

# COURTROOM ART CONTEST

## Official Rules

- All contestants must be affiliated with a registered Stanislaus County Mock Trial team and enrolled at the team's school. Artist participating will sketch their school's Round 2 trial. Each team may send a maximum of two courtroom artists. The artist winner will have the opportunity to advance to state at their own expense.
- All participants must complete a permission slip authorizing the publication or reprinting of their Artists Contest submission for educational purposes. No financial compensation will be awarded.
- Sit in the jury box away from scoring attorneys. Introduce yourself to the scorers and the presider (she/he will be sitting on the bench). You must wear your provided nametag.
- Once you are seated, you **MAY NOT HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH ANYONE FROM YOUR SCHOOL** (parents, teachers, or fellow students). You must create your drawing completely independently.
- Your sketch must depict an actual courtroom scene that you observe during Round 2. You are encouraged to use Round 1 as a practice round. You may not submit your "Practice" sketch for judging (from Round 1). Official judging will begin with Round 2 submissions.
- The drawing must be on paper of the dimensions 11" x 14", with a horizontal format. Drawing may be done in black & white or color.
- You may make as many drawings as you wish, but you may only submit one drawing to the Courtroom Observer after Round 2 to be considered for judging. The Courtroom Observer will deliver the drawing to SCOE staff.
- **Be sure to write your name and school on the back of the drawing you submit.**

## Tips & Ideas

- Let the viewer know right away that this is a courtroom. Include items that convey that setting, but don't focus on sketching a microphone instead of the witness on the stand.
- Remember to tell as full a story as possible. The drawing should represent what you see but also, through the drawing, tell a story.
- Find the most newsworthy action that occurred in the courtroom. Perhaps there is an "ah-ha" moment, an intriguing witness, a shocking development with which to capture the emotion of the trial. The artist must remember that this is true reporting, and must be the "eyes of the court".