

## Courtroom Journalist Contest Requirements, Procedures, and Rules

- ❑ **Registration requirements (deadline is March 6th), all participating artists must:**
  - be affiliated with a participating county Mock Trial team.
  - complete the online registration form.
  - pay a \$95 registration fee.
  - complete and submit a waiver/release form authorizing the publication or reprinting of their Journalist Contest submission for educational purposes. No financial compensation will be awarded.
- ❑ **Procedures**
  - **Journalist Check-in and Welcome Ceremony (March 22):**
    - 12:00 - 1:00 pm journalists must check in and collect their registration packet.
    - 1:00 pm is the Welcome Ceremony
  - **Journalists Workshop (March 22 at 5:30 pm in Room 522 on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse)**
    - All journalists must attend the workshop.
    - Bring a copy of your county submission for review.
    - A meal will be provided.
  - **Practice Round (March 23 – Round 2)**
    - Introduce yourself to the scorers and identify yourself as the courtroom journalist.
    - If space is available, you may sit in the jury box away from the scorers.
  - **Official Drawing - Round 3 (March 23):**
    - Introduce yourself to the scorers and identify yourself as the courtroom journalist.
    - Once you are in the courtroom, you may not have any contact with anyone from your county (parents, teachers, or students). You must draft your article completely independently.
    - Journalists may only report on their own county team's trial and must write their article based on their county team's Round 3 trial.
- ❑ **Rules**
  - You must draft your article completely independently. Submitted articles must be in the voice of a reporter covering a criminal trial. Use of dictionaries and thesauruses will be permitted.
  - After Round 3, all journalists must type their articles. Submissions must be a 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins. The article must be double-spaced, and may not exceed 850 words, excluding the journalist's name and team code.
  - Completed submissions must be emailed to [daisy@teachdemocracy.org](mailto:daisy@teachdemocracy.org) by 5:30 p.m. on March 23rd. All submissions must be submitted as a WORD document or as a PDF file. Do not put article in the body of the email. Label your article with your name and team code only.

- Contestants may refer to the California Mock Trial case materials, the Journalism Reporters Handbook, and the Judging criteria during the contest.