

Contest Rules and Eligibility Requirements



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 (www.nationalbar.org/meetings/mlk.shtml).

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. **LOCAL COMPETITION:** There may be a local competition. Essays 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 one may receive per category is five points and a total of thirty points for the entire essay. Students may be selected from the local competition to advance to the Regional Competition.
3. **REGIONAL COMPETITION:** The Regional Competition is the oral advocacy portion of the Competition. The Regional Director will send confirmation letters to students advancing to the regional competition with the location of the competition. Students traveling to the Regional Competition may be able to receive a travel stipend subsidizing part of their and a chaperone's expenses from a local affiliate, if available.
4. **KEEP A COPY OF YOUR ESSAY:** All essays submitted are property of the National Bar Association. They will not be returned so please retain a copy for your records.
5. **PRIZES:** Winner of the Regional Competition will win a \$1,000 book prize and a free trip to New Orleans, Louisiana (hotel and airfare). The top three winners will each receive a one-time scholarship: first place—\$2,500, second place—\$2,000, third place—\$1,500.
6. **QUESTIONS?:** Please contact Pamela J. Meanes via e-mail at pmeanes@thompsoncoburn.com
7. **FOR FULL COMPETITION RULES:** Please refer to www.nationalbar.org/meetings/mlk.shtml

