



New Mexico High School Mock Trial Competition

Courtroom Artist Contest Information and Rules

About The Courtroom Artist Contest

The *Courtroom Artist Contest* is an opportunity for high school students to compete in the mock trial program on an artistic level. Artists observe trials and submit sketches that depict actual courtroom scenes.

Participation

- ✓ **Registering with a mock trial team:** Each mock trial team may register courtroom artists with their team (up to three courtroom artists per school). A team does not have to have a named artist at the time of registration, but when the team submits their roster, they must list the artist. An artist who participates with a team will still compete solely on their own efforts and will NOT be considered as part of their school's team in terms of advancing or not advancing to the state competition.
- ✓ **Registering without a mock trial team:** Up to three students may compete from any high school, even if the school does not have a mock trial team.
- ✓ **Advancement to the state competition:** Eight artists will advance to the state competition. For artists without a team, the Center for Civic Values (CCV) will cover the lodging for the artist and a chaperone whose school is more than 50 miles from Albuquerque.

Important Dates

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- ✓ **Friday, October 1, 2021:** Registration Begins
- ✓ **Friday, December 31, 2021:** Registration Deadline
- ✓ **Friday and Saturday, February 18-9, 2022:** Qualifier Competition
- ✓ **Friday and Saturday, March 11-12, 2022:** State Competition
- ✓ **FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES IN THE COURTHOUSE**

Procedures

- ✓ Students from schools who do not have a mock trial team must have a teacher sponsor from their school.
- ✓ Up to three students per school from schools that do not have a mock trial team may enter the *Courtroom Artist Contest*. The teacher sponsor must fill out and submit one entry form per student. The form can be found here: <http://www.civicvalues.org/mock-trial/registration>. Student Artists who are from a school that **does** have a mock trial team do not need to fill out a separate entry form.
- ✓ Once submitted, the teacher sponsor will receive a confirmation of their entry along with a *Code of Ethical Conduct Form* and a permission slip authorizing the reproduction and publication of their work that must be signed and returned prior to the date of the qualifier competition.
- ✓ All submissions become the property of the CCV and may be used for any purposes deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to reproduction and dissemination.
- ✓ Artists will be supplied with colored pencils and a drawing pad. It is advisable to bring something hard to draw on.



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Rules

Qualifier and State Competitions:

- ✓ On the day of the competition, artists who are not part of a mock trial team will check in with mock trial staff and receive an artist's badge that they must wear during the day. Artists who are part of a mock trial team will have their badge in the team packet.
- ✓ Submitted drawings must be on 11" x 17" paper, drawn in a horizontal format. Artists may use any dry medium (e.g., pencils, charcoals, color pencils, pastels), but if using charcoals or pastels, some type of spray sealer to reduce smudging must be used.
- ✓ Sketches must depict an actual courtroom scene observed during a competition trial. Artists may make as many draft sketches as they wish but may only submit one sketch.
- ✓ Because the sketches may be reproduced, they need to have a strong enough line and shading value to be seen clearly once scanned.
- ✓ On competition days, artists will create sketches during the first two rounds of competition at qualifiers and, for those who move on to the state competition, during the first two rounds.
- ✓ Those artists competing with a team, will be with their teams during competition rounds. Those artists not competing with a team will be randomly assigned to a court room.
- ✓ At the beginning of each round, artists will introduce themselves to the court and then seat themselves in the jury box or the front row of the gallery.
- ✓ Once seated, artists may not have contact with anyone else. Artists must create their drawings completely independently.
- ✓ During the third round of competition artists will be in designated rooms where they can complete their drawings.
- ✓ Artists must place a filled-out entry label, provided by mock trial staff, on the back of the submitted work of art. **Artists must not sign the front of their entries, or the entry will become ineligible.**
- ✓ Prior to leaving the competition, artists must turn in their work to designated mock trial staff.
- ✓ Entries will be judged on accuracy of proportion, realism, authenticity with regard to traditional courtroom sketching, figure/ground relationship, and use of contrast.
- ✓ Drawings will be displayed at the offices of the CCV and reproduced for press releases with results. They will also be sent to local media and statewide media.

For More Information

For questions, contact Kristen Leeds, Center for Civic Values, at (505) 764-9417 or kristen@civicvalues.org.