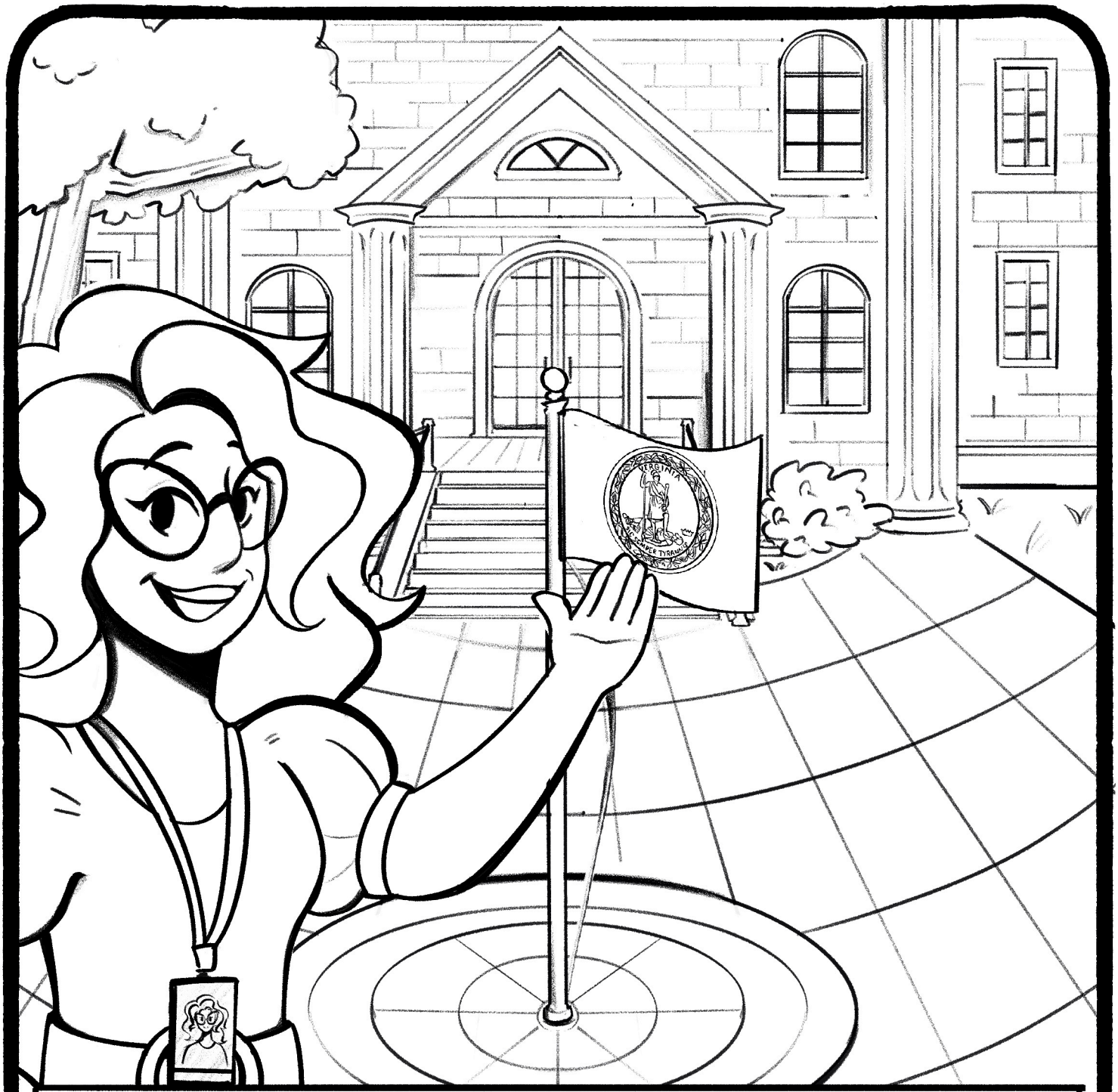

Ms. Rivera's Class Goes to Court!

Welcome to the Virginia Judiciary!

This coloring book is designed for young learners to explore the many important parts of Virginia's Judicial system. Children will meet judges, learn about the people who work to serve others in the courts, and discover how laws are upheld and justice is served.

For additional educational resources, please visit the Virginia Judicial Branch website at www.vacourts.gov.

Ms. Rivera's Class Goes to Court





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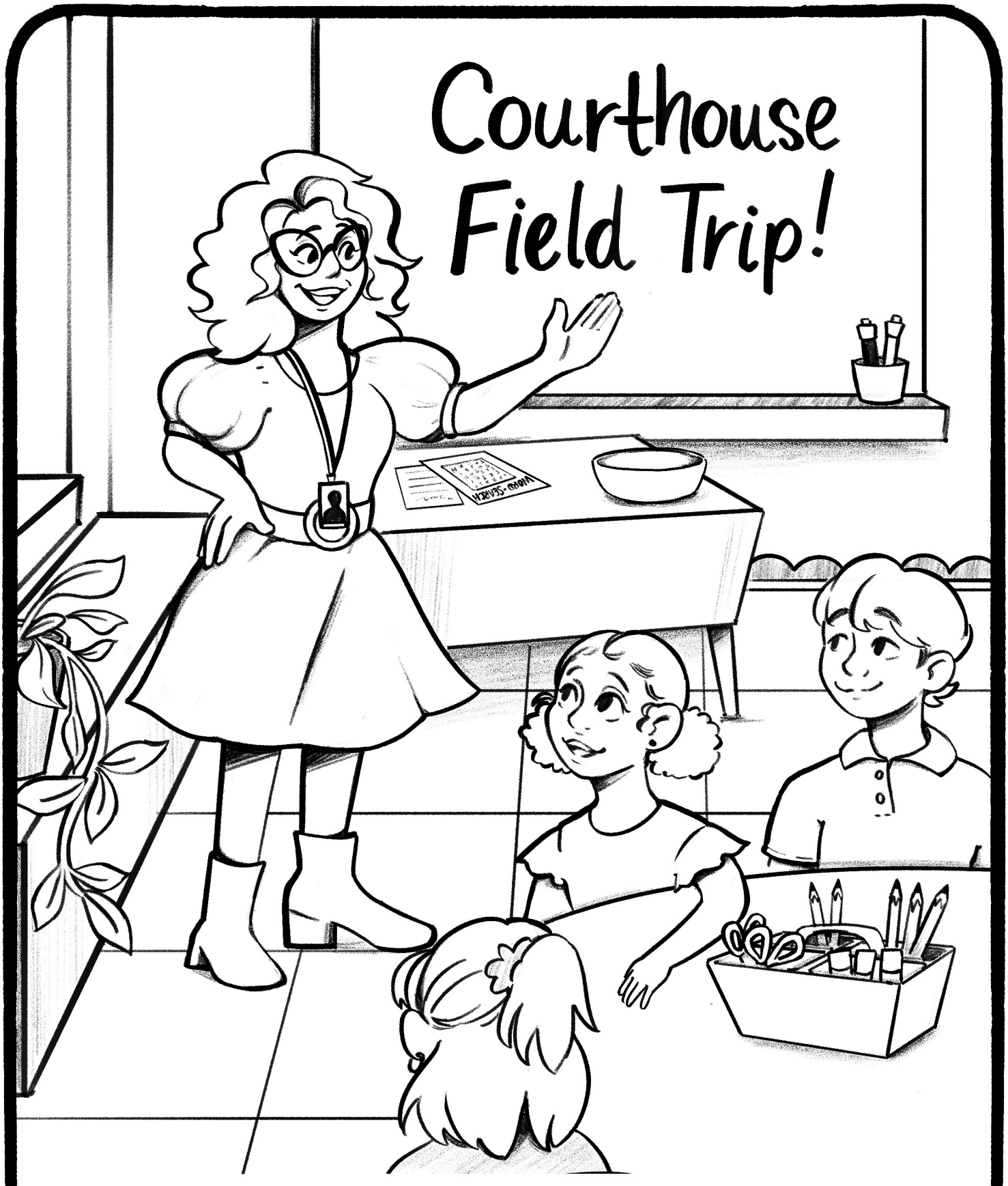
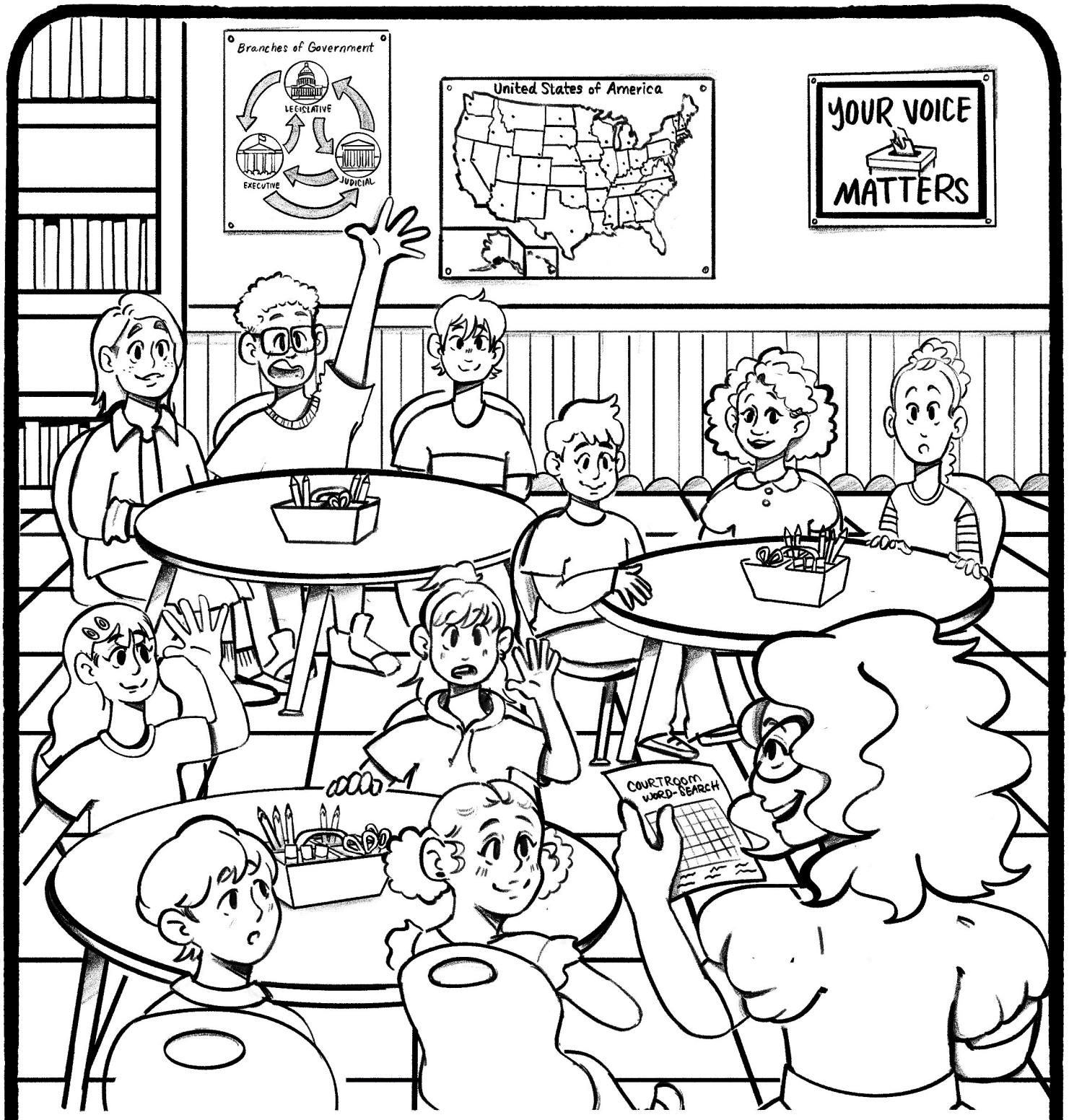
For a complete overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its regulations, visit www.vacourts.gov/courts/ada/home



It was a bright spring morning when Ms. Rivera told her class some exciting news, "We're going on a field trip to the local courthouse!"



The classroom buzzed with questions. "Will we see a judge?" asked Sam. "Are there police cars?" asked Mia. "You'll see all kinds of people who help make sure our courts are fair and safe," Ms. Rivera smiled. She continued, "Courts are where people go to solve problems fairly. Judges, lawyers, and other helpers work together to make sure everyone is treated with respect and follow the law.

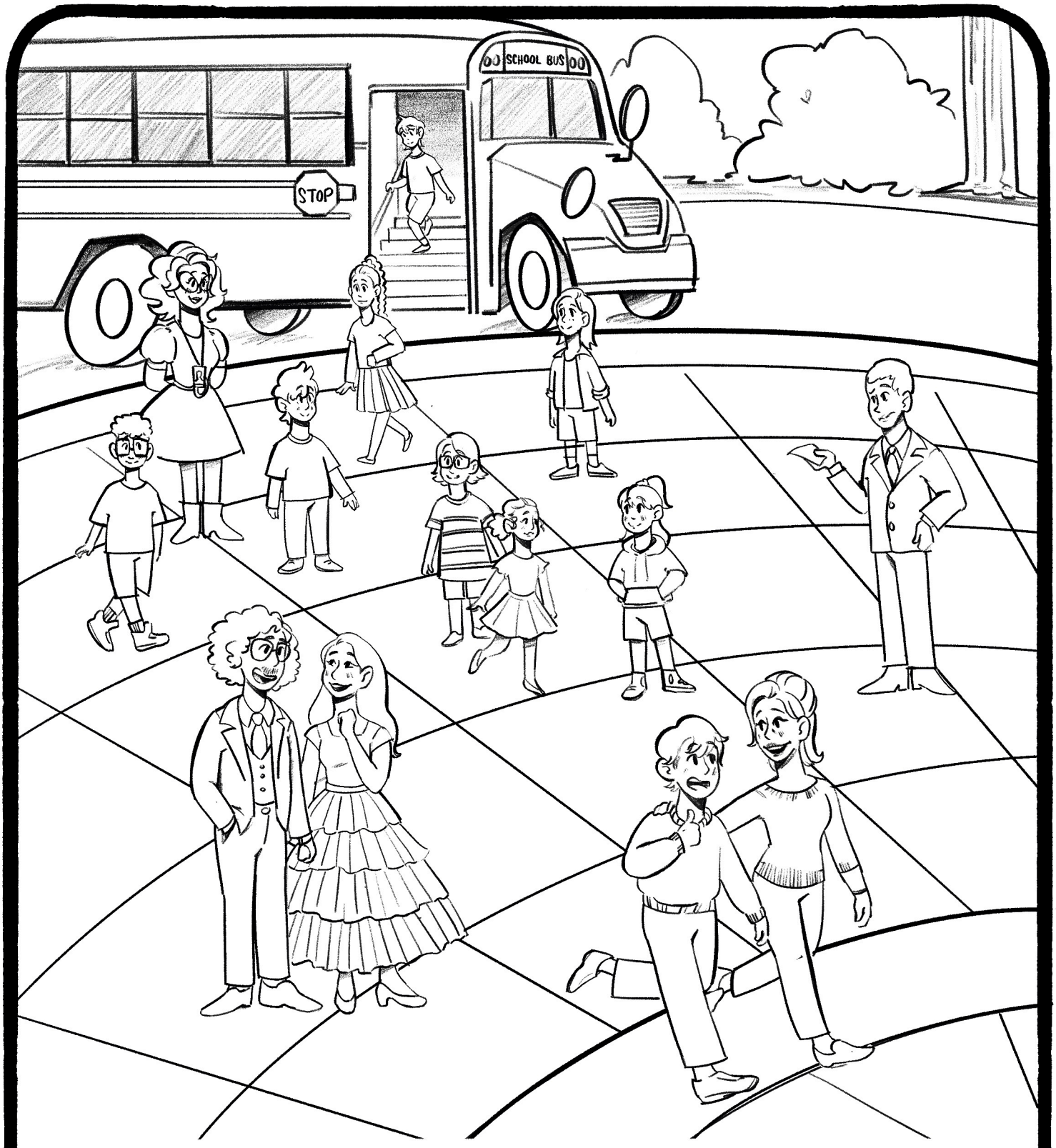


"Before we go, let's learn some important court vocabulary words!"

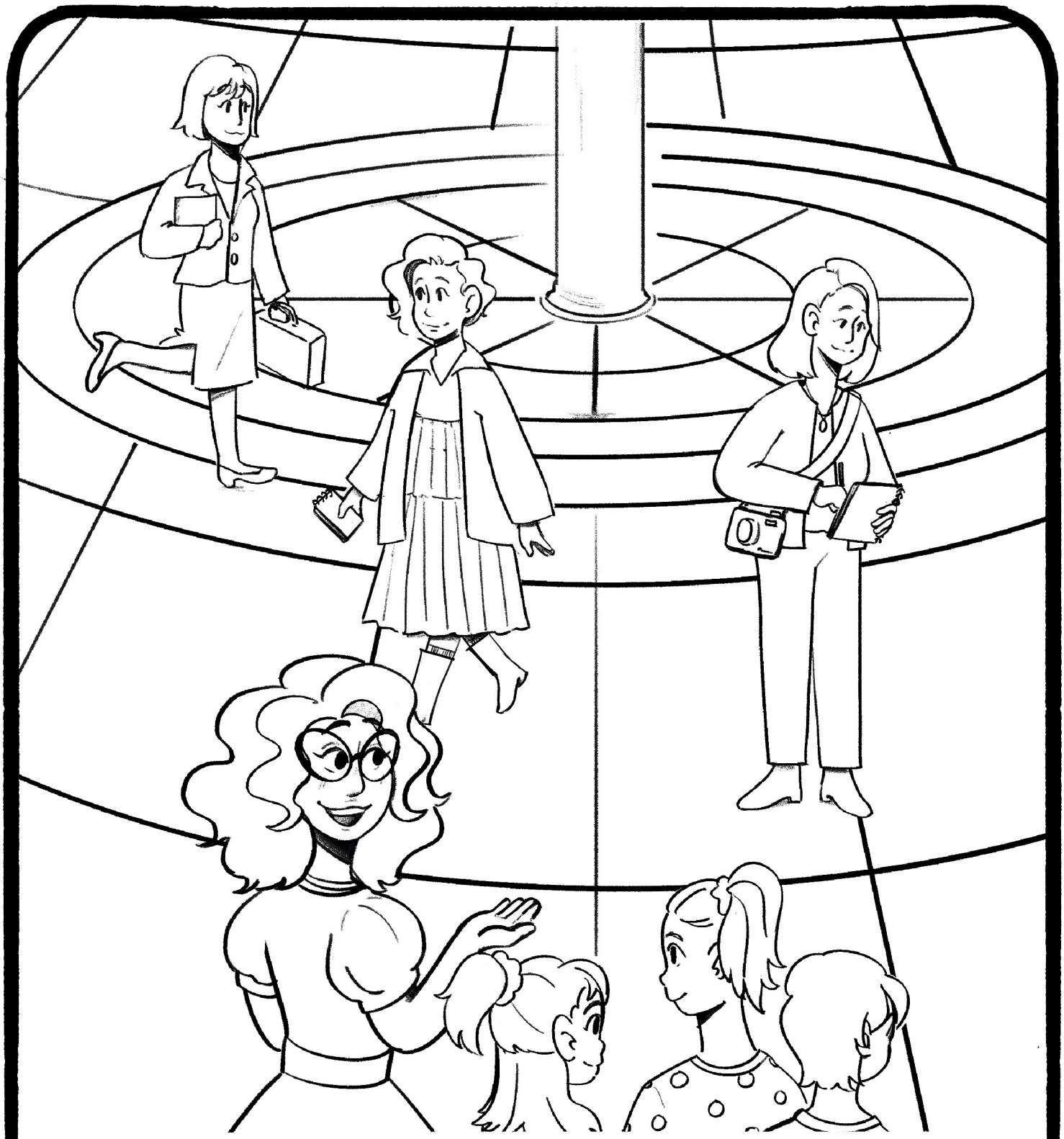
COURTROOM WORD-SEARCH

S I P R O S E C U T O R E S Y O V
T X T K R X W K R O A T H E X N U
F Z R G M D H M Q S O H S N I B Q
E M I Q Z U N D E N P R G T L Z K
S A A U O O N C T W X Q H E R L Y
R T L B A I L I F F H W M N X E B
G A V E L L W I T N E S S C F V R
L M Y L T Z O V C L V J Y E C I R
A J C D E F E N D A N T O M J D F
W U O B I G S E L W O Z P C W E U
S R L S U J X D L Y Q G V L N N J
U Y C W B J O C U E M C U E Z C U
I N B U V Z G S Q R N J W R H E D
T R V E R D I C T P O E I K L Y G
K U Q M H M K T Y A D K S L R R E
C O U R T R O O M Z I X X W A W H
P L A I N T I F F C Y P G H M A V

1. Judge
2. Jury
3. Clerk
4. Lawyer
5. Defendant
6. Plaintiff
7. Prosecutor
8. Courtroom
9. Gavel
10. Trial
11. Verdict
12. Sentence
13. Witness
14. Evidence
15. Bailiff
16. Lawsuit
17. Oath



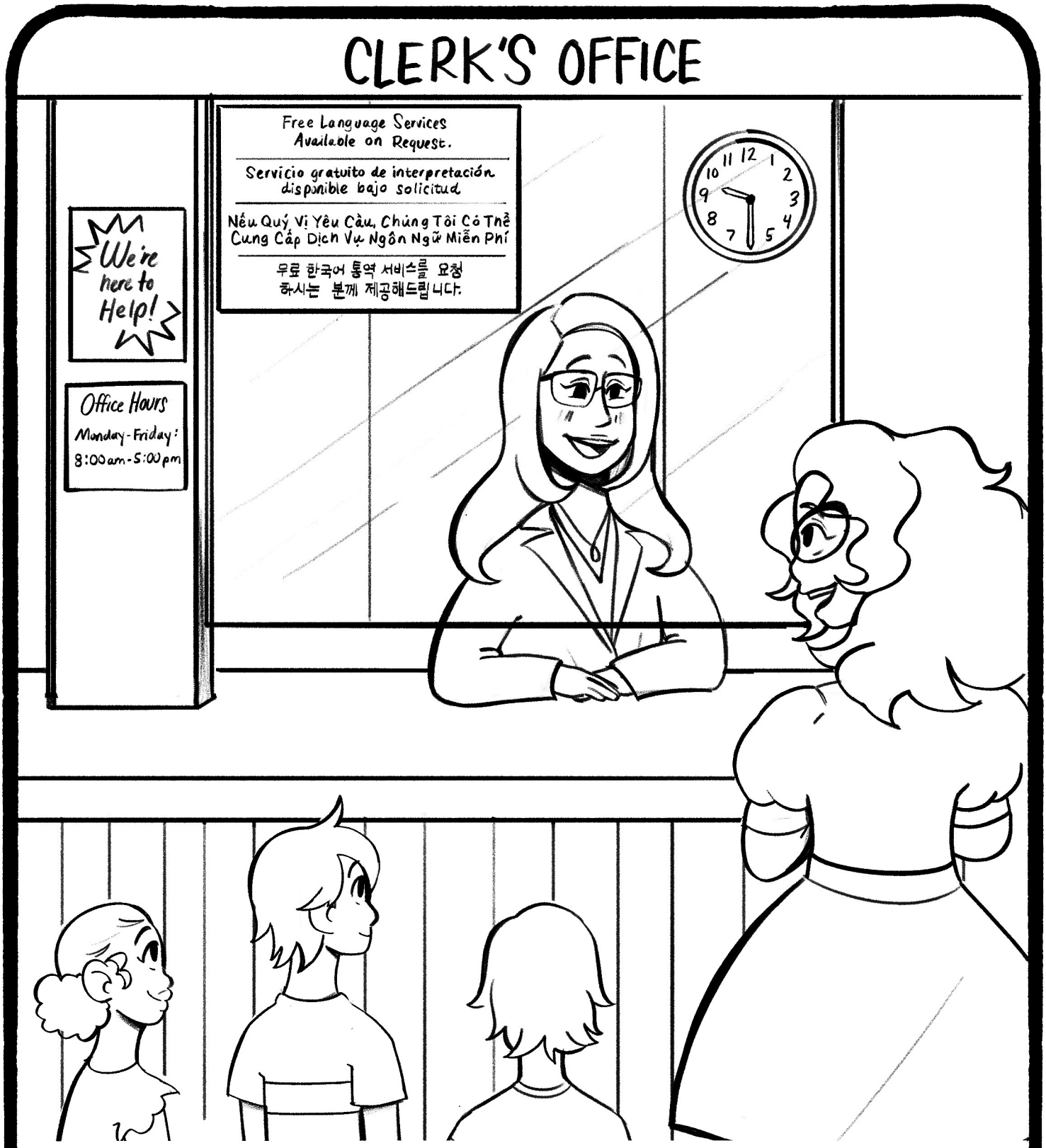
Outside the courthouse, the class saw a couple holding hands. "They're here to get a marriage license," Ms. Rivera explained. "People come to the courthouse to start happy new chapters too!" Then they saw a parent with their child. "I believe that teenager is about to get his driver's license and is going to listen to the judge talk about responsible driving." Next they noticed a man looking at a piece of paper. "He got a traffic ticket and is here to talk to the judge about it," she added.



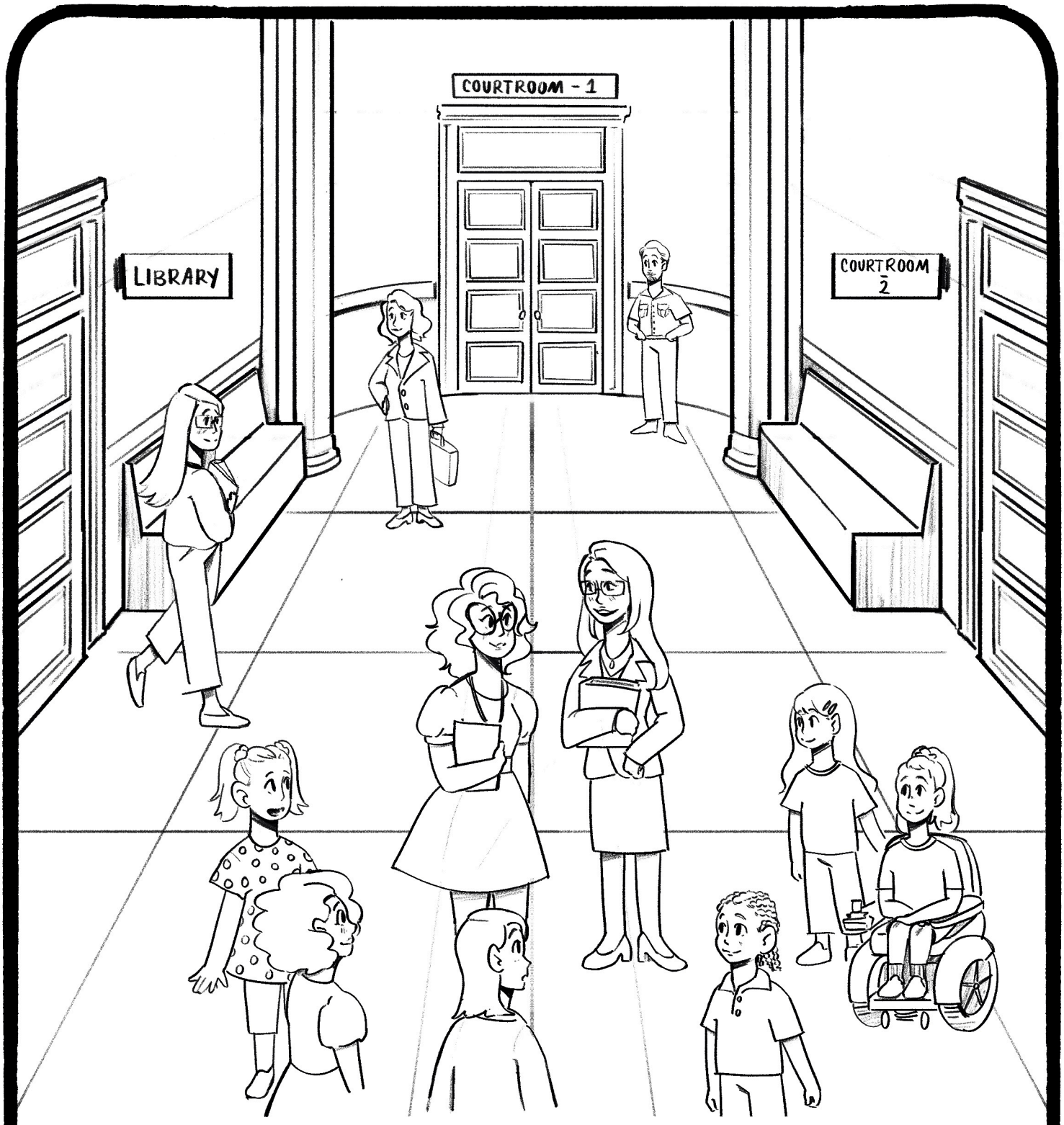
A person holding a notepad and camera walked past the group. “That’s the **journalist**.” Ms. Rivera said. “Sometimes there are cases being heard at court that are important to the public, and the reporter is there to cover the story.” Then a woman walked by with a notepad. “She’s reporting for jury duty— citizens like her decide court cases!” Ms. Rivera smiled and said, “Americans come from many different ethnic backgrounds, customs, and traditions, but we are united by the basic principles of a republican form of government and respect for individual rights and freedoms.”



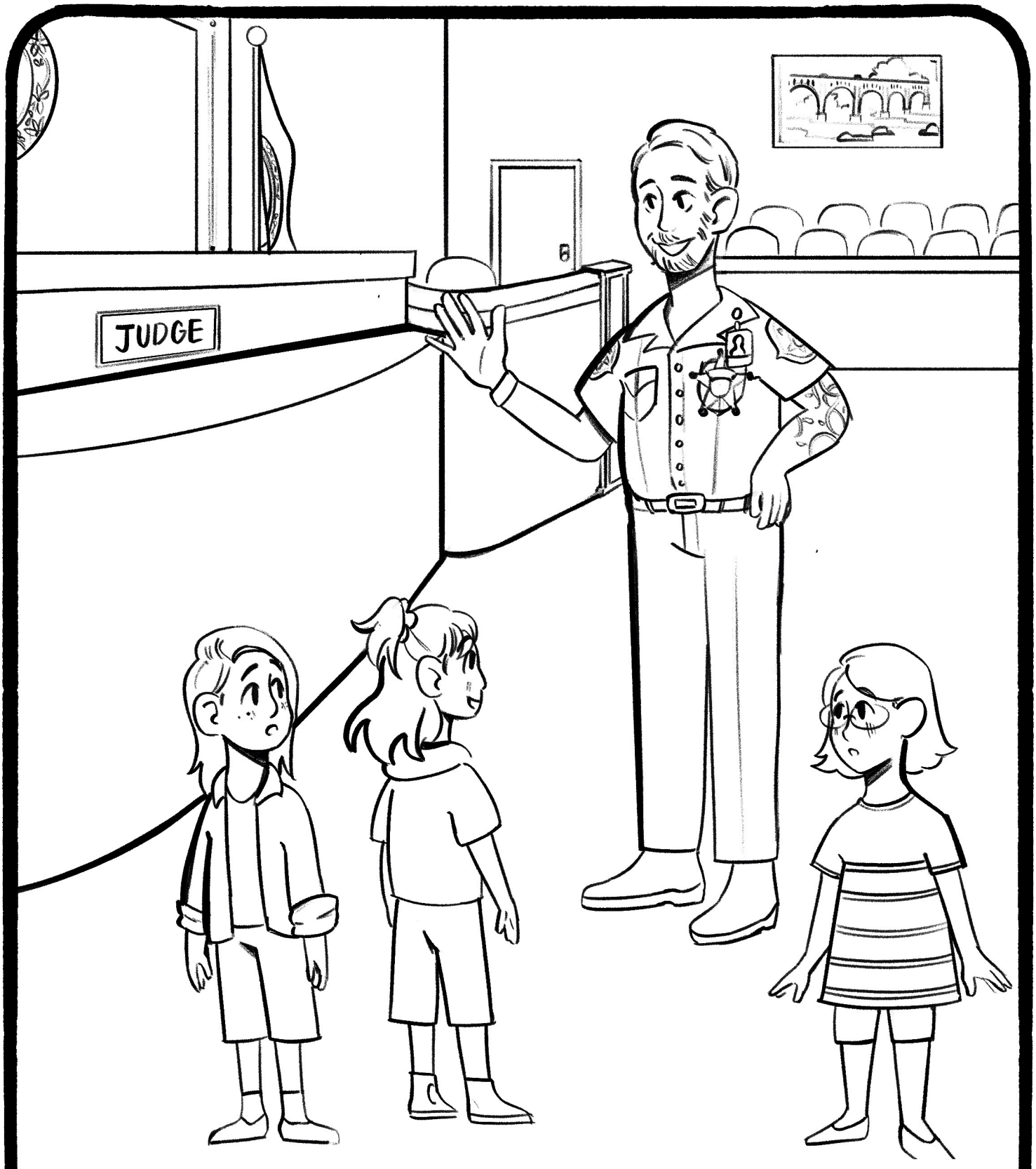
As they entered the building, two friendly **sheriff's deputies** greeted them. "Welcome! Please walk through the metal detector one at a time," they said. The children lined up quietly, feeling very official.



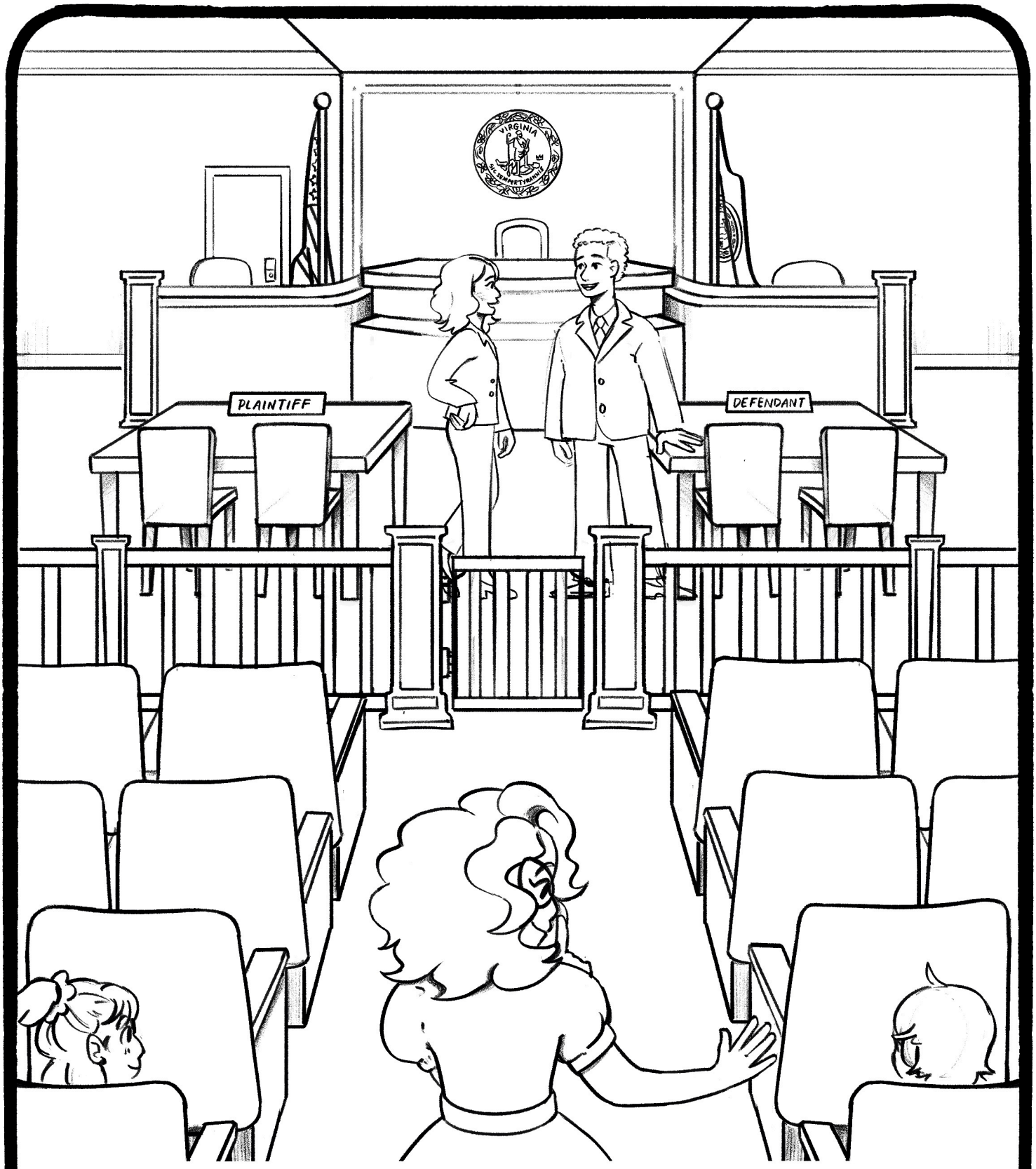
At the window, they met the clerk of the court. "We help manage court records and make sure every case is in order," she told them. "We help people file important documents, keep track of court cases, and assist with everything from marriage licenses to lawsuits. People come to court for many reasons. Let's meet outside the courtroom!" the clerk continued.



“People come because they have a dispute to settle, some are here to serve on a jury, and others may be a witness or need help with paperwork. Even some weddings are held at the courthouse. The courthouse is a busy place where the law can help people work through problems and protects their rights.” “Wow! That sounds important,” said Lucy. “If you all will excuse me, I must get ready for court. Enjoy your visit!” said the clerk.



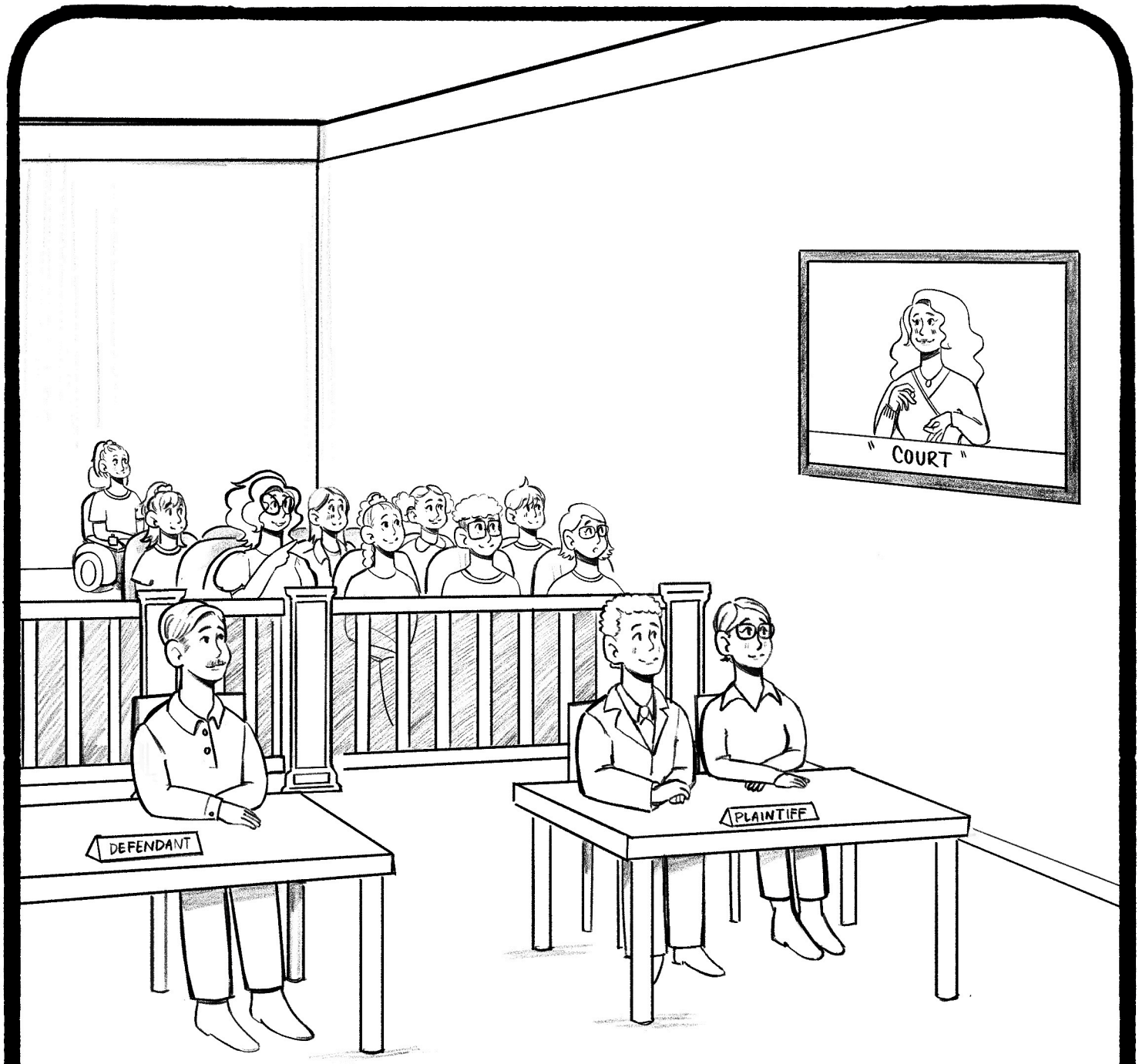
The students continued into the courtroom to learn about the roles of everyone in the court. Inside the courtroom, a bailiff stood near the judge's bench. "I help keep order and make sure everyone follows the rules in court," he said with a serious nod. The kids sat down quietly and watched the room.



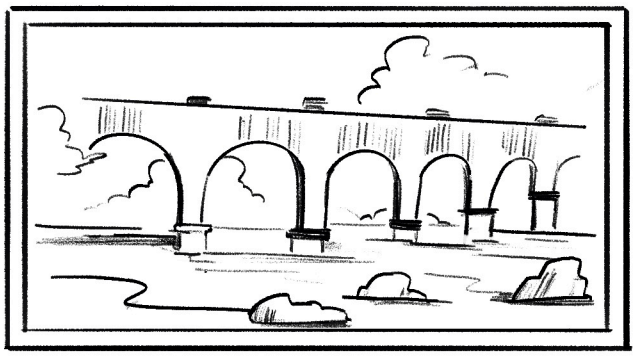
Two **attorneys** were talking to each other near the front. "One is a defense attorney, who helps people accused of something," Ms. Rivera whispered. "The other is a lawyer who helps people with civil cases like when someone is owed money or has damaged property."

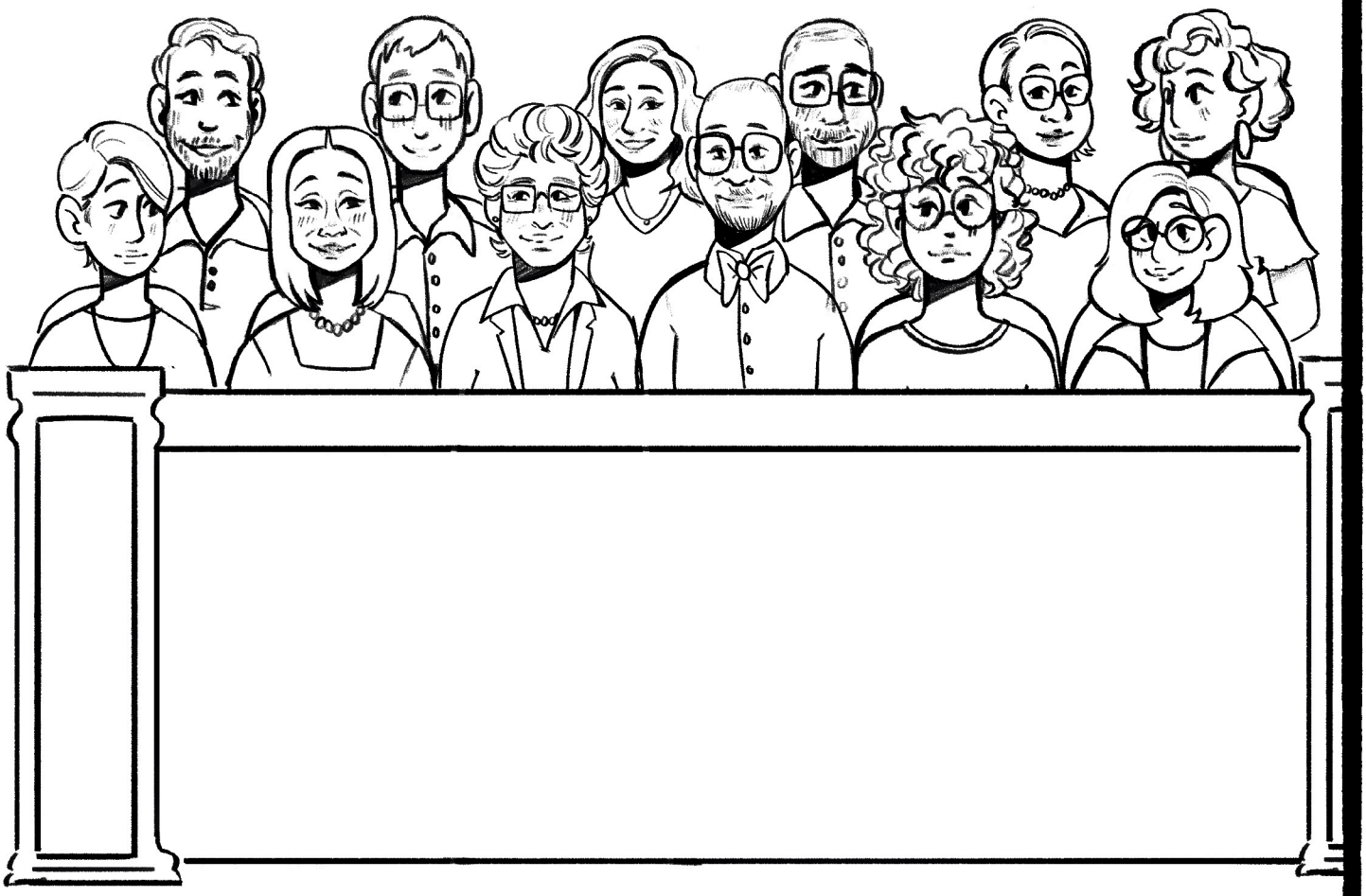


A woman wearing a headset stood nearby. “I’m an **interpreter**,” she said. “I help people understand what’s happening in court if they speak another language.” Next to her sat a person also wearing a headset, listening closely and nodding. “She is interpreting for her,” Ms. Rivera explained. “Sometimes people need help translating what’s being said in the courtroom, and that’s where interpreters come in.”

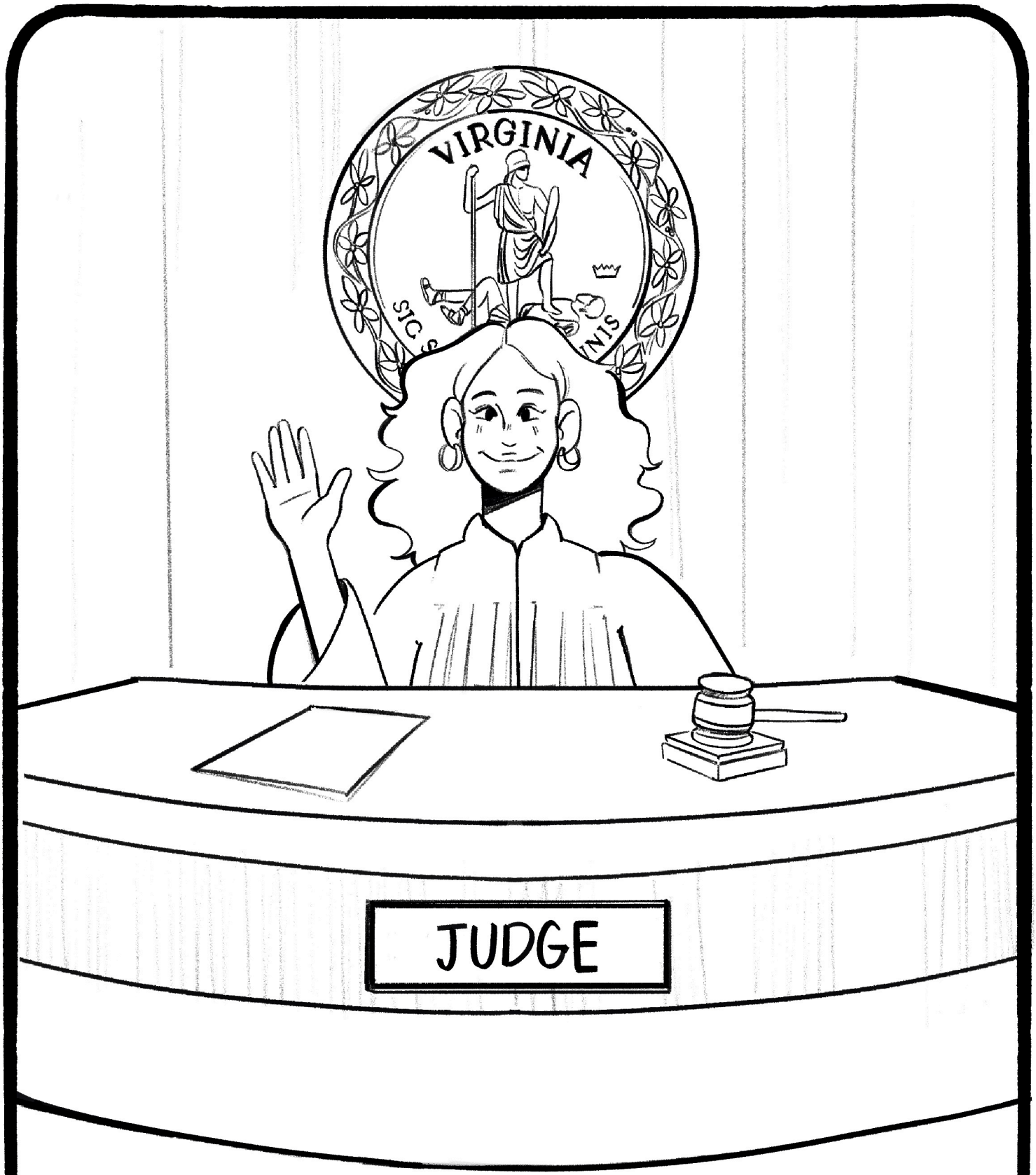


Ms. Rivera pointed to a large monitor on the courtroom wall. "Sometimes people who are deaf use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate. That screen shows a live video of an ASL interpreter helping someone understand the court proceedings. Sign Language is a language that uses hand gestures to communicate, also known as signing." The students watched closely as the interpreter signed while another person responded with signs.





The children turned their heads and noticed twelve people sitting quietly in a row of seats. “That’s the jury,” said Ms. Rivera. “They listen to the case and help decide what the fair outcome should be.” “Anyone can be chosen to serve on a jury. It’s a part of being a good citizen,” she added. “They look like they’re really paying attention,” said Naomi.



Then came the **judge,** wearing a black robe and a big smile. “I help make decisions based on the law and make sure everyone is treated fairly,” the judge said. The kids were amazed at how calm and wise the judge sounded.



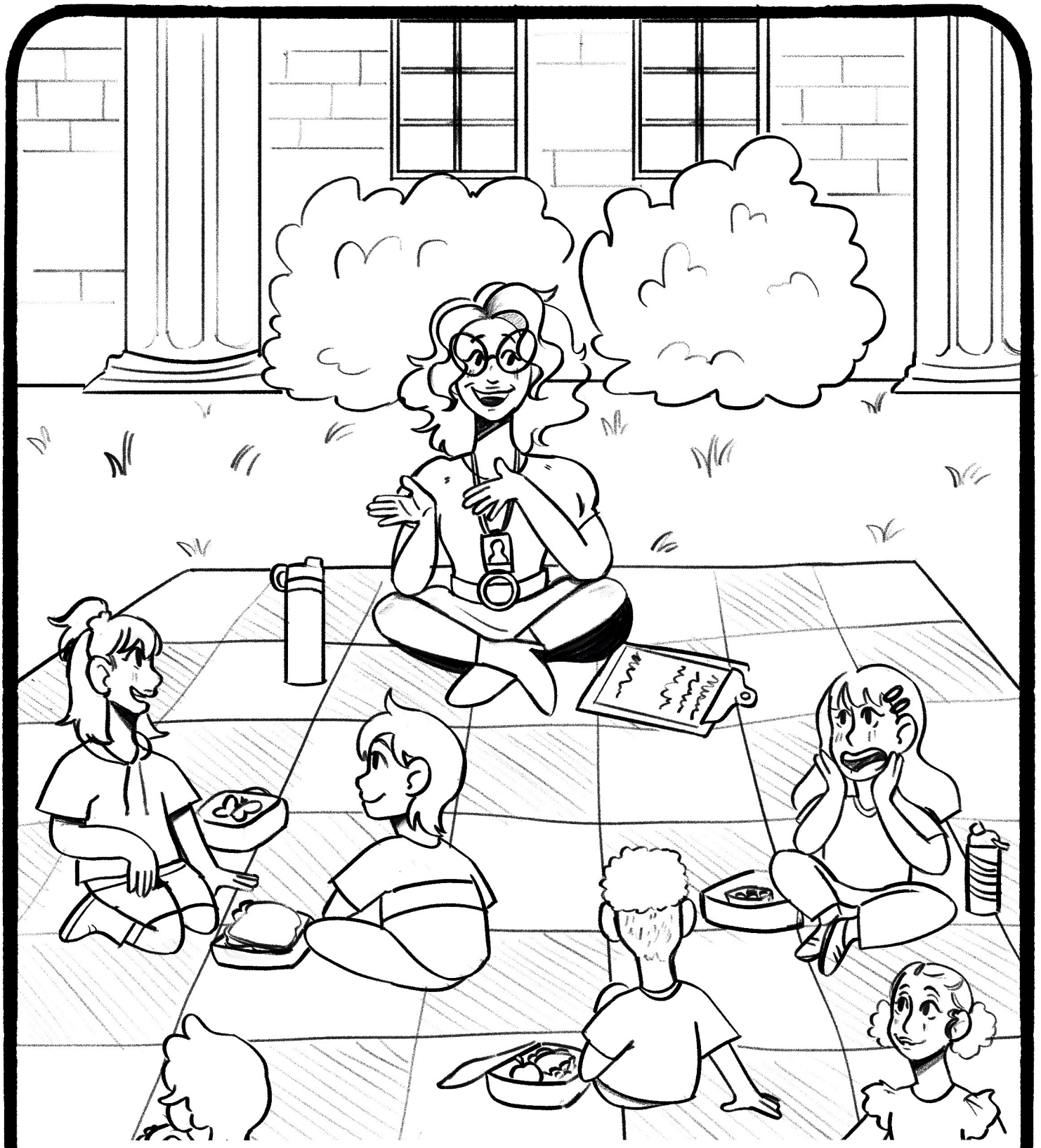
Next to the judge's bench sat a person typing on a special machine. "That's the **court reporter**," Ms. Rivera said. "They type every word that's said in court so there is an exact record of what happened."
"That must take a lot of focus!" said Aiden.



Next, they visited a **magistrate's** office. "I help decide things like whether search warrants are justified, whether to charge someone with a crime, and whether someone can be released from jail before trial," he explained. "I work when most people are asleep!"

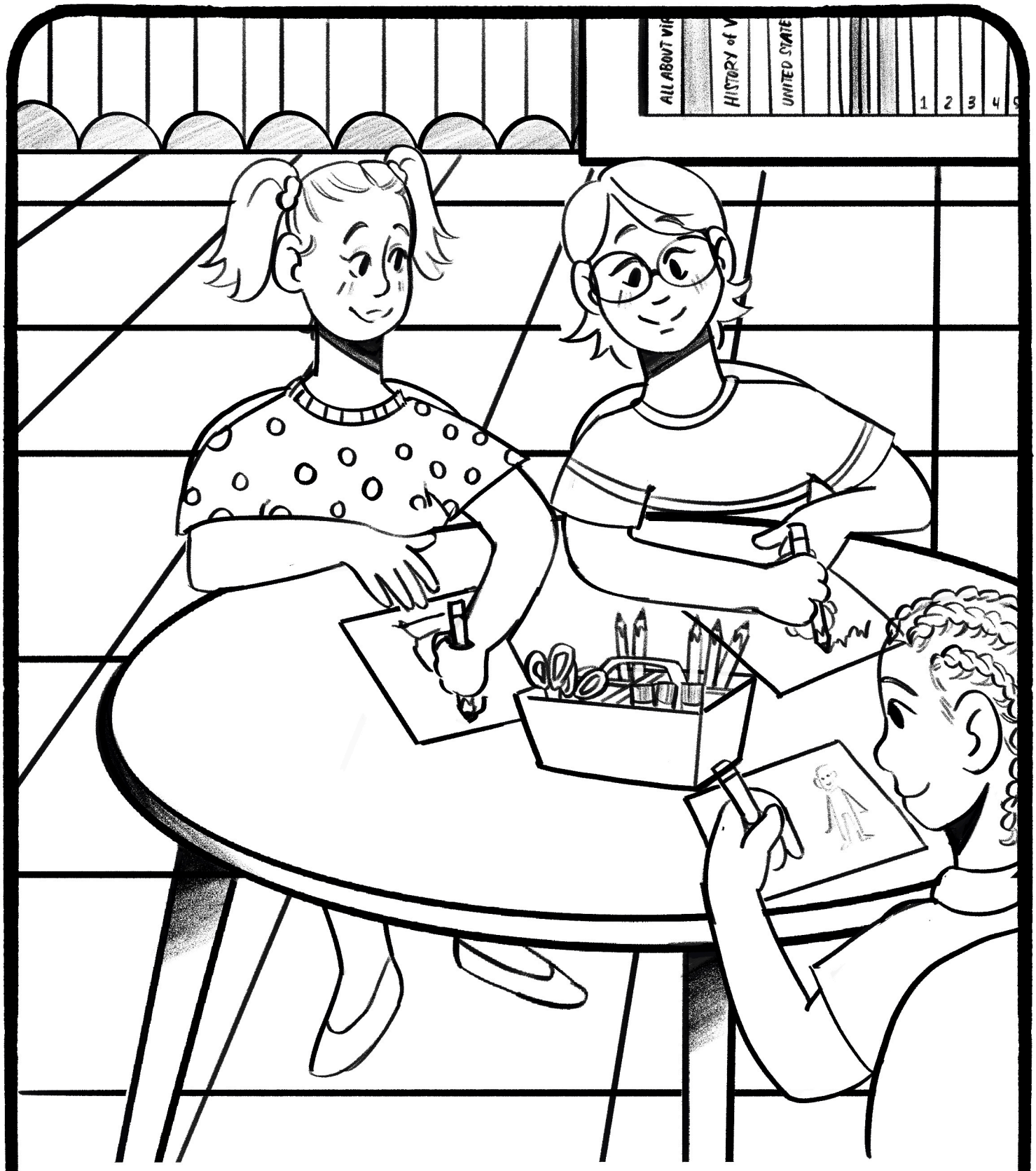


Finally, they met a mediator who said, "I help people solve disagreements by talking things out— sometimes we can fix problems without even going to court."



Before they left, Ms. Rivera gathered the class outside. “Today we met people who help keep the courts fair, safe, and helpful for everyone.”

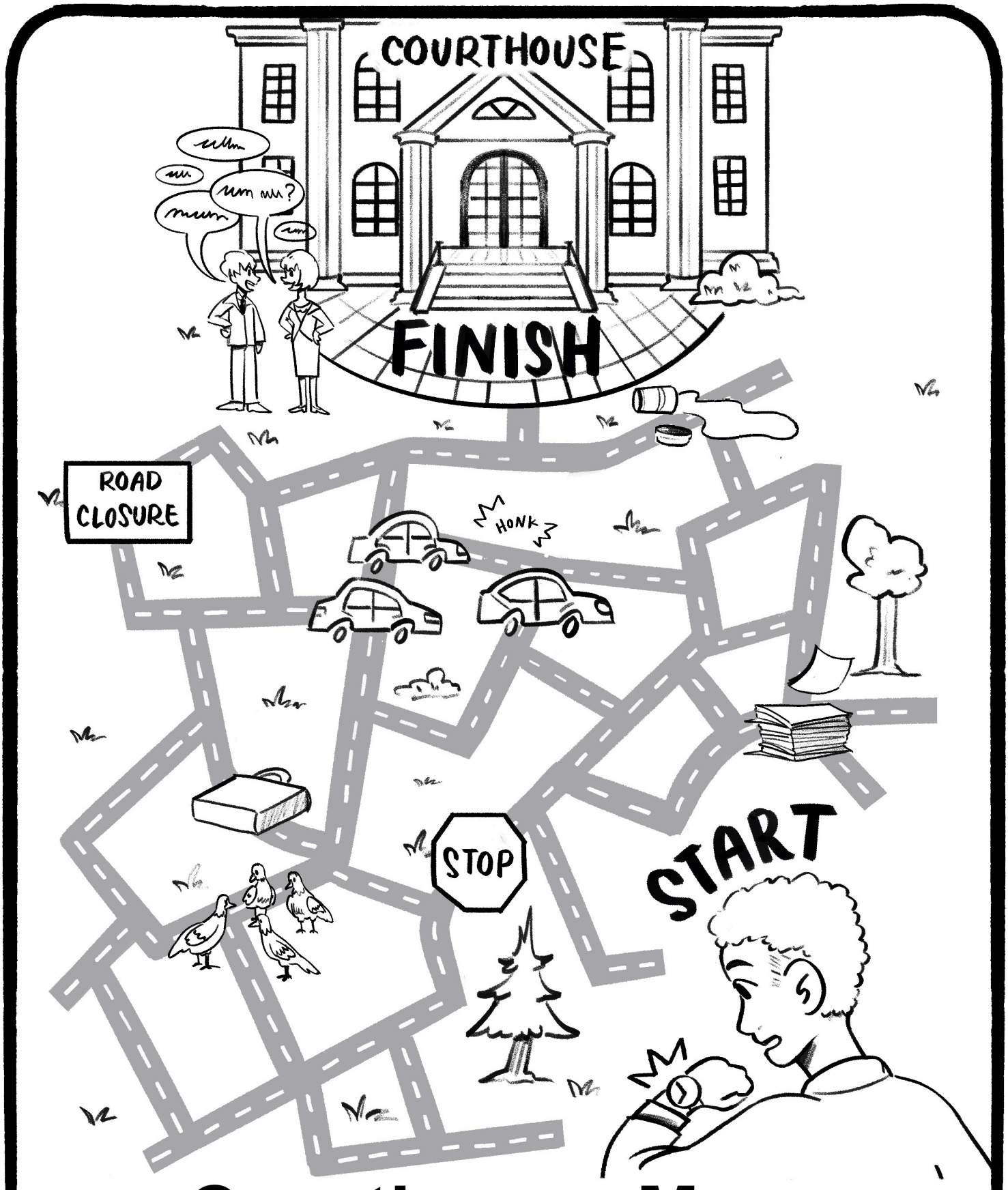
“I want to be an interpreter!” said Sofia. “I want to be a judge!” said Henry. “And I still want to be a goalie,” said Mason, laughing.



Back in class, they drew pictures of what they saw. They colored judges, clerks, attorneys, and more. The courthouse wasn't so mysterious after all— it was a place where people help solve problems, protect rights, and work together.

There are ten differences between the two images. Can you spot them all?

Answer key: The state seal, Judge's gavel in hand, Judge's placard, Flagpole top, Woman's hairstyle, Window, Television, Microphone, Number of jury chairs, and Attorney's pants.



Courthouse Maze

Help the attorney navigate the streets to get to the courthouse and avoid all the obstacles along the way!

Color the Virginia State Flag!

Instructions: the Virginia State Flag is made up of seven colors: dark blue, white, red, green, purple, yellow, light blue. Color the flag and learn about the flag's symbols and their meaning!



The Virginia State Flag was adopted in 1861. In the center is the state seal, which shows Virtus, the Roman goddess of virtue, standing over a defeated tyrant. This shows the importance of freedom and justice. Beneath the image is the Latin phrase: "Sic Semper Tyrannis" which means *"Thus always to tyrants."*