

Courtroom Journalist Contest 2022 Criteria

Each courtroom journalist entry will be judge based on the following criteria:

Newsworthy Facts:

Does the article feature the most newsworthy facts that occurred during the trial on which they were reporting?

Fair and Accurate:

Present a fair and accurate account of events without any apparent editorial slant?

Enticing Lead Paragraph with Basic Elements of the Case:

Develop an enticing lead paragraph with the necessary and basic elements of the case? (Who, what, where, when, why, and how.)

Story Structure:

Properly structure the story with the most important elements early in the article (inverted pyramid)?

Legal Procedures and Judicial Process:

Demonstrate sufficient understanding of legal procedures and the judicial process?

Vivid Reporting:

Make the report vivid by using direct quotes from testimony or descriptions of the courtroom scene, participants, or their behavior?

Pretrial Motion:

Include appropriate coverage of the pretrial motion?

Mechanics:

Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation?

Headline:

Have an accurate headline that does not editorialize?

Dateline:

Have the proper dateline?

Wholistic Assessment:

Please review the article in its entirety. Please review for its overall accurate and storytelling.