In England, for example, there is trial on indictment in the Crown Court for serious offences and summary trial in the magistrates' courts for everything else. Over the course of several centuries, however, the English accusatorial jury trial improved and the continental inquisitorial procedure worsened. Since the end of the eighteenth century English criminal procedure has undergone a series of changes that are no less fundamental than the ones that have happened on the Continent – although without either a political revolution or a new procedural code the changes have been piecemeal and less obvious. The first concerns the means by which criminal offences are investigated and brought to trial. As lawyers began to appear in criminal trials, the procedure, and role of the other trial participants gradually changed. Their participation contributed to the criminal trial system, and helped to fully develop the adversarial system as it emerged by the middle of the nineteenth century. This paper will discuss the impact of the entry of lawyers into the criminal trial, the Prisoners Counsel Act, as well as the impact on evidence, procedure and the roles of trial participants. This decision had to be based on the unmediated approach. The procedural position in English criminal trial between the 12th and 16th centuries.