Courtroom Sketch Artist Contest Official Rules

• Each San Diego County Mock Trial team may enroll up to **two** courtroom sketch artists. Artists must inform their school's Mock Trial teacher advisor they intend to enter the competition and complete a participant agreement form. There is no additional cost to participate. The Courtroom Artist Contest allows additional students the opportunity to participate in the Mock Trial Program. The courtroom artist is an official team member but is not counted toward the team's student limit.

• Students entering the Courtroom Artist Contest must complete the online mock trial student registration form available on sdmocktrial.org website at: https://sdmocktrial.org/case-materials/ no later than November 20, 2026 in order to be eligible to participate.

• The Courtroom Artist Contest will be held during the **first two (2) rounds** of the Mock Trial competition.

• Before the competition, contestants must check-in at the Central Courthouse Team Check-in table in the first-floor lobby where a name tag will be provided to you by Mock Trial staff.

• During the trials, all artist contestants must sit in the first row of the spectator seating. Once the trial begins, they may not have any contact with anyone from their school. The artist cannot start sketching until the court is called to order by the Bailiff.

• 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. 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 refer to the San Diego County High Schol Mock Trial competition rules regarding size/format below as they may be different from those mentioned in the video).

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

• 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 Round 1 and Round 2, they must inform Mock Trial Committee staff which drawing they would like considered for judging by the conclusion of Round 2. If contestants do not inform staff, committee will make the decision for them.

• **Contestants must submit their work at the conclusion of the trial, following the debriefing remarks** (approx. 5-10 minutes after the verdict). Please submit your drawing to the Courtroom Monitor.
Be sure to write your name, team code, and the Round number on the back of the drawing.

• Awards for the Courtroom Artist Contest are independent of the San Diego County Mock Trial Competition; an individual may win a Courtroom Artist Contest award regardless of the mock trial team's final ranking.

• There must be a minimum of four (4) student Sketch Artist entries for a contest winner to be determined. The award winner will be notified following Round 4. The top two winners of the San Diego County Courtroom Artist 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? Send an email to sdmocktrial.org or call 619-844-2330.

The San Diego County High School Mock Trial Committee reserves the right to exhibit submitted contest entries, without compensation, in various formats and at various venues for the purposes of promotions. Contestants of the competition may contact the Committee by sending an email to sdmocktrial@gmail.com at the conclusion of the Mock Trial competition to arrange collection of their artwork if they would like it returned.