



New Mexico Middle School Mock Trial Program

Courtroom Artist Program Information and Rules

About The Courtroom Artist Contest

The *Courtroom Artist Program* is an opportunity for middle school students to participate 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 one courtroom artist with their team. 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.

Important Dates

Mark these dates on your calendar:

- ✓ **Tuesday, August 15, 2023:** Registration Opens
- ✓ **Friday, November 3, 2023, at the Third Judicial and the Federal Courthouses in Las Cruces.**

Procedures

- ✓ 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.

Rules

- ✓ On the day of the trials, artists will check in with their team.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Artists will create sketches during the first two trial rounds.
- ✓ At the beginning of each round, artists will be introduced to the court with the rest of the team 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.
- ✓ 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.**



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- ✓ Prior to leaving the competition, artists must turn in their work to designated mock trial staff.
- ✓ Entries will be evaluated 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.

For More Information

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