Courtroom Art Contest Official Rules

- Each Orange County Mock Trial team may enroll up to three courtroom artists. Artists must inform their school's Mock Trial teacher coach that they intend to enter the competition.

- Students entering the Courtroom Art Contest must complete the online mock trial student registration form available on CRF-OC's website at: https://www.crfoc.org/artandjournalism/ no later than **October 9, 2026,** in order to be eligible to participate.

- The Courtroom Art Contest will be held during the first four rounds of the Mock Trial competition.

- Before the competition, contestants must check-in at the Central Justice Center.

- During the trials, all contestants must sit in the jury box in the row below the scorekeepers. If there is not room in the jury box, or the presiding judge asks the contestant not to sit in the jury box, a contestant may sit in the front row of spectator seating, away from the witnesses. Once contestants are in the jury box, they may not have any contact with anyone from their respective schools.

- Sketches must portray an actual courtroom scene observed during the trial. The courtroom artist may only observe and sketch the trials in which their team is competing in. Entries must be pure drawings, without written words. Contestants may not use cellphones or cameras for any reason while in the courtroom. For tips from a real courtroom artist, please watch the following video from CRF-USA: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7B3Dnt0xg8 (note: please pay attention to CRF-OC's rules regarding size/format below as they may be different from those mentioned in the video).

- **Drawings must be done in color.**

- **The drawing must be on 11" x 14" paper, in landscape (horizontal) format.** Any dry medium may be used. Please be aware of the possibility of smudging. Artists must bring their own art supplies.

- Contestants may make as many drawings as they wish during the round but may only submit one to be considered for judging. If contestants submit drawings during each of the four rounds, they must inform CRF-OC staff which drawing they would like considered for judging by the conclusion of Round 4. If contestants do not inform staff, CRF-OC will make the decision for them.

- **Contestants must submit their work to CRF-OC staff at the conclusion of the trial, following the debriefing remarks** (approx. 5-10 minutes after the verdict). Please submit your drawing to staff at the volunteer check-in table. Be sure to write your name, school, and the number of the round in which you are submitting your artwork on the back of the drawing.

- Awards for the Courtroom Art Contest are independent of the Orange County Mock Trial Competition; an individual may win a Courtroom Art Contest award regardless of the Mock Trial team's final ranking.

- Award winners will be notified in March. Winners of the Orange County Courtroom Art Contest are eligible to compete in the statewide competition in March. For more information on the state competition, visit: https://teachdemocracy.org/programs/mock-trial-california/art-contest-finals

Questions? Contact CRF-OC Assistant Program Manager Mallory Rieth at mrieth@crfoc.org or call 949.679.0730 x109

CRF-OC reserves the right to exhibit submitted contest entries, without compensation, in various formats and at various venues for the purposes of CRF-OC promotions. Contestants of the competition may contact CRF-OC at the conclusion of the Mock Trial program to arrange collection of their artwork.