LAW CLASS
How Courts Work

Steps in a Trial

Bringing the Charge

Criminal charges are brought against a person in one of three ways:

1.Through an indictment voted by a grand jury.

2.Through the filing of an information by the prosecuting attorney alleging that a crime was committed. Sometimes charges are pressed through the filing of a criminal complaint by another individual.

3.Through a citation by a police officer for minor traffic offenses and the like. This procedure is usually used for certain petty misdemeanors and other minor criminal matters.

The charge must tell:

* the time, date and place that the criminal act allegedly took place,
* the alleged involvement of the accused, and
* the details of the crime itself.