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CHARLES HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION

Laying the Foundation for the Future

January 18, 2012



Dear Principal, Teacher, Counselor, or Student Advisor:

The Charles Houston Bar Association and Region IX of the National Bar Association would like to invite your students to participate in the National Bar Associations 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition on **July 17, 2012** in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Charles Houston Bar Association (CHBA) is an affiliate of the National Bar Association representing the interests of African American lawyers, judges and law students throughout Northern California. Founded in 1955, CHBA is committed to working within the African American community to facilitate access to the justice system and to promote equal protection under the law.

The National Bar Association (NBA) created this Competition in 1999. The purpose of the competition is to introduce high school students of color to oral and written advocacy and to provide an opportunity to compete for scholarships. In order for students to participate the students must have been accepted to an accredited four-year college or university. Students from throughout the Western Region are expected to participate in this Competition. The Competition is open to students in grades 11 and 12. Please see the attached packet for additional rules and information.

The Competition consists of two parts: an essay writing contest and an oral competition. First, students must write an essay on the enclosed topic. **All essays are due on or before March 2, 2012.** The oral part of the Local Competition will be held on **March 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.** at Meyers Nave, A Professional Law Corporation, 555 12th Street, Suite 1500, Oakland, California 94607.

The Regional Competition will be held in Emeryville at the Hilton Grand Garden Inn, on **Saturday, April 14, 2012.** The winner of the Regional Competition will represent Region IX at the Annual Convention to be held in Las Vegas Nevada on **Tuesday July 17, 2012.** The National Bar Association (NBA) will pay for the winner's and one chaperone's airfare and hotel accommodations to the Convention. The prizes at the National Competition are scholarships.

All contestants must send essays to the address below or email essays to: vicepresident@charleshoustonbar.org before the **March 2, 2012** deadline.

I look forward to working with you and your students. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (415) 238-2206 or vicepresident@charleshoustonbar.org if you have any questions about the competition.

Sincerely,

Melissa Brown Sladden, Esq.
Vice President, Charles Houston Bar Association



**THE CHARLES HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE
LOCAL COMPETITION**



National
Bar
Association



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.

The National Bar Association through the National Bar Institute has awarded approximately \$207500.00 in scholarships to 44 students since the inception of the Competition in 2000.



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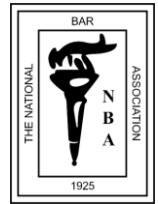


MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

National

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The Structure of the Competition

- A. **Local Competition** - The Charles Houston Bar Association will hold a local oral competition on **Saturday March 10, 2012** in Oakland, CA in order to identify the Contestant(s) who will move on to the Regional Competition. Students must submit a written essay to compete in the Oral Competition.
- B. **Regional Competition** – Region IX of the National Bar Association will hold an oral competition on **Saturday April 14, 2012** in Emeryville, CA in order to identify the Contestant(s) who will move on to the National Competition. The first and second place winners of the Charles Houston Bar Association Local Competition will advance to the Regional Competition.
- C. **National Competition** - The first place winner of the Regional Competition will 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 National Competition will be held on **Tuesday, July 17, 2012**. No more than twelve Contestants (one from each region) will be invited to compete in the National Competition. The 2012 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





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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 shall be 1" and text shall be fully justified.
4. The essay MUST be accompanied by a Contestant Cover Sheet Form. (see page 9)
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 vicepresident@charleshoustonbar.org.
 - b. If submitted by mail, essay must be typewritten and mailed to the Regional.

B. 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, 2013**.
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 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. 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.**





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2012 MLK COMPETITION QUESTION

The Occupy Movement is an international protest movement primarily directed against social and economic inequality. In the United States, the activities have included rallies and creation of "tent cities" associated with Occupy Wall Street, Occupy America, and a host of other Occupy groups across the nation. Consider how the Occupy Movement compares with the Civil Rights Movement and the activities of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Please discuss how Martin Luther King Jr. would address either: 1) the tenants of the tent cities or 2) the opponents of the Occupy Movement.



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Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition



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**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.

2012 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: () _____

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

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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 shall not exceed 1,000 words.



Signature of Applicant



Date



Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian



Date



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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 its 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)

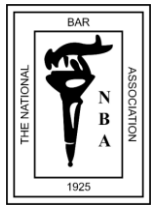
Date

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Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

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SAMPLE

Evaluation Form

PLEASE CHOOSE: Essay ____ Oral Presentation ____

Student Name: _____

Student School: _____

Judge's Name: _____

COMPETITION QUESTION: Consider how the Occupy Movement compares with the Civil Rights Movement and the activities of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Please discuss how Martin Luther King Jr. would address either: 1) the tenants of the tent cities or 2) the opponents of the Occupy Movement.

RATE EACH CATEGORY 0-5 (5 being the best). You may award half points (ie. 3.5). These results will be returned to the student, so please provide constructive criticism.

Quality	_____
Content	_____
Persuasiveness	_____
Style	_____
Organization	_____
Creativity	_____

Deduct 2 points for the following:

Failure to incorporate the topic and/or answer question	_____
Use of props	_____
Time infractions	_____
Total score	_____

Comments: _____