

What Do Lawyers and Judges Do?

A Project of The Missouri Bar Young Lawyers Section
And The Missouri Bar Citizenship Education Program



MoBar.org

Introduction

The Young Lawyers Section of The Missouri Bar has supported civic education for numerous years. This book about what lawyers and judges do is designed to inform young people of the important role lawyers and judges play in the government of the United States, Missouri and their communities. Justice is at the heart of American principles and values. Every day, thousands of Missouri judges and lawyers are spending countless hours making sure that the rule of law is followed in every aspect of American life.

Judges, lawyers and teachers are encouraged to contact the Director of Citizenship Education for The Missouri Bar at 573-635-4128 about civic education opportunities for teachers and students. Additional teacher resources may be found at <http://missourilawyershelp.org/educational-resources>.



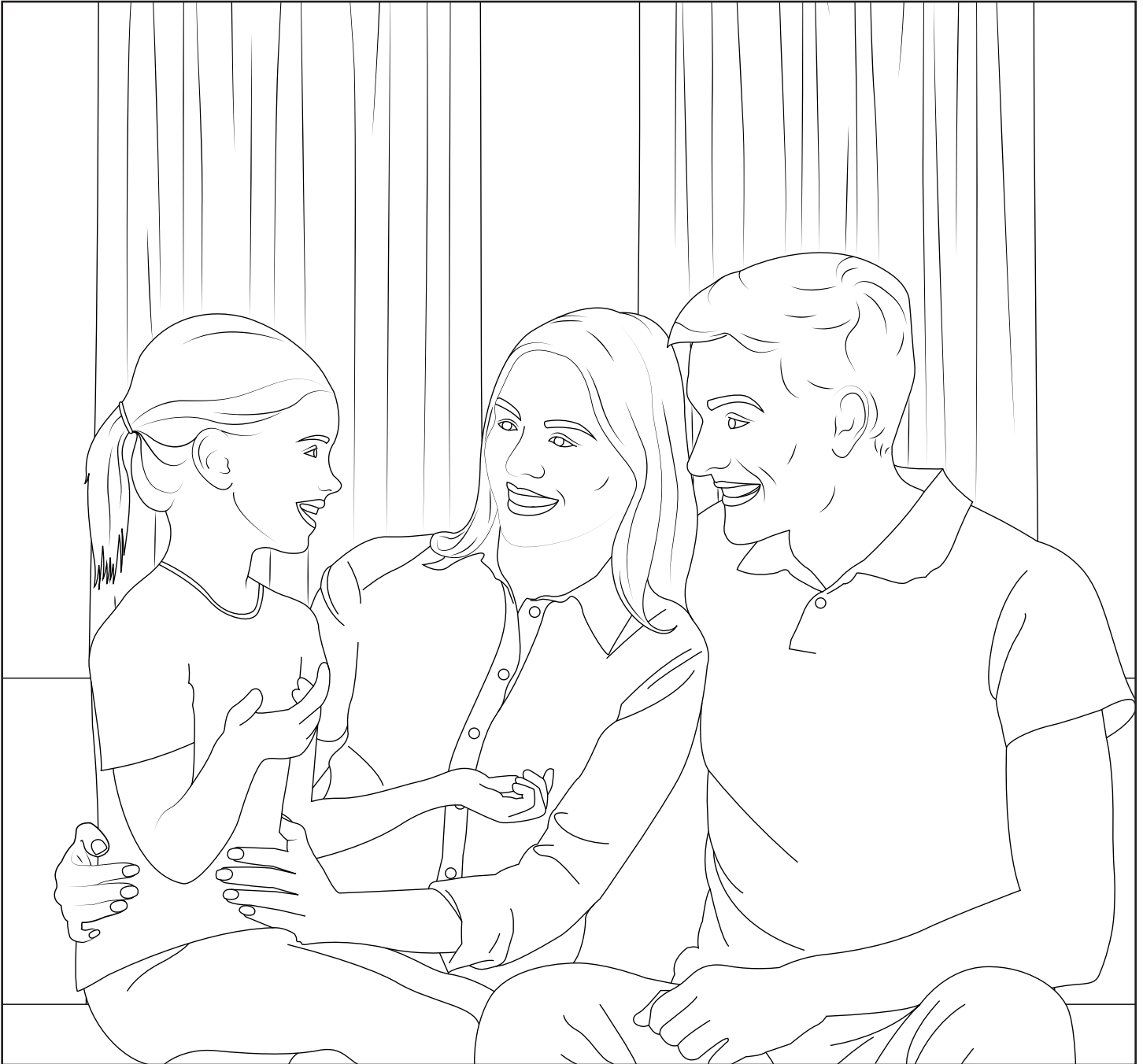
Above all, Missouri lawyers and judges want to make sure that all Missourians and all who come to our state are treated fairly.



Lawyers and judges make sure a person who is accused of a crime gets a fair trial.



Lawyers and judges help people who want to adopt a child.



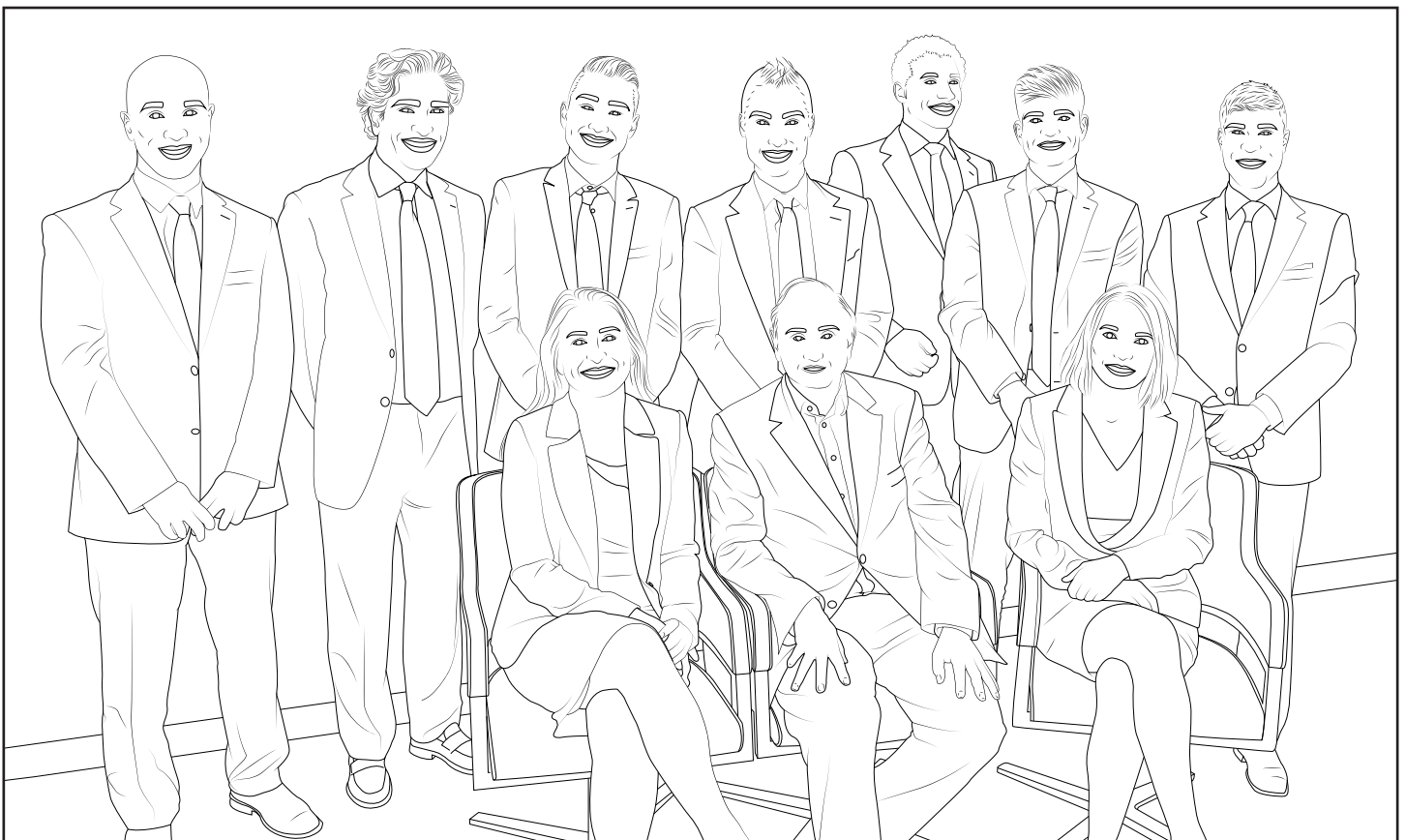
Lawyers help people who get hurt because someone else wasn't careful if the people who weren't careful won't pay the injured person's doctor and hospital bills.



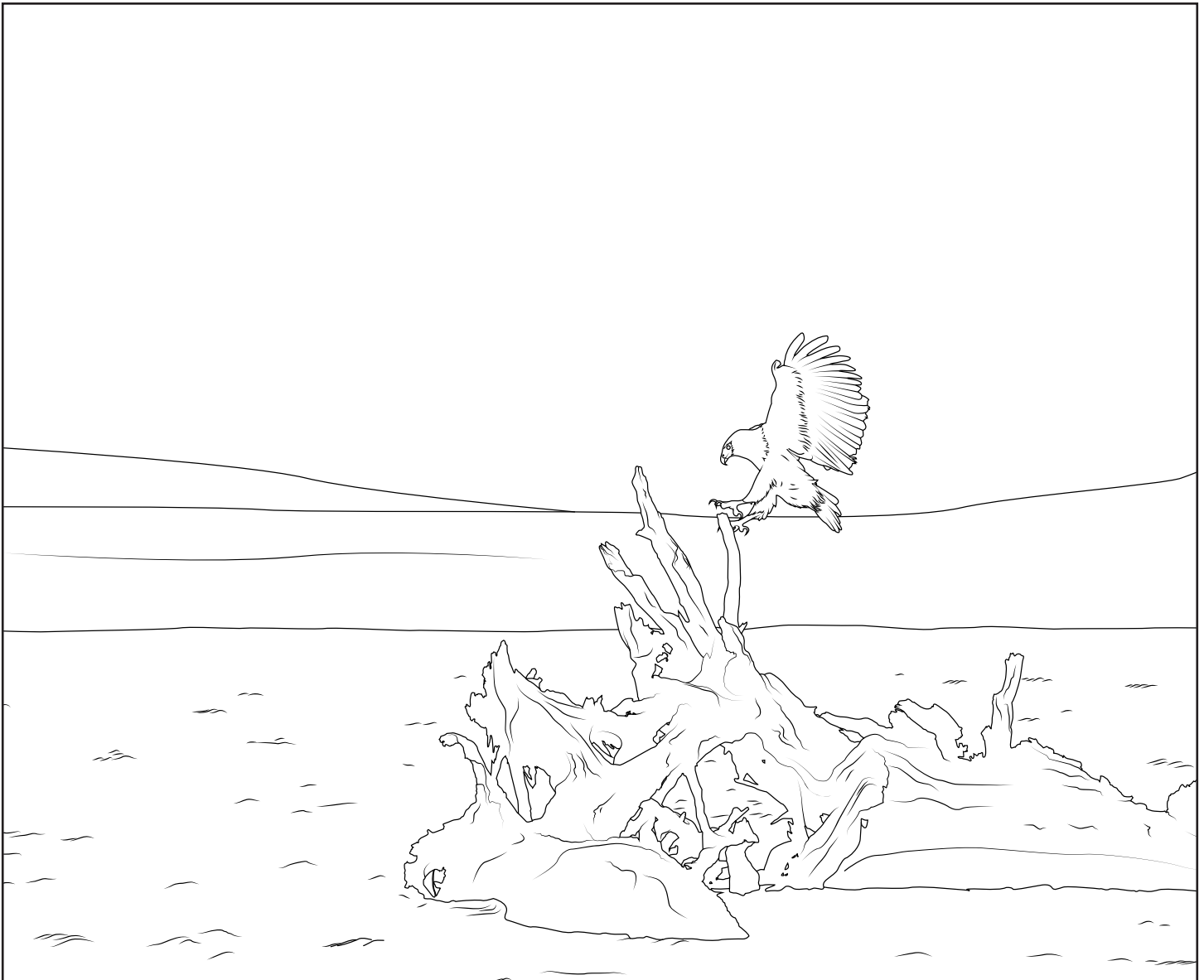
Lawyers and judges help children who do not have safe homes to find a safe home.



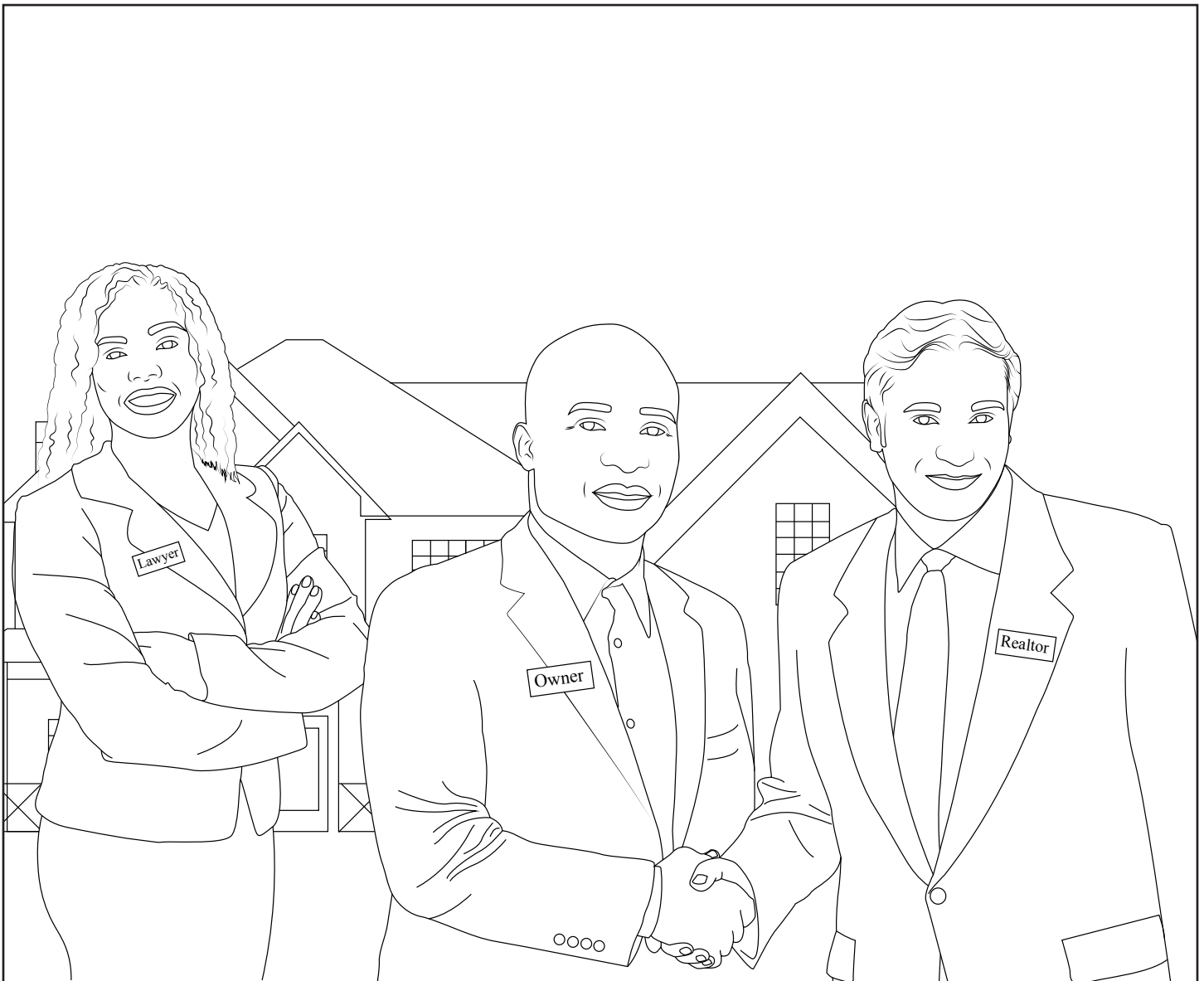
Lawyers help people who want to start a company or business by making sure the business owners know the laws that must be followed. Lawyers also help business owners make laws to make the companies safe places to work.



Lawyers and judges make sure that companies and businesses follow laws about keeping our water and air clean and safe.



Lawyers help people who want to buy a house by making sure that the seller of the house is honest with the buyer.



Lawyers help people make wills so that after those people die, their children and grandchildren will know what should be done with their things.



Lawyers help elected officials make laws and rules that are fair to everybody.



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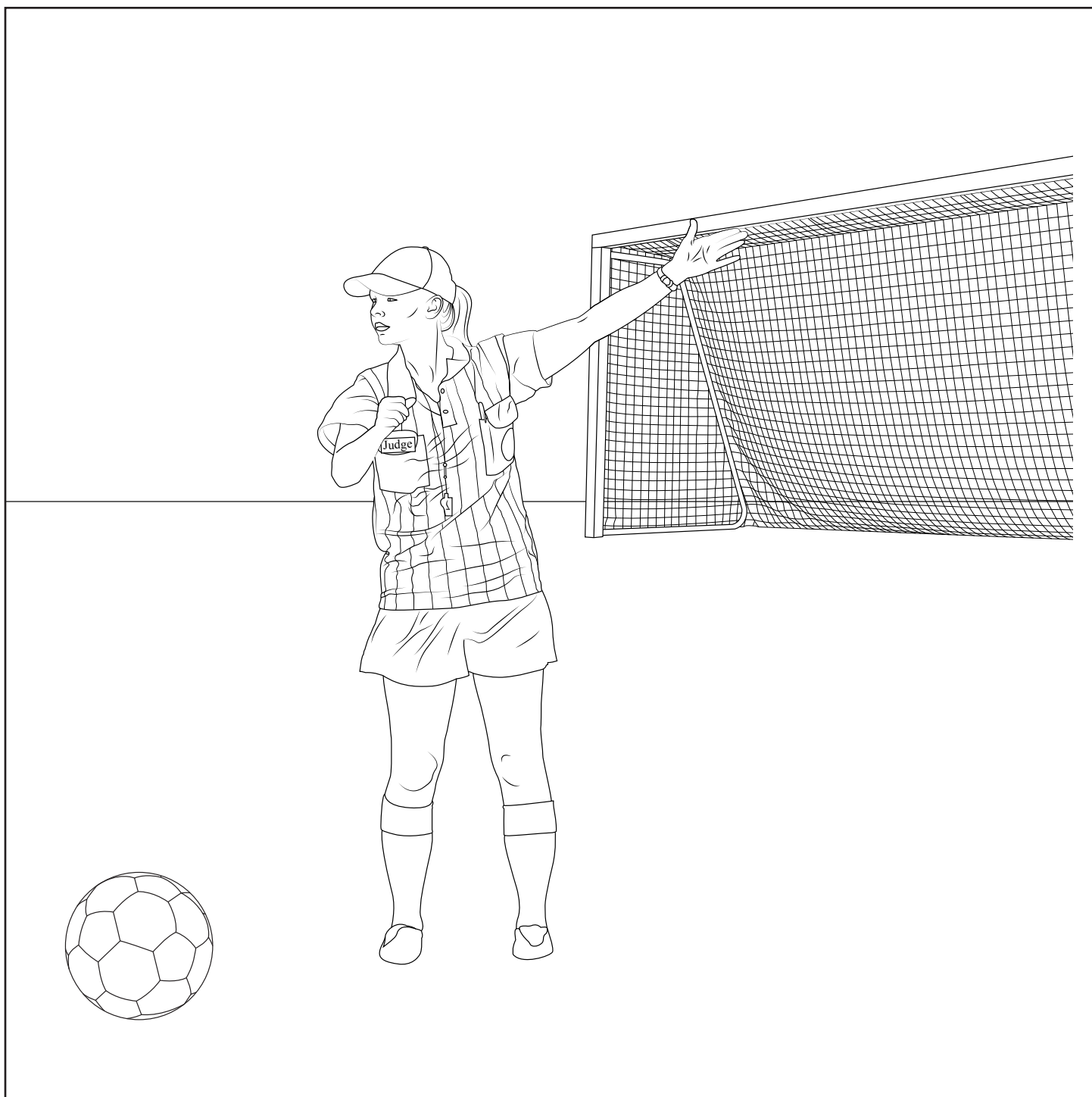
Judges are like umpires at a baseball game—they make sure the rules are followed and they are fair to both sides. They don't make the rules or choose the teams. They simply make sure that everyone follows the rules.



Or judges are like referees at a basketball game.



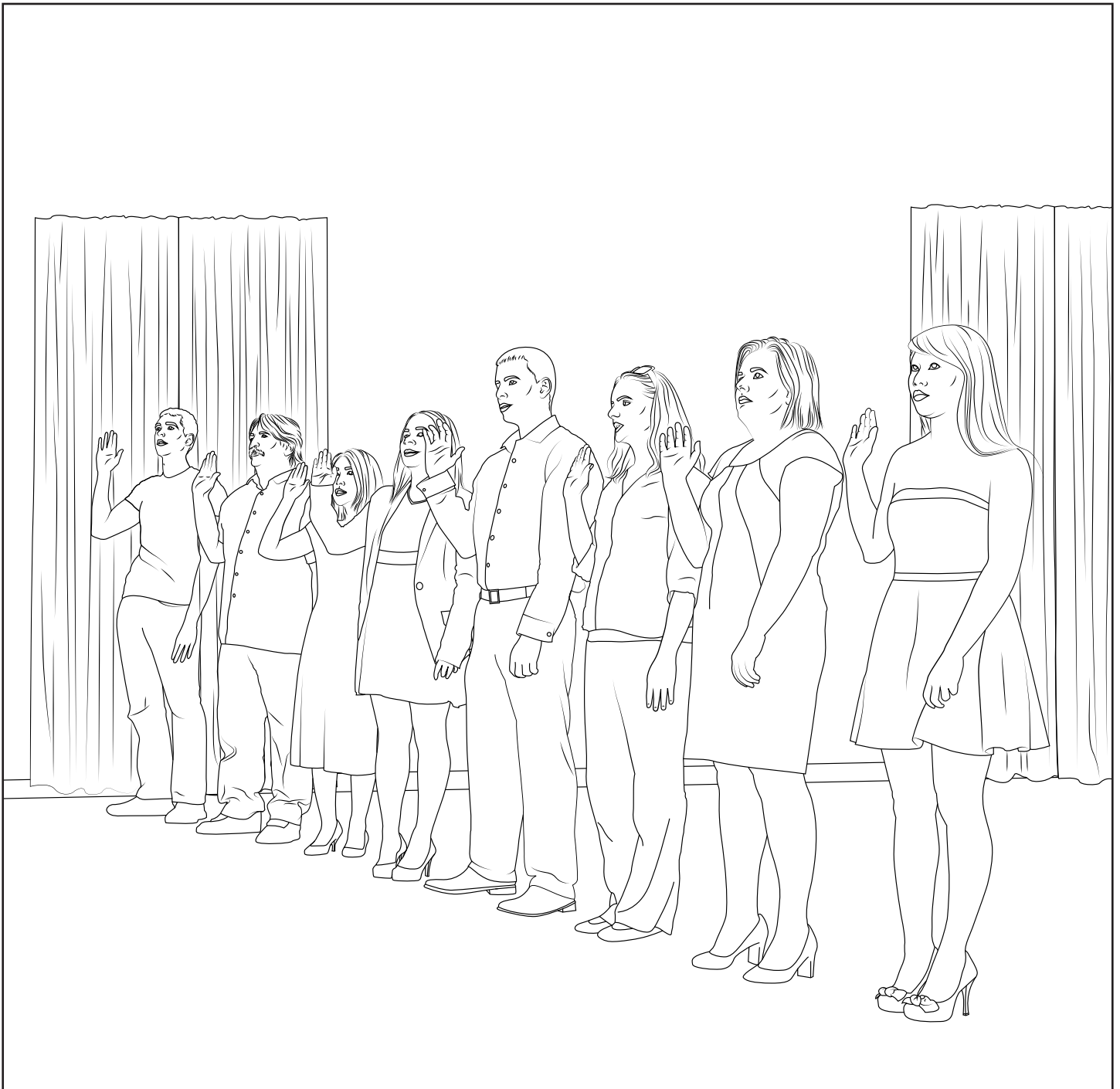
Or at a soccer game.



When people cannot agree about something, like where a boundary is between two yards, the judge will help decide what is fair for everybody.



Judges can help make someone a citizen of the United States.



When people cannot decide exactly what a law says, a judge will help to explain the law.

