Montana High School Mock Trial Competitions are governed by the Rules of Competition and the Montana High School Mock Trial Rules of Evidence.
# About

Procedures and Rules

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About

The Courtroom Artist Contest is open to students in grades 9-12 to allow artistically talented students the opportunity to participate in the Montana High School Mock Trial Competition. Artists observe trials and submit sketches that depict actual courtroom scenes. Participants can be part of a team or enter on their own.

Procedures and Rules

General Rules for the Courtroom Artist Competition

- Courtroom artists are bound by the Montana High School Mock Trial Code of Conduct, as are all other participants, coaches, and spectators.
- All artwork submitted becomes the property of the Montana High School Mock Trial Competition and the State Bar of Montana and may be used for any purposes deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to reproduction and dissemination.
- **Artists must supply their own materials.** It is likely that artists will not have a hard surface to draw on and it is suggested they carry a clipboard or hard backed sketch pad.

Sketch Requirements

- Submitted drawings must be on 11” x 17” paper, drawn in horizontal format. Artists may use any dry medium (e.g. pencils, charcoals, color pencils, pastels), but if using charcoals or pastels some type of spray sealer must be used to reduce smudging.
- Sketches must depict an actual courtroom scene observed during a trial. Artists may make as many draft sketches as they wish but may only submit one final sketch.
- Because the sketches may be reproduced, the need to have a strong enough line and shading value to be seen clearly once scanned.

Competition Day Procedures

- On the day of the competition, artists will check in with mock trial staff and receive an artist’s badge that they must wear throughout the competition.
• Artists will create sketches during the two rounds on Friday evening and the first round on Saturday morning only.

• At the beginning of each round, artists will introduce themselves to the court and then seat themselves in the jury box or the front row of the gallery.

• Once seated, artists may not have contact with anyone else for the duration of the round. Artists must create their drawing completely independently.

• Space will be available during the 4th preliminary round on Saturday for artists to finish their sketches.

• Artists must place a filled-out entry label, provided by mock trial staff, on the back of the submitted work of art. Artists must not sign the front of their entries or the entry will become ineligible.

• Prior to leaving the competition, artists must turn in their work to designated mock trial staff.

**Judging Criteria**

• Entries will be judged on accuracy of proportion, realism, authenticity with regard to traditional courtroom sketching, figure/ground relationship, and use of contrast.

• Winning drawing will be reproduced for inclusion in the State Bar of Montana’s magazine, the Montana Lawyer.