



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# **Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition**

**2023 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE ADVOCACY COMPETITION**

**LOCAL COMPETITION RULES & APPLICATION**

July 2023



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

Calling All Juniors and Seniors:

The Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (“LVNBA”) is proud to host and sponsor the 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition! The Competition is an annual oral and written advocacy program sponsored by the National Bar Association and the National Bar Institute. The Competition consists of three portions: a local competition; a regional final; and the national finals. This packet is intended to introduce you to the competition, provide guidance, and facilitate your participation in the Competition. Please review the document in its entirety. If you have questions, please contact the local committee Chair for guidance.

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Should you have any questions about the materials contained in this packet, please do not hesitate to contact the LVNBA at [lasvegasnba@gmail.com](mailto:lasvegasnba@gmail.com) or [kendricksnaliq@gmail.com](mailto:kendricksnaliq@gmail.com).

Thank you!

**Maliq I. Kendricks, Esq., M.Ed.**

Corresponding Secretary and Chair, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition Committee, Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA)

**Angela M. Cook, Esq.**

President, Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association (LVNBA)



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

## 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") inaugural Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition was held at the 75th Annual Convention in Washington, D.C., in 2000. The Competition originated under the leadership of NBA Past President Harold D. Pope with the assistance of Attorney Vanessa Miree Mays and resulted from the historical success of a similar competition created in 1993 by A. Kay Stanfield Spinks, Past President of the NBA Affiliate Chapter D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, Southfield, Michigan. 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 Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association ("LVNBA") has a proud history of developing students to compete and succeed in this event. The NBA and NBI will be celebrating the 22nd Anniversary of the inaugural Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition at the 97th Annual Convention which will be held in Minneapolis, MS on **Thursday, August 3, 2023**.

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 funneling of young African American students into a "pre-school to prison" pipeline.
- Support of the Black Lives Matter movement versus All Lives Matter debate.
- Support "The Green New Deal"

The National Bar Association through the National Bar Institute has awarded approximately \$290,000.00 in scholarships to over one hundred and twelve (112) students since the inception of the Competition in 2000.



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### II. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

1. **Local Competition - Las Vegas, NV:** The LVNBA will host a write-in competition and three high school students will be selected to receive scholarships and certificates of award. The first-place winner will have the chance to advance to the Regional Competition. Applications for the local competition will be submitted via email to [kendricksnaliq@gmail.com](mailto:kendricksnaliq@gmail.com) by **Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.** Student(s) selected to advance to the Regional Competition will be prepared by the LVNBA to participate in the Regional Competition. Please see below for further details about the essay and application requirements.

2. **Regional Competition:** Similar to the local competition, the Regional Competition will be comprised of two stages: Essay Competition and Oral Advocacy Competition. The Regional Competition may be held in person or remotely. In the event the Regional Competition is in person, the LVNBA will sponsor the selected students' attendance. In the event the student is selected to advance to Nationals, the LVNBA will sponsor a portion of the student's trip and will use its network of members and sponsors to help the student secure the remaining portion of the expense. The oral advocacy stage of the competition must be held on or before **Monday, May 22, 2023**. The information for the Regional Competition will be shared as soon as those details are available.

3. **National Competition:** Each region will select a first-place winner to represent the Region at the National Competition held during the NBA Annual Convention. If the first-place winner is unable to represent the Region at the National Competition, the second-place winner will represent the Region. The winner's application and materials must be submitted to the National committee via email to [lonitabajernba@gmail.com](mailto:lonitabajernba@gmail.com) by **Friday, June 2, 2023**. The National Competition will be held during the NBA National Convention in Minneapolis, MS on **Thursday, August 3, 2023**. The 2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition Committee ("Committee") in partnership with the NBA's Judicial Council will select a panel of 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; and \$500 for the remaining competitors.

### III. COMPETITION RULES FOR ALL LEVELS (Local, Regional, & National)

#### 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. (see page 7)
5. The essay may be submitted via e-mail by April 21, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.



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- a) Local level - submit essay via e-mail as an attachment in Word format to: Maliq I. Kendricks, Esq., M.Ed. Email: [kendricksмалиq@gmail.com](mailto:kendricksмалиq@gmail.com)
- b) Regional level - Information will be submitted by the LVNBA if the student(s) advance.

### **B. 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 within **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, 2023**.

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 Regional Competition.

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**.



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### IV. 2023 MLK COMPETITION QUESTION

Slavery enriched White slave owners and their descendants, and it fueled the country's economy while suppressing wealth building for the enslaved. The United States has yet to compensate descendants of enslaved Black Americans for their labor.

Many believe that reparations should be paid to American descendants of slavery to aid in correcting this injustice and to reduce disparities that remain pervasive in society.

If Dr. King were alive today, how would he suggest reparations be issued? How would Dr. King suggest reparations be financed and on what level?

#### 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.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/40?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Rep+Jackson+Lee+Sheila+TX18%22%2C%22Rep+Jackson+Lee+Sheila+TX18%22%5D%7D>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9N-m9RcZGkc>

[https://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/what-are-reparations-and-should-we-enact-them?gclid=Cj0KCQiAyracBhDoARIsACGFcS5gSyNb3GbL-AC6dE2EuSE1CwC4LGSppDf1fl3fvSLRMzJIF3PVF2EaAqZqEALw\\_wcB](https://www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/what-are-reparations-and-should-we-enact-them?gclid=Cj0KCQiAyracBhDoARIsACGFcS5gSyNb3GbL-AC6dE2EuSE1CwC4LGSppDf1fl3fvSLRMzJIF3PVF2EaAqZqEALw_wcB)

<https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2022/06/reparations-california-task-force/>



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## V. 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.**

**2023 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



## 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.

<b>Signature of Applicant</b>		<b>Date</b>
<b>Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian</b>		<b>Date</b>





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## Photography Release Waiver and Release of Liability

I hereby grant permission to the National Bar Association (NBA) and National Bar Institute (NBI), 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 NBI 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 NBI, 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 NBI, their agents, employees or assignees, may modify photograph(s) in the process of editing. I hereby grant NBA and NBI, 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 NBI, 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