



# New Mexico High School Mock Trial Competition

## Courtroom Journalist Contest Information and Rules

### About the *Courtroom Journalist Contest*

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The *Courtroom Journalist Contest* is an opportunity for high school students to compete in the mock trial program on an Journalistic level. Journalists observe trials and submit an article based on the trial. Participants can be part of a team or enter on their own. The top sixteen finishers from the qualifier contests will be invited to participate in the state mock trial competition.

### Participation

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- ✓ **Registering with a mock trial team:** Each mock trial team may register Courtroom Journalists (up to three per team). A team does not have to have a named Journalist at the time of registration, but when the team submits their roster, they must list the Journalist. A Journalist 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:** Sixteen Journalists will advance to the state competition.

### Important Dates

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Mark these dates on your calendar:

- ✓ **Friday, October 1, 2024:** Registration Begins
- ✓ **Friday, December 31, 2024:** Registration Deadline
- ✓ **Friday and Saturday, February 21 – 22, 2025** Qualifier Competition
- ✓ **Friday and Saturday, March 28 – 29, 2025:** State Competition
- ✓ **Tuesday to Sunday, May 6 – 11, 2025:** National Championship in Phoenix, AZ

### Procedures

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- ✓ 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 Journalist 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 Journalists 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.



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- ✓ All submissions become the property of the Center for Civic Values and may be used for any purposes deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to reproduction and dissemination.
- ✓ Journalists must supply their own materials. As it is not likely that Journalists will have a hard surface to write on, it's suggested they carry a clip board.
- ✓ On the day of the competition, Journalists who are not part of a mock trial team will check in with mock trial staff and receive an Journalist's badge that they must wear during the day. Journalists who are part of a mock trial team will have their badge in the team packet.
- ✓ Those Journalists competing with a team, will be with their teams during competition rounds. Those Journalists not competing with a team will be randomly assigned to a court room.

### Rules

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#### Qualifier and State Competitions:

- ✓ All participants must write their articles based on round 1 or round 2.
- ✓ At the beginning of round 1 and round 2, Journalists will introduce themselves to the court and then seat themselves in the front row of the gallery.
- ✓ Once seated, Journalists may not have contact with anyone else. Journalists must create their articles completely on their own.
- ✓ All participants must complete a permission slip authorizing the publication or reprinting of their Journalist Contest submission for educational purposes. No financial compensation will be awarded.
- ✓ **Typed submissions must be a 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced, and a page limit of two pages. Any articles over two pages will not be read.**
- ✓ Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial. Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted.
- ✓ **Label your article with your name and code only.**
- ✓ Articles must be brought to the CCV staff before the start of round 3.
- ✓ The submissions will be judged during round 3.
- ✓ Submitted articles should be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial.

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