



OPEN COURTS

THE COURTHOUSE BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

Courthouses are public buildings and courtrooms are open to the public. You have the right to walk in, sit down and watch your government at work, peacefully, for as long as the doors are open.

U.S. CONSTITUTION**SIXTH AMENDMENT**

"the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial"

Trials belong in the open, in front of the people.

SUPREME COURT, 1980***RICHMOND NEWSPAPERS***

"the right to attend criminal trials is implicit in the guarantees of the First Amendment"

Richmond Newspapers v. Virginia, 448 U.S. 555.

TEXAS CONSTITUTION**ART. I, § 13**

"All courts shall be open"

Written into the Texas Bill of Rights.



THE FIRE MARSHAL SETS THE LIMIT, WE FILL IT

Every courtroom has a maximum occupancy set by the fire code. Every seat up to that number is a public seat. When we fill them all, peacefully and early, the room is full of the people the court is supposed to serve. When a room is full, deputies stop letting people in: move on to the next open courtroom.

YOU CAN

- Walk in during public hours and go through security
- Sit in the public gallery of any open courtroom
- Watch hearings and trials, stay all day, come and go on breaks
- Bring a book, a notepad and patience
- Fill every open seat, right up to the posted limit

WHAT GETS PEOPLE ARRESTED

- Noise, music, chanting or phones going off in a courtroom (contempt)
- Refusing a deputy or bailiff who tells you to leave (trespass)
- Blocking doors, aisles or hallways, or crowding past capacity
- Weapons, or recording without the judge's permission
- Staying after the building closes

Quiet, lawful and all day: nobody has a reason to arrest you. Some hearings, like juvenile and some child cases, can be closed by the judge. Respect it and find another room. **Fill the house in silence. The dance party starts when we walk out together.**

**HEAR "BREAK THE DOCKET" ON THE NEW ALBUM
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