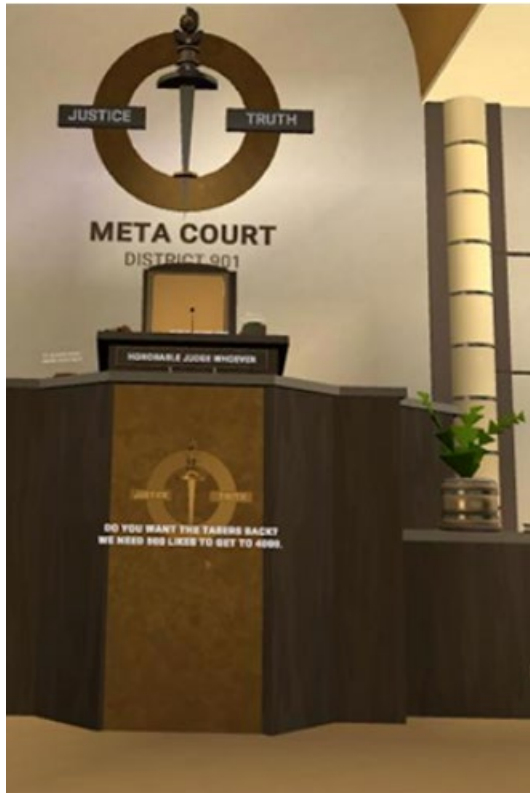


## THE META COURT IN THE METAVERSE



The Meta Court: A new way to view legal proceedings in the Metaverse. Mark Zuckerberg told us our lives would become richer, fuller, and easier to manage by being part of the Metaverse. He also said you can buy and sell property, NFTs, and pay by bitcoin in that realm. Now, you can adjudicate your cases in the Metaverse as well. Wait, you can? No, it's Cosplay in Virtual Reality.

This realistic-looking courtroom gives you and your fellow Horizon Worlds citizens a place to cosplay "adjudication." There's a judge's bench, a defendant's table, a plaintiff's table, and room for a jury. And, of course there's a gavel (along with a button that makes a gavel-pounding sound). The Meta Court is a wholly prepared World, created by Herbert Joyce Jr., where anyone can be a plaintiff or defendant *and* represent anyone in a fictional environment. Their tagline, "If you have Meta problems, solve it in Meta Court."

On any given day you might see cases involving the State's prosecution of wrongdoing, child support cases, Federal litigation, or any type of tort. It doesn't matter at Meta Court, the judge has jurisdiction over all. The judges are volunteers, the plaintiffs and defendants might be 10-year-olds, and the attorneys might be in middle school, but all seek to create a case or defend it with the hopes of getting an actual jury of their peers; six random people who joined the metaverse World, to adjudicate their client to be guilty or innocent.

The Meta Court even has its own [Youtube channel](#) so people can see the antics in this "make believe Court," of Make-believe judges, juries, prosecutors and defense attorneys. Combining real World law and television theatrics, each person plays their role to win.

While right now, the Meta Court is a World of virtual reality, the courthouse's styling is right out of your neighborhood courthouse. There is a jury box, a witness stand, podiums, tables for each side, electronic evidence submissions, witness lists forwarded to the judges, and even rulings on what evidence is allowed or stricken. Each court case has its own rules and procedures. Real world attorneys can come to play, as do actual judges and law school students. It's a high intensity immersion into the legal World, with no actual consequences. Yet, considering how many courts are now doing Teams or Zoom hearings, how long will it be before the Meta Court's concepts get moved to hearing actual matters of controversy? One award winning "attorney," is only 12 years old and has been offered an internship at a law firm once the "attorney" reaches the appropriate age.

After discussion with the World creator, Joyce advised, “Right now, I just want people to have fun, but of course, I would like to see the Meta Court used for actual cases.” Joyce further stated he can easily create World instances closed to the public for the purposes of trying moot court cases with actual juries of random players or for any other purpose needed in the legal sector. His site is *designed* for actual trials in the Metaverse. When interviewed, he suggested not only did he create the Meta Court World, but also, a Supreme Court World where appeals can be heard from the Meta Court. That World has the capability to handle three judges at a time. The Supreme Court has timers, a gallery for “court watchers” and complete software to host and deliberate cases in a virtual court room; yet, all of this is just for fun and games.

At this time, the Meta Court is subject to the rigorous rules of the Metaverse, and this means a player uses an avatar. If a defendant comes to court wearing a tuxedo and top hat, that person may still be a 10-year-old. Yet, as soon as the player speaks, the “regulars” of the Court recognize the age of the child and play with them accordingly; think “Ready Player One.” The Court’s Marshal even has a taser and a jail to resolve recalcitrant defendant’s who refuse to comply with the Court’s instructions.

If you have an Oculus, try out Horizons’ Meta Court or check out their [Youtube channel](#) for some funny Court shenanigans.