosecutor** thinks they have found the truth, they then go to court to convince a judge and jury that the person accused of the crime is the person who actually committed it, and therefore, should be punished for it.

**Activity:** If you had to choose someone in your school or community to be a **Prosecutor**, who would you choose and why? What qualities does this person have that you think would make them good in this role? On the next page, is an exercise to help you identify qualities or traits that a **Prosecutor** should have.
Think about what you have learned about Prosecutors, then circle the qualities and traits below you believe they should have.

Honest  Makes Good Decisions  Lazy  Responsible  Trustworthy
Fair  Willing to Help Others  Smart  Dishonest  Good Listener
Hard-working  Organized  Good Communicator  Negative

Civics Resources: To learn more about the role of Prosecutors, check out this fun game:

Kid’s Court – Home of the naughtiest kids in the world!