



# 2020-2021 Courtroom Artist Info Packet



## **2020-2021 Courtroom Artist Contest Rules**

Courtroom artists are subject to all relevant Mock Trial Competition Rules, restrictions, and eligibility requirements and will be held to TXHSMTC Code of Ethical Conduct. Artists are bound by the Rules of Competition and are deemed to be a member of their team. The courtroom artists will use the same team code as their Mock Trial team and will accompany their state team throughout the entire competition. The courtroom artist may not serve in any other role on their state's Mock Trial team.

For a virtual competition, courtroom artists shall follow the naming conventions established for competing team members and shall accompany their state team to any designated virtual courtrooms.

### **Trials/Trial Depiction – In-Person Competition**

Sketches must depict actual courtroom scenes observed by the courtroom artist. Sketches are created and completed by the courtroom artist during the course of the round two trial without the help of any source or person. Laptops are not permitted in the competition venue.

The courtroom artist may only observe and sketch the trials in which his/her team is competing.

The presiding judge may allow courtroom artists to sit in the jury box. However, they shall not be seated in such a way to see the scoring judges' scoresheets.

Once the trial begins, the courtroom artist may not move about the courtroom. The courtroom sketch artists may not communicate, either verbally or non-verbally, with any member of the Mock Trial teams or any visitors, coach, or third party during the trial rounds.

### **Trials/Trial Depiction – Virtual Competition**

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

1. Because there is no physical "courtroom" in a virtual competition, courtroom artists are permitted to create details of a courtroom setting in crafting their competition pieces.
2. Competing student attorneys may be drawn either standing or sitting, even if they were sitting during the virtual competition round.
3. It is not a violation of these rules for courtroom artists to depict a courtroom scene that they did not observe. If a template courtroom is provided by the state

mock trial committee or Regional Coordinator, that courtroom must be used in the depiction.

4. All depictions of competing students and judges shall be accurate to the mode and manner of their dress and of traditional courtroom dress, even if the entirety of their clothing is not visible during the virtual competition.
5. Courtroom artists are advised not to focus too much on the courtroom background for their competition pieces. Competition piece judging will weigh more heavily the depiction of faces and bodies during a virtual competition.
6. Courtroom artists are permitted to use a laptop computer throughout a virtual competition.
7. Courtroom artists are encouraged to explore ways to utilize the competition's chosen technical platform to make their art easier to create and more detailed. For example:
  - a. Courtroom artists may wish to test whether a particular method of connection (e.g. using an app vs. a direct internet connection, using an app on an iPad vs. a laptop) provides the clearest views and best controls.
  - b. Courtroom artists may wish to test using different views (such as a layout in which the video of the individual speaking will appear larger on the screen).
  - c. Courtroom artists are permitted to experiment with these settings on their own systems during rounds 1, so that they may prepare to use those that prove most effective in Round 2.
8. Instead of sitting in the jury box, courtroom artists shall be permitted into the virtual courtroom on the same terms as any official team member.
9. The ban on courtroom communication includes any use of a chat function, text messaging, or other mechanisms of communication.
10. If the Courtroom Artist loses connection, it shall not constitute an emergency for purposes of **Rule 1.3**.

### **Submission Specifications – In-Person Competition**

Courtroom artists must supply their own materials and follow these parameters:

- a. The art submission may be done in color or in black and white.
- b. The drawing must be on paper of the dimensions 11" X 14", in a horizontal/landscape format.
- c. The drawing may be done in any of the following media: Color pencil, pen and ink, pastel, marker. No watercolors or paint are allowed.
- d. The art submission must have the artist's name and team code placed on the back of the sketch; no signatures on the front of the submission are allowed.

Courtroom artists are responsible for ensuring their work area is left neat and orderly with all trash disposed in the appropriate trash receptacle.

Each artist submits one sketch to the presiding judge or courtroom liaison at the conclusion of the trial.

### **Submission Specifications – Virtual Competition**

The rules for submission of the artist’s work following Round 2 are the same as those during an in-person competition, except that:

1. At the conclusion of the trial, the artist must turn on their video to allow for a screen shot of the drawing.
2. A picture of the art sketched during Round 2 must be submitted within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the Round 3 trial to be considered in the contest.
3. The submission process, labeling protocol, and technical specifications for courtroom artist depictions – maximum file size, minimum or maximum resolution, and image format (.jpg, .tiff, .pdf, etc.) – shall be announced in advance of the competition by the Regional Coordinator. In advance of the competition, artists are encouraged to explore options for high-resolution scanning or photography of their work.
4. Courtroom artists shall maintain a digital copy and shall retain the physical copy of their Round 2 submission piece until, at least, the end of the regional competition.

### **Judging Components**

Sketches are evaluated and scored anonymously by a judge or judging team. The highest scored sketch will be named the winner.

A sample judging scoresheet is posted to the TXHSMTC website for information on how sketches are scored.

### **Release**

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