

Louisville Black Lawyers Association, Inc.

~ AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION ~



P.O. BOX 70333
LOUISVILLE, KY 40270
LBLASSOC@GMAIL.COM
WWW.LOUISVILLEBLACKLAWYERS.COM



I. PURPOSE AND HISTORY OF COMPETITION

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition is a contest designed to motivate high school students to excel in education. The Competition encourages students to express their views on a pre-selected topic and focuses on the ability of the students to communicate orally and in writing. The contest is also designed to give young people experience in public speaking and reviewing legal documents as well as provide an opportunity for them to obtain some financial support to continue their education.

The National Bar Association's ("NBA") first annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition was held at its 75th Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., in 2000. As a result of the overwhelming success of the Competition, the NBA, with the support of the National Bar Institute ("NBI"), adopted it as a national program.

The topics of the Competition are always considered from the point of view of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and have included:

- Law enforcement treatment of persons of Arab descent and of the Muslim faith in terrorist investigations.
- The need for reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- Recommendations for action on the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act to address the continuing problem of voter disenfranchisement in minority communities.
- The treatment of juveniles in the criminal justice system.
- The right of same-sex couples to marry.
- Repealing of Stand Your Ground laws.

The National Bar Association through the National Bar Institute has awarded approximately \$250,000 in scholarships to over 100 students since the inception of the Competition in 2000.

II. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

1. Local Competition

The Louisville Black Lawyers Association ("LBLA") will hold an essay and oral competition at the local level in order to identify the Contestant(s) who will move on to the Regional Competition

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A. Structure of Competition

If an Affiliate Chapter chooses to hold a Local competition, it should use the structure identified below for the Regional Competition.

LBLA may send between 1 and 5 Contestants to the Regional Competition, to be held in **Cincinnati, OH during the weekend of April 24-26**, exact times to be announced at a later date.

2. Regional Competition

A. Structure of Competition

The Regional Competition should be held in two stages: Essay Competition and Oral Advocacy Competition.

- i. Essay Competition: Attorneys or judges should be chosen to judge both the essay and oral advocacy stages of the competition and assess the essays in advance of the Oral Advocacy Competition. Essays should be scored according to the criteria identified in the Competition Rules described below. These scores will be combined with the Contestants' scores at the oral advocacy stage of the competition and considered in the overall rating of the Contestants.
- ii. Oral Advocacy Competition: The oral presentation should be assessed according to the criteria identified in the Competition Rules described below. The NBA Region VI Competition will be held during the Regional Conference April 24-26, 2015.

B. Advancement to National Competition

The first place winner will represent the Region at the National Competition held during the NBA Annual Convention in Los Angeles, CA. If the first place winner is unable to represent the Region at the National Competition, the second place winner will represent the Region.

The Contestant Application Packet must include the following six items:

- i. The Contestant's full name and contact information (page 9 of handbook).
- ii. A brief biography stating the Contestant's high school, extra-curricular activities, volunteer activities, interests, and college/university (if senior). Please do not submit a resume.

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- iii. A graduation picture or headshot in a .jpg format.
- iv. The complete name and contact information of the Contestant's parent or legal guardian who will accompany the Contestant to the Annual Convention. If the parent or legal guardian is unable to accompany the Contestant, the parent or legal guardian must specifically express in writing the authorized adult Chaperone to accompany the Contestant to the Annual Convention.
- v. The Contestant's essay in a .pdf format.
- vi. A Release allowing MetLife and NBA to use the Contestants photographs for publicity of the Competition.

3. National Competition

The National Competition will be held on **Tuesday, July 21, 2015**. No more than twelve Contestants (one from each region) will be invited to compete in the National Competition. The 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition Committee ("Committee") in partnership with the NBA's Judicial Council will select three judges to evaluate the Contestants' written essays and oral presentations. The judges will evaluate the essays according to the same criteria used in the Regional Competition. **THE DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO AN APPEAL.**

A first place, second place, and third place winner will be chosen. The winners will each receive a one-time scholarship in the following amounts: First Place - \$5,000, Second Place - \$3,500, Third Place - \$2,000. In addition, The John Marshall Law School (JMLS) in Chicago, IL will match the scholarship of each of the 12 Contestants if they later (i) apply to JMLS, (ii) meet the admission requirements and (iii) enroll in JMLS. The JMLS match can only be used towards the costs of JMLS tuition.

III. COMPETITION RULES

A. Essay Format:

1. The essay should be no longer than 1000 words.
2. The type font must be Arial, 12 point, double-spaced.
3. The margins must be 1" and text must be fully justified.
4. The essay **MUST** be accompanied by a Contestant Cover Sheet Form. (attached)
5. The essay may be submitted via e-mail or U.S. mail, but e-mail is preferred.
 - a. If submitted via e-mail, the Contestant must send the essay as an attachment to an e-mail in Word format and send directly to llassoc@gmail.com.

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b. If submitted by mail, essay must be typewritten and mailed to the Louisville Black Lawyers Association, P.O. Box 70333, Louisville, KY 40270 and received no later than February 20, 2015.

B. Local and Regional Competition Rules:

1. Eligible Students: Current high school juniors and seniors. All students will receive a prize for participating in the **National Competition**. To receive the prize, seniors must submit a proof of enrollment letter from their college or university **90 days** after their participation in the National Competition. Juniors will receive their prize when they matriculate for college. Juniors must also submit proof of enrollment letter from their college or university by **September 30, 2016**.
2. Assessment of Essays and Oral Presentations: Essays and Oral Presentations will be evaluated according to six categories: (a) quality, (b) content, (c) persuasiveness, (d) style, (e) organization, and (f) creativity. The maximum number of points each contestant may receive per category is five points for his or her essay and five points for his or her oral presentation, for a maximum total of thirty points for the entire essay and thirty points for the entire oral presentation. Advancing students will be notified via e-mail or U.S. mail. Advancing students **MUST** confirm their participation within 48 hours of receiving notification.
3. The Essay Question: The speaker must incorporate the topic and/or answer the essay question. It should not be recited verbatim. Failure to incorporate the topic and/or answer the essay question will result in points being deducted.
4. Props: The speaker is prohibited from using any props. Any use of props will result in points being deducted. The speaker may use notes.
5. Timing: The oral presentation must be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of seven minutes. An oral presentation outside of this timeframe will result in points being deducted.
6. Dress: All Contestants should be dressed in business attire (i.e., suits and ties for the men and suits or dresses for the ladies) for the Local, Regional and National Competitions.

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7. All essays submitted become the property of the National Bar Association. They will not be returned. Contestants should retain a copy for his/her records.

8. All NBA Affiliate Chapters and Regions will be responsible for verifying the eligibility of the Contestants. The National Competition Committee will determine questions of Contestant eligibility and **ALL DETERMINATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY BY THIS BODY ARE FINAL.**

Louisville Black Lawyers Association Local Competition Deadlines:

- Competition Packet Distribution - January 26, 2015
- Notice of Intent to Participate/Submission of Contestant Packet Due (cover sheet, application form, and photography release waiver - attached) - February 6, 2015 (may be delivered by email to llassoc@gmail.com or postmarked by February 6, 2015).
- Deadline for Submission of Essay - February 20, 2015 (must be received by email or mail by this date; postmark for February 20, 2015 does not suffice for submission)
- Notification to Contestants Selected to Compete in Oral Advocacy Portion of Competition March 11, 2015
- Local Oral Advocacy Competition - March 28, 2015
- Regional Competition - Cincinnati, OH April 24-26, 2015
- National Competition - Los Angeles, CA July 21, 2015

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IV. 2015 MLK COMPETITION QUESTION

In March 2014, The U.S. Department of Education released a survey of civil rights data showing that despite comprising only 18 percent of preschool children, African-Americans represented 42 percent of preschoolers suspended and nearly half of those preschoolers were suspended more than once. Some argue that these students are funneled into the “pre-school to prison” pipeline.

If Martin Luther King, Jr. were alive, would he argue that school’s “zero-tolerance” policies fuel the “pre-school to prison” pipeline? Would Dr. King say the “zero-tolerance” policies have gone too far?

Please discuss why or why not.

RESEARCH GUIDE:

To assist you in your research of the Competition Question, please read the materials below. These materials will help you understand the legal, political, and public policy issues and relevant cases. These materials are the starting point for your research. In order to fully formulate your position, you may need to find other cases, articles, or sources of information.

Pre-school to Prison

What Is The School-to-Prison Pipeline? (ACLU)

<https://www.aclu.org/racial-justice/what-school-prison-pipeline>

Expansive Survey of America's Public Schools Reveals Troubling Racial Disparities (U.S. Department of Education)

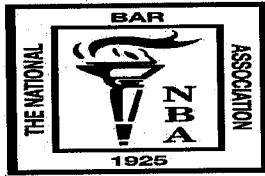
<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/expansive-survey-americas-public-schools-reveals-troubling-racial-disparities>

Juvenile Justice (Children’s Defense Fund)

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy-priorities/juvenile-justice/>

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Martin Luther King

Archives

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/>

The King Research and Education Institute

<http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/>

Books

<http://www.worldcat.org/search?q=au%3AKing%2C+Martin+Luther>

MetLife

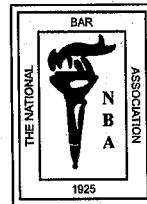


MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

National

Bar

Association



OFFICIAL CONTESTANT'S COVER SHEET, APPLICATION FORM, AND PHOTOGRAPHY
RELEASE WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

NOTE: All three forms must be included with your essay.

2015 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition
Contestant Cover Sheet

Applicant's Background Information Please type or print

Date: _____
Submit Photo and Essay with
your Application

I. Applicant Data

Student's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: () _____ Email: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name _____
First Last

Permanent Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Email _____

Student's High School: _____

Grade Level: _____ Grade Point Average: _____

High School Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

High School Phone: () _____

MetLife



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

National
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Application

Please answer the below listed questions. A parent or legal guardian must sign your application. If a parent or legal guardian does not sign your application, and time permits, your application will be returned for you to complete. In the event time does not permit the return of an incomplete application, such application may not be considered. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

1. List academic honors received.

2. Briefly describe extracurricular activities (school clubs, volunteer organizations, not-for-profit organizations, etc.) you are involved in.

3. For Seniors: List two-year/four-year College or University you plan to attend. Please include an acceptance letter to this form.

*****NOTE:** Attach your written essay on the official topic selected by the National Bar Association to your Application. The essay must not exceed 1,000 words.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

MetLife



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition**



National
Bar
Association



Photography Release Waiver and Release of Liability

I hereby grant permission to the National Bar Association (NBA) and MetLife, Inc. (MetLife), and their agents, employees or assignees, to photograph competitor _____ (Competitor) and use the photograph(s) for informational, educational, promotional, or publicity purposes concerning the promotion of its services and events, including but not limited to the Dr. Martin Luther King Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition (Competition).

I understand that the photograph(s) may be used by NBA or MetLife on their respective websites, publications or displays, magazines, reports, or other documents; or electronic or digital recordings as well as in press releases concerning the Competition.

I also grant permission to NBA and MetLife, their agents, employees or assignees to offer the photograph(s) for use or distribution in other publications, electronic or otherwise, without notifying me or seeking any further consent or authorization from me.

I understand that the NBA and MetLife, their agents, employees or assignees, may modify photograph(s) in the process of editing. I hereby grant NBA and MetLife, their agents, employees or assignees, permission to select, crop, and reproduce a photograph or photographs at their discretion. I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photographs or printed or electronic matter that may be used in conjunction with them now or in the future. I also understand that neither the Competitor nor I will be entitled to any compensation or royalties for use of the photograph(s).

I also agree to release NBA and MetLife, their agents, employees or assignees, from any and all claims, damages or liability arising out of or connected to the use of the photograph(s) as stated above.

I have read and understand this release and waiver of liability, and voluntarily accept and agree to its terms.

Name of Parent or Guardian/Competitor (if over 18)

Signature of Parent or Guardian/Competitor (if over 18)

Date