2023 Drum Major For Justice Advocacy Competition
National Bar Association, Region IV

The National Bar Association was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges. It represents the interests of approximately 66,000 lawyers, judges, law professors, and law students. The NBA is organized around 23 substantive law sections, 10 divisions, 12 regions, and over 80 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world.

I. Who is Eligible?

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. Region IV participants must be residents of MD, VA, WV, NC, or SC.**

II. What are the Parameters?

A. 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.

> 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?

B. 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.

C. Props: The speaker is prohibited from using any props. Any use of props will result in points being deducted. The speaker may use notes.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. 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**.

H. 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.

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III. When?

A. Regional Essays are due by Friday, May 5, 2022, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

B. Regional Oral Advocacy Competition will convene on Saturday, May 20, 2023, 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

IV. Where shall I submit my essay?

Submit essays to shawnmcgruder@gmail.com, which is the email address for the Regional Director.

V. Why?

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 first, second and third place winners of the Regional Competition will win $700, $200 and $100 respectively. The first-place winner will compete in the National Competition.

The National Competition 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.

VI. How?

Submit your essay in compliance with the rules and along with the requisite attached forms.

Those selected to present during the Regional Competition will do so via the Zoom platform.