



2021-2022 Courtroom Artist Info Packet



Texas High School Mock Trial Courtroom Artist Contest

2021-2022

Thank you for your interest in participating in our 6th annual Courtroom Artist Contest. The goal of the High School Mock Trial Competition is to teach students about the legal process. Our hope is that this competition will encourage students with artistic talent and an interest in the law to participate.

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.

Objectives

- Learn about the courtroom artist profession
- Learn about the courtroom and the legal process
- Improved artistic ability

Art Requirements

1. The drawing must be done on 11" x 14" paper in a horizontal (landscape) format.
2. The art submission must be in color.
 1. Only color pencil, markers, pastels, and pens are allowed.
 2. The art submission must have the artist label (included in this packet) placed on the back of the sketch.

Contest Rules – In Person Competition

1. Each team may have only one courtroom artist.
2. The artist can compete on their own or as part of an established mock trial team.
3. The artist may not fill in for an attorney, witness, or timekeeper position.
4. The artist must remain with their team during competition and may only draw scenes from their team trials.
5. All artists must complete a release form authorizing the publication or reprinting of their artist contest submission for educational purposes prior to Round 1 of competition.
6. No financial compensation is required.
7. Art may not be returned to the artist.
8. The sketch must depict an actual courtroom scene that you observe during your team's Round 2 trial. You may not submit your R1 "practice" sketch for judging.

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.

During Round 2 – for Courtroom Artists

- Introduce yourself to the judges, say your name and identify yourself as the courtroom artist.
- You may sit in the jury box in the same row as the Timekeepers. You must wear your team identifier badge.
- Once you are seated, you may not have contact with anyone from your school (parents, teachers, or fellow students).
- After the end of Round 2, your drawing must be presented to the presiding judge.
- Make sure your drawing has your completed art submission form (included in the artist packet) on the back.

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:

- At the conclusion of the trial, the artist must turn on their video to allow for the presiding judge to view their completed drawing.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Awards and Advancement

- Awards and prizes are subject to the discretion of the Regional Coordinator
- The number of artists that advance to state competition can be equal or less than the number of teams that advance from that region.
- **At the end of the competition, immediately notify the State Coordinator how many which teams will advance to state competition and which of those teams will bring artists.**
- The State Coordinator will provide a state registration packet for each state advancing artist to submit.
- The advancing artist(s) will be assigned to a team to compete with at state competition if their home team did not advance.
- At State Competition: There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner recognized at the state luncheon.

Special Notes

***** Regional competitions are not required to host a courtroom artist contest. If your region is not hosting a courtroom artist contest then you are not able to compete.**

**** For regions that do not host a regional artist contest, their state advancing team(s) will have the option to bring an artist from their school to state competition if they wish. Artists may practice with their team during regionals.**

*** The amount of time an artist has to complete their drawing is subject to the length of the trial. Trials may be as short as 1.25 hours or as long as 2.25 hours. Please stress this to your artists at the start of competition.**

Tips & Ideas

EIGHT SIMPLE RULES... FOR COURTROOM ARTISTS

by Gary Myrick

<http://www.freewebs.com/courtroomart/>

1. The artist must be able to convincingly and accurately capture the **people, events and surroundings** of the story as it unfolds. But this is only a beginning, the artist must be able to provide an accurate **likeness** of each relevant participant. The audience should never have to guess who they are looking at.

2. **Just doing "portraits" is not enough.** A basic journalistic question is always, "Where?" While many artists can do passable portraits, the **setting** in which the event is occurring should also be established, or at the very least, alluded to. An ordinary "headshot", devoid of context, with only a colorful haze of arbitrary hue surrounding the subject, is a *portrait* - not a courtroom drawing. Otherwise, an identical result could be accomplished by giving the artist a file photo, which they could work from without even leaving their house. Ordinary "portraits" may make things easier for the artist, but they do not transport viewers into the **location** or **context** of a story. Nor do they impart any relevant action, gesture or "body language" of the participant. An ability to capture physical movement with anatomical accuracy is also important. (Many artists can draw faces, but not bodies, nor architecture, nor diverse races, etc.).

3. The artist must have **news judgement**. He or she must familiarize themselves with the story, and have enough journalistic sensitivity, experience and ability to discern the potential relevance of a person or events as they transpire, just as any qualified photojournalist or reporter does, and avoid wasting valuable time while missing the drama of the real story. The artist must also bear in mind that the final arbiters of the news product are the reporters they serve and the news organizations that hired them.

4. The artist must strive for **fairness and objectivity**. A courtroom news artist must avoid personal prejudices, deliberately distorting the appearance of a subject, stereotyping, or inserting their own agenda. They must be capable of rendering subjects of all races, classes, ages, genders, politics or nationalities with equal aplomb.

5. The artist must have a sense of **responsibility** to viewers and history. After all, when cameras are not present, they are providing the *only visual record* of the proceedings.

6. The artist must be able to **work quickly**, meeting tight deadlines, and be prepared to capture something that can transpire suddenly or rapidly.

7. The artist should have a **sense of decorum**, particularly within the courtroom. They must also remain sensitive to the fact that they are representatives of any news organization that hires them and conduct themselves accordingly.

8. The artist's work should be **functional and credible**, always being good enough, substantive enough, and accurate enough to fully meet the needs of any on-air stories, discussion programs, documentaries, or in print.

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**Texas High School Mock Trial Competition
Regional Courtroom Artist Contest
2021-2022
STUDENT RELEASE FORM**

Current Date: _____

If student is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian MUST sign this release.

I agree to allow my contest submission to be used, without monetary compensation or guarantee of its return.

I certify that the above artwork and any accompanying artist statement were made by me and were not copied from another photograph, illustration, or website, or made by another.

In agreeing, I release the TXHSMTC and its agents from any and all responsibility in the event of loss or damage to my contest submission.

In addition, I agree to allow my contest submission to be displayed, photographed, and/or published for educational, non-profit publications and exhibitions, public media, or in conjunction with fundraising for TXHSMTC activities or events.

I understand that I, and my school, will be recognized on all reproductions of my work.

STUDENT NAME: (Print) _____

STUDENT NAME: (Signature) _____

STUDENT AGE: _____ **STUDENT GRADE:** _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

TEACHER NAME & CONTACT Phone/Email: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:

STUDENT'S ADDRESS:

STUDENT'S PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER/EMAIL: _____

*If you have any questions regarding this Student Release Form, please contact:
Dallas Bar Association, Melissa Garcia, 214-220-7484 or mgarcia@dallasbar.org.*

2022 Courtroom Artist Contest Submission Form



Artist Name: _____

Team Letter: _____

Courtroom: _____

***** Attach to the back of your final art piece**



2021-2022 Courtroom Artist Competition Score Sheet

Team Letter: _____

Judging Criteria			
Fair	Average	Good	Excellent
3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10

Each courtroom art entry will be judged based on the following criteria: Telling the Story:

Does the illustration give the viewer an immediate feeling of an event taking place? Does the artwork evoke an emotion or show action? Does the sketch provide enough information to hold the eye for a period of time?

Points

Composition:

Is there a definite indication of Courtroom interior to describe the place? Are the figures in the illustration large enough to focus on, yet small enough to be placed within the structure of the courtroom? Are the elements of witness, judge, attorneys, etc., placed in an arrangement proportionate to the page, creating balance on that page?

Color/Contrast:

Is the illustration harmonious in distribution of line, color, and tone? Are there good balances of dark and light that play off each other to give richness to the artwork? Is the medium of choice, be it color pencil, marker, etc. used to the best advantage in documenting the illustration?

Authenticity:

Does the artwork convey a professional feeling, without seeming cartoonish? Does the illustration, no matter the style, (i.e., sketchy, ultra-realistic, highly-rendered, or loosely drawn), carry the idea of adhering to a respectful, convincing depiction of a courtroom event?

Total:

NOTES:

* Mona Shaffer Edwards, a professional courtroom artist and the Idaho Law Foundation developed the criteria for the NHSMTTC Courtroom Artist Contest, from which this criteria are taken.