



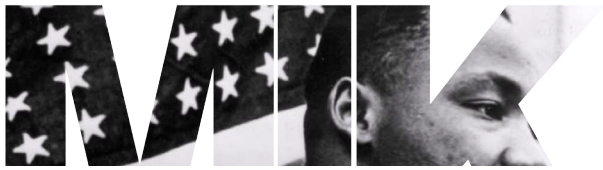
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

2023 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE ADVOCACY COMPETITION RULES &

REGIONAL DIRECTOR HANDBOOK



July 2023



Dear National Bar Association Regional Directors and Affiliate Chapter Presidents:

Welcome to the 2023 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 the National Bar Institute. As a Regional Director or an Affiliate Chapter President, you each have an integral role in the success of this Competition.

This packet contains important information which will assist you in coordinating your Local and Regional competitions. It is divided into the following sections:

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Should you have any questions about the materials contained in this packet, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at: 301-497-9997 or via e-mail at dr.mlk.nba@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Andrea H. Evans, Esq.

Chair, 2023 Martin Luther King, Jr.

Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition Committee



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 competition conducted by the NBA Affiliate Chapters, D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, Wolverine Bar Association, and Association of Black Judges of Michigan, in the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan region. 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 successful foundation of the Competition was based primarily on the financial contribution of Ford Motor Company to the NBI with the guidance of Ford's In-House Counsel and NBI Past Board Member Alison Nelson. With the continued financial support of FedEx, General Motors, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, State Farm Insurance Companies, Walmart Stores, Inc., and the National Bar Association Commercial Law Section, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition has been successfully held for twenty-one years and has evolved into a signature program of the NBA and NBI.

The NBA and NBI observed the 21st Anniversary of the inaugural Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition at the 96th Annual Convention in July 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"



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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.

II. STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

1. Local Competition

The Affiliate Chapters have an option to hold a Local oral competition at the Affiliate Chapter level in order to identify the Contestant(s) who will move on to the Regional Competition. If an oral competition is not held, the chapter may choose a Contestant or Contestants based upon an evaluation of the submitted essays.

A. Structure of Competition

If an Affiliate Chapter chooses to hold a Local competition, it should use the structure identified below for the Regional Competition. Please coordinate with your Regional Director on the timing of your Competition so there is enough time for your Contestant(s) to compete in the Regional Competition.

Each Affiliate Chapter may send no more than 5 Contestants to the Regional Competition. If the Chapter would like to send more because of the number of contestants participating in the competition, the Affiliate Chapter must discuss receiving an exception with the Regional Director. Affiliate Chapters must e-mail the Contestants' Application Packets, including their essays, to the Regional Director or the Region's representative managing the Competition in time for participation in the Regional Competition.

2. Regional Competition

A. Structure of Competition

The Regional Competition should be held in two stages: Essay Competition and Oral Advocacy Competition.

i. Essay Competition: Attorneys or judges should be chosen to judge both the essay and oral advocacy stages of the competition and assess the essays in advance of the Oral Advocacy Competition. Essays should be scored according to the criteria identified in the Competition Rules described below. These scores will be combined with the Contestants' scores at the oral advocacy stage of the competition and considered in the overall rating of the Contestants.

ii. Oral Advocacy Competition: The oral advocacy stage of the competition must be held on or before Monday, May 22, 2023. The oral presentation should be assessed according to the criteria identified in the Competition Rules described below.



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B. Advancement to National Competition

The Regional first place winner will represent the Region at the National Competition held during the ~~virtual~~ NBA Annual Convention in Minneapolis, MN. If the first-place winner is unable to represent the Region at the National Competition, the second-place winner will represent the Region.

Each Region must submit complete Contestant Application Packets for the first place and second place winners to **Henry Floyd, NBA Vice President of Regions and Affiliates, at hfloydnbamail@gmail.com**. Electronic transmission of the Packet is due by Friday, June 2, 2023. If you are unable to send electronically, the packets must have a postmark date of no later than June 2, 2023. If National Contestants fail to provide this information, National Contestants will **automatically** forfeit their opportunity to compete in the National Competition. If the Region must substitute the Regional Competition second place winner for the first-place winner due to emergency/unforeseen circumstances, Andrea Evans and Frank Seales must be notified no later than **June 10, 2023**.

The Contestant Application Packet must include the following six items:

- i. The Contestant's full name and contact information (page 9 of handbook).
- ii. A brief biography stating the Contestant's high school, extra-curricular activities, volunteer activities, interests, and college/university (if senior). Please do not submit a resume.
- iii. A graduation picture or headshot in a .jpg format.
- iv. The Contestant's essay in a pdf format.
- v. A Release allowing NBA and NBI to use the Contestants photographs for publicity of the Competition (page 11 of handbook)

3. **National Competition**

The National Competition will be held during the NBA National Convention in Minneapolis MS on Thursday, August 3, 2023. No more than twelve Contestants (one from each region) will be invited to compete in the National Competition. 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.**



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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

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 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 in Word format to the Regional Director via email.
 - b. If submitted by mail, the essay must be typewritten and mailed to the Regional Director.

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.



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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.**

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:



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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.naACP.org/i-have-a-dream-speech-full-march-on-washington>

<https://www.history.com/topics/civil-rights-movement/i-have-a-dream-speech>

<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-AC6dE2EuSE1CwC4LGSppDf1f3fvSLRMzJf3PVF2EaAqZqEALw_wcB

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

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



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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: () _____

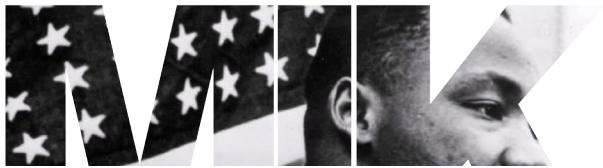
Email _____

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.

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 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



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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VI. TEMPLATES

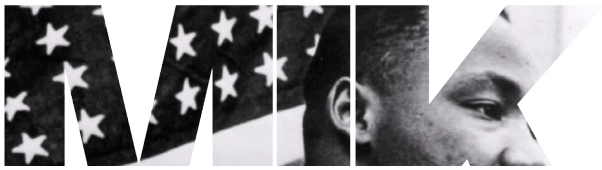
The next few pages contain templates of letters, evaluation forms, and a competition schedule. You may modify the letter templates. You may not modify the evaluation templates. The competition schedule is just an example of how to structure the Regional Competition.

Evaluation Form

Sample Oral Advocacy Competition Schedule

Dear Competitor Letter

Dear Judge Letter



VII. TEMPLATE: ESSAY AND ORAL ADVOCACY EVALUATION FORM

PLEASE CHOOSE: Essay ____ Oral Presentation ____

Student Name:	
Student School:	
Judge's Name:	

GENERAL COMPETITION QUESTION:

2023 MLK 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?

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

Quality	
Content	
Persuasiveness	
Style	
Organization	
Creativity	



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Deduct 2 points for the following:	
Failure to incorporate the topic and/or answer question	
Use of props	
Time infractions	
Total score	

Comments:



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VIII. TEMPLATE: SAMPLE ORAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Time	Event	Location
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Registration/Welcome	
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	Round I	
10:55 AM – 11:25 PM	Round II	
11:35 AM – 12:00 PM	Round III	
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Lunch	
12:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Final Round/Judge Deliberation / Award Presentation	



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IX. TEMPLATE: COMPETITOR LETTER

DATE

Dear Competitor,

On behalf of the National Bar Association Region [#], I thank you for your participation in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition.

CONGRATULATIONS! Your essay has been reviewed by an esteemed panel of judges and I am pleased to report that you have advanced to the next step of the Competition, the Regional Oral Competition. The oral competition is where you will demonstrate your skills in the area of oral advocacy. (Only include if needed: The preliminary rounds of the Competition will be held at [LOCATION] on [DATE]. You should plan to arrive no later than [TIME]. The preliminary rounds of the Competition will begin promptly at [Time] and will end at approximately [TIME].) The Competition will be held at [LOCATION] on [DATE]. You should plan to arrive no later than [Time]. The Competition will begin promptly at [Time] and will end at approximately [Time].

Attire for the Competition is as follows: Young men must wear dress slacks, a dress shirt, and a tie or a suit and tie. Young women must wear dress slacks and a blouse, a skirt and a blouse, or a suit. Jeans, sneakers, or athletic shoes are not allowed.

Your family members, friends, or teachers are invited to attend the Competition. They will also have an opportunity to interact with the attorneys and judges who will be in attendance.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided to competitors and one family member or friend. Since seating is limited, please contact the Region [#] [CONTACT] via at [E-MAIL ADDRESS or PHONE #], to let [him or her] know if anyone will accompany you.

In the next few weeks, you will be contacted by a member of one of several Local bar associations working with Region [#] in organizing this Competition. These associations are: [AFFILIATE CHAPTERS]. If you have not heard from someone by [DATE] please contact the Region [#] [CONTACT] via at [E-MAIL ADDRESS or PHONE #].

For all rounds of the Regional Competition, you should either memorize your essay or use speaking notes to deliver your oral presentation. In each round you will deliver your essay to a judge and other student competitors. The top scoring students from the preliminary rounds will advance to the Final Round. In the Final Round, you will present your essay orally before one or more state judges and other student competitors.

The first, second and third place winners of the Competition will win \$700, \$200 and \$100 respectively. The first-place winner will compete in the National Competition. All prizes are provided by the NBA. Regional Winners shall be paid no later than **June 1, 2023**.

If you have any questions, please contact [CONTACT NAMES] or via e-mail at [ADDRESS]. I look forward to meeting you at the Regional Competition.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

Sincerely,

Regional Director
Region [#]
National Bar Association

Enclosures



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition

X. TEMPLATE: JUDGE LETTER

DATE

Dear Judge [NAME],

On behalf of Region [#], I invite you to participate in the National Bar Association's 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition on [DATE AND TIME]. On this day, you would participate as a judge of the Regional Competition.

The National Bar Association (NBA) created this Competition in 2000. 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. The students must have been accepted to an accredited four-year college or university. Students from throughout Region [#] (consisting of [STATES IN REGION]) are expected to participate in this Competition.

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 [DATE].

The oral part of the Regional Competition will be held in [LOCATION] on [DATE]. The winner of the Regional Competition will represent Region [#] at the Annual Convention to be held virtually on [DATE]. The prizes at the National Competition are three scholarships.

For Part One of the Regional Competition, you will be sent copies of the competing students' essays and evaluation forms by [DATE] in order for you to evaluate the essay submissions. You will be asked to submit your results by [DATE]. For Part Two of the Regional Competition, you will judge the students' oral presentations on [DATE] in [LOCATION AND ADDRESS] at [TIME]. On this day, the first-place winner will be chosen to move on to the National Competition.

[SPONSOR(S) – IF ANY] is joining Region [#] as the Regional Corporate Sponsor to host this Competition. [SPONSOR] will be working with several local bar associations to administer this Competition, including: [NAME OF AFFILIATE CHAPTER(S)].

A copy of the competition information is enclosed for your review. If you have any questions, please contact [CONTACT NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS], or via e-mail at [ADDRESS]. I look forward to your participation in this Competition.

Sincerely,

Regional Director
Region [#]
National Bar Association
Enclosures



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XI. JUDGING TIP SHEETS

If you need to provide some guidelines to those assessing essays and judging the oral advocacy competition, please see below.

A. Scoring – What do the numbers mean?

0	the essay does not express any element of the criterion
1	the essay marginally expresses this criterion
2	the essay adequately expresses this criterion
3	the essay competently expresses this criterion
4	the essay adeptly captures the criterion
5	the essay masterly expresses this criterion

B. Questions to Consider when Assessing Oral Advocacy?

1	Is the speaker articulate?
2	Is the speaker making persuasive arguments?
3	Is the speaker effectively conveying the speaker's ideas?
4	Is the speaker making and maintaining eye contact?
5	Is the speaker poised?
6	Is the speaker engaging the audience?
7	Is the speech memorized and delivered with few or no mistakes? The speech does not need to be memorized.
8	Does the speaker use props? The speaker should not. The speaker, however, can use notes or note cards.
9	Are quotations or non-original material used in the presentation appropriately identified and credited?
10	Does the speaker exceed the seven-minute time limit? If so, the speaker should not be ranked 1.



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XII. USE OF SPONSORSHIP FUNDS FROM NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

A. Obtaining the Sponsorship:

☐ Regions may obtain a \$1,000.00 sponsorship from the National Bar Association to underwrite the Dr. Martin Luther King Regional Advocacy Competition. The funds may only be used to pay the winners of the Competition.

☐ The steps to request the funds are as follows:

Money will be disbursed to Regions only upon receipt of an accounting and receipts of expenses. When you send information about your finalists to Andrea Evans via email at dr.mlk.nba@gmail.com, please also provide this accounting by **June 7, 2023**. Please maintain a copy of the accounting with your expense receipts for your records for future reporting/accounting. Please note that if you fail to submit your accounting with your expense receipts by **June 7, 2023**, you will not receive a disbursement from the NBA.



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XIII. CRITICAL DEADLINES

Publication of Question to Regions and Affiliates (before)	January 1, 2023
First Wave of Publicizing Competition	January 11, 2023
Touchpoint Meeting on Status of Competition	March 2, 2023
Second Wave of Publicizing Competition	March 9, 2023
Touchpoint Meeting on Status of Competition	March 16, 2023
Deadline to hold Affiliate Level Competition	March 25, 2023
Touchpoint Meeting on Status of Competition	May 12, 2023
Deadline to hold Regional Oral Advocacy Competitions	May 23, 2023
Deadline for Regional Winners to be paid by Regions	June 1, 2023
Deadline to submit name of First Place Winner and Second Place Winner and for each a brief bio, photograph and name of proposed chaperone to National Chairperson	June 4, 2023
Deadline to submit final travel arrangements for all National Contestants and their chaperons to the NBA	June 6, 2023
Deadline for Regions to substitute Second Place Winner for First Place Winner at National Competition due to emergency/unforeseen circumstances	June 7, 2023
Deadline for Regions to submit the accounting and receipt of expenses for Regional Competition expenses	June 7, 2023
National Bar Association 2023 Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition in Minneapolis MS	August 3, 2023