

## **B. COURTROOM JOURNALIST PROGRAM**

### **Rule 8.1. Registration and Eligibility**

Each mock trial team may register two courtroom journalists with their 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.

Courtroom journalists are subject to all relevant Mock Trial Program Rules, restrictions, and eligibility requirements and will be held to the Mock Trial Code of Ethical Conduct. The courtroom journalists may not serve as any other role on their school's mock trial team

### **Rule 8.2. Trials/Trial Reporting – In-Person Program**

1. Journalists must supply their own materials during the trial. As it is not likely that Journalists will have a hard surface to write on, it is suggested they carry a clip board.
2. All participants must write their articles based on their team's round 1. Articles are written and completed by the courtroom journalist during the course of the trials without the help of any person.
3. Laptops are not permitted in the program venue.
4. The courtroom journalist may only observe and write about the trials in which their team is competing.
5. At the beginning of each round the journalist will introduce themselves to the court and then seat themselves in the jury box or the front row of the gallery.
6. Once the trial begins, the courtroom journalist may not move about the courtroom. The courtroom journalist may not communicate, either verbally or non-verbally, with any members of the teams or any visitors in the courtroom during the trial rounds.

### **Rule 8.2.B. Trials/Trial Reporting - Virtual Program**

The rules for trial reporting are the same as those during an in-person program, except that:

1. Journalists may use a laptop during program.

### **Rule 8.3. Submission Specifications**

Courtroom Journalists must follow these parameters:

1. The submissions must be typed in 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. **Laptops will be provided if needed.**
2. Submitted articles should be in the voice of the reporter covering a trial. Use of a dictionary and thesaurus will be permitted.
3. Label your article with your name and team code.
4. For in-person program, three copies of the article must either be hand delivered to CCV staff at the courthouse or emailed to [mocktrial@civicvalues.org](mailto:mocktrial@civicvalues.org) before the start of round 3. It is the responsibility of the participant to make sure any submission that is emailed is received.
5. For a virtual program, the article must be emailed to two email addresses that will be provided prior to the program no later than the start of round 3.

### **Rules 8.4. Judging Components**

Articles are evaluated and feedback will be given to the journalists.

### **Rule 8.5. Release**

All courtroom journalist submissions become the property of CCV and may be used for any purpose it deems appropriate, including but not limited to reproduction and dissemination, with recognition to you the journalist.