



**2010 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE
ADVOCACY COMPETITION**

**New Orleans, Louisiana
August 11, 2010**



National Bar Association

2010 The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

Dear Competitor:

Welcome to the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition! The Competition is an annual oral and written advocacy program sponsored by the National Bar Association and supported by the National Bar Institute.

This packet contains important information, which will assist you in coordinating your local and regional competitions:

- I. Purpose and History of the Competition;
- II. 2010 MLK Competition Question;
- III. Competition Rules;
- IV. Official Contestant's Cover Sheet and Application Form; and
- V. Research Materials for Your Essay

Special thanks is given to Prof. John C. Brittain of the David A. Clarke School of Law of the University of the District of Columbia who developed the 2010 Competition Question.

Should you have any questions about the materials contained in this packet, please contact the Regional Director for your state. To determine your Regional Director, please visit <http://www.nationalbar.org/nba/boardatlarge.shtml> and scroll down to the page to see a list of Regional Directors. For any other questions, please contact me by phone at (212)578-1143 or via e-mail tgrays@metlife.com.

Thank you!

Taa Grays
Chairperson,
2010 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum
Major for Justice Advocacy
Competition Committee



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I. COMPETITION HISTORY

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 provides 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 National Bar Association through the National Bar Institute has awarded approximately \$188,000.00 in scholarships to thirty-two (32) students since the inception of the Competition in 2000.



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II. 2010 MLK COMPETITION QUESTION

The highest courts of the states of California, Massachusetts and Connecticut have ruled in favor of marriage between same sex couples based in significant part on the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Loving v. Virginia*, that repealed bans on interracial marriages. These state supreme courts found that the prohibition on same sex marriages, even with domestic partnership laws, denied gay men and women equal protection under the law. The ban on same sex marriages was a stigma against gay men and women similar to the way in which the ban on interracial marriages was a stigma against African Americans.

If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were alive today, would he advise President Barack Obama to support or oppose legalizing same-sex marriages?



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III. COMPETITION RULES

A. Essay Format:

1. The essay should be no longer than 2000 words.
2. The type font must be Arial, 12 point, double-spaced.
3. The margins shall be 1" and text shall be fully justified.
4. The essay **MUST** be accompanied by a Contestant Cover Sheet Form. (See 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 to the Regional Director for your region or the email address indicated by the Regional Director. Email addresses are also available on the NBA website.
 - b. If submitted by mail, essay must be typewritten and mailed to the Regional Director for your region, or to the address indicated by the Regional Director. Mailing addresses can be found on the NBA Website.

B. Competition Rules:

1. Eligible Students: Current high school seniors who are accepted to an accredited college or university. Winning students of the National Competition must prove their acceptance at an accredited four-year college or university. In addition, the students must be enrolled in their college or university for the fall semester immediately following the National Competition at the Annual National Bar Association convention. The top three winners of the National Competition will receive a scholarship to be used for their college education.
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 shall be notified via e-mail or U.S. mail. Advancing students **MUST** confirm their participation within 24 hours of receiving notification.
3. Presentation of Essay: Each Advancing student will deliver his/her essay at a Local Competition, a Regional Competition, or both. The student will deliver is/her essay, preferable memorized, before other students and a panel of judges. The judges will use the criteria described above to assess the presentation. The Affiliate Chapter in your city or state will notify you by e-mail or U.S. mail if a Local Competition will be held. To find a list of NBA Affiliate Chapters please visit <http://www.nationalbar.org/nba/affiliates.shtml>.



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3. The Essay Question: The speaker must incorporate the topic and/or answer the essay question. 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. Although, the speaker may use notes.
5. Timing: The oral presentation shall 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 shall be responsible for verifying the eligibility of the Contestants. The National Committee will determine questions of Contestant eligibility and **ALL DETERMINATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY BY THIS BODY ARE FINAL.**

C. Deadlines

April 1, 2010

All essays must be submitted via e-mail or U.S. mail to the Regional Director for your region or the email address indicated by the Regional Director. To determine your region, please visit <http://www.nationalbar.org/nba/boardatlarge.shtml>.

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IV. OFFICIAL CONTESTANT'S COVER SHEET AND APPLICATION FORM

**2010 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 _____

Cell Phone (_____) _____ E-Mail _____

Parent or Guardian's Name (s) _____
First Last

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

E-Mail _____

Student's High School _____

Grade Level _____ Grade Point Average _____

High School Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

High School Phone (_ _) _____



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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 four-year College or University you plan to attend. Please attach an acceptance letter to this form.
2. List academic honors received.
3. Briefly describe extracurricular activities you are involved in.

*****NOTE:** Attach your written essay on the official topic selected by the National Bar Association to your Application. The essay shall not exceed 2,000 words. The essay must be typewritten and in a double-spaced format on 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper.

Signature of Applicant

Date _____

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date _____



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V. MATERIALS TO BE USED IN PREPARING YOUR ESSAY

To assist you in your research of the Competition topic, please read the materials below. These materials will help you understand the legal and political 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.

U.S. Constitution

1. The Basics about the Constitution: <http://www.usconstitution.net/constkids.html>
2. Fifth Amendment: http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst_Am5.html
3. Fourteenth Amendment: http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst_Am14.html
4. Due Process of Law – Explanation: http://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_duep.html
5. Equal Protection Under the Law – Explanation: <http://public.getlegal.com/legal-info-center/14th-amendment-equal-protection-clause>

Case Law

1. Loving v Virginia:
<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=388&invol=1>
2. In re Marriage Cases (California): www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/archive/S147999.PDF
3. Kerrigan v. Commissioner of Public Health (Connecticut):
www.jud.ct.gov/external/supapp/Cases/ARocr/CR289/289CR152.pdf

Periodicals

1. In Favor of Same-Sex Marriage - New York Times (article available through free registration to webpage): <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/19/us/19olson.html>
2. Against Same-Sex Marriage:
http://www.manwomanmarriage.org/jrm/pdf/Marriage_Betrayal_of_Perez.pdf

Other Information

1. Human Rights Campaign: <http://www.hrc.org/issues/marriage.asp>
2. Understanding Marriage and the Role of the State (check link at bottom of page):
<http://www.deliberating.org/index.php/Lessons/>
3. Overview of states and same-sex marriage:
<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=347390>
4. Sam-Sex Marriage: A Bibliography of Resources: <http://law-library.rutgers.edu/SSM.html>