

## **Courtroom Artist Competition**

### **Requirements**

- All participants agree to the publication or reprinting of their artwork for educational purposes.
- All participants must have a mock trial team participating. Teacher coaches are responsible for participating artists during the competitions.

### **Contest Procedures**

- The official courtroom artist contest drawings will be produced in Round 3. Contestants may practice drawing in Rounds 1 and 2, only in the courtroom where their team is competing.  
If your team does not make it to the state competition, your drawing from Round 3 of regionals can be submitted and voted on during the “mocktail” hour during the state competition. Teams that do move on to the state competition may submit their official drawing after Round 3 during the state competition. Only 1 drawing can be submitted from each team.
- The sketch must depict an actual courtroom scene that you observe during the Round 3 trial.
- During the trial, introduce yourself to the scorers, say your name and identify yourself as the courtroom artist. Do not say the school you are from.
- You may sit in the jury box away from scorers if seating is available. You must wear your nametag at all times during the competition.
- Once the trial begins, you may not move about the courtroom. Artists may not communicate, either verbally or non-verbally, with any member of the Mock Trial teams, coaches, or any visitors in the courtroom during the trial rounds.
- At the end of Round 3, give your drawing to the presiding judge. Only drawings submitted to the presiding judge will be entered in the contest.
- The courtroom artist must be sure to pick up all materials and debris from their drawings. (i.e. pencil shavings, pencils, paper)

### **Drawing Parameters**

- The art submission may be done in color or in black and white
- The drawing must be on paper of the dimensions 11” X 14”, in a horizontal format
- The drawing may be done in any of the following mediums: Color pencil, pen and ink, pastel, marker. No watercolors or paint are allowed.
- The art submission must have the artist’s name and team number placed on the back of the sketch: no signatures on the front of the submission are allowed.

### **Judging Components**

- Sketches are voted on by peers. The sketch with the most votes will be announced during the awards banquet.

### **Tips & ideas**

- Find the most newsworthy action that occurred in the courtroom. The artist must remember that this is true reporting and they must be the “eyes of the court.”
- Strive for accuracy in depicting the courtroom setting, but don’t focus on sketching a microphone instead of the witness on the stand.
- Let the viewer know right away that this is a courtroom. Include items that convey that setting but remember to tell as full a story as possible.