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**THE 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE ADVOCACY COMPETITION  
PRESENTED BY  
THE D. AUGUSTUS STRAKER BAR ASSOCIATION,  
THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JUDGES OF MICHIGAN, AND  
THE WOLVERINE BAR ASSOCIATION**

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Dear Supporter:

It is with great pleasure that the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, and the Wolverine Bar Association announce their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE ADVOCACY COMPETITION (“MLK Advocacy Competition” or “Competition”). The membership of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association and the Wolverine Bar Association primarily consists of African-American lawyers who practice in Oakland and Wayne counties. The membership of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan includes African-American judges presiding over courts throughout the State of Michigan. All three organizations endeavor to serve the communities where we live and work.

Each year, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major For Justice Advocacy Competition Committee, on behalf of the three sponsoring Associations, invite **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>** grade students from select high schools in the Detroit Metropolitan Area to participate in this exciting and worthwhile Competition. The purpose of the MLK Advocacy Competition is to promote oral advocacy among high school students and encourage students to develop and improve their analytical and writing skills.

To participate in the MLK Advocacy Competition, students must submit an essay analyzing an issue using the principles espoused by Dr. Martin Luther, King, Jr. Typically, the essay topic relates directly to academic and/or societal realities that some students encounter each day. This year’s essay topic is:

**In the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt enacted the “New Deal.” It responded to the needs for relief, reform and recovery from the Great Depression. Recently, a number of U.S. Congressional leaders, including Senators Cory Booker, Kamala Harris and Bernie Sanders, among others, have advocated for the passage of the “The Green New Deal,” which is a series of legislation and economic stimulus programs that aim to address both economic inequality and climate change.**

**Would Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. support “The Green New Deal” and why?**

Each participating student must submit an essay of not more than 1000 words on the above-stated topic. Members of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, the Association of Black

Judges of Michigan, and the Wolverine Bar Association will review the essays to select the finalists.

Typically, five finalists are selected. All finalists must compete in the oral advocacy portion of the Competition, scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, **May 18, 2019**, Wayne State University Law School, Spencer M. Partrich Auditorium at Wayne Law, 471 W. Palmer St., Detroit, MI 48202. All finalists will be assigned a lawyer mentor to assist them in preparing their oral presentation (three to five minutes) to a panel of judges from Michigan state and/or federal courts, who will rank the finalists based on the content of their presentations and oratorical skills.

Every student who submits an essay will receive a Certificate of Recognition. In addition to a Certificate of Distinction, all finalists will receive a monetary award intended to assist them in achieving their educational goals. In past competitions, cash prize awards ranged from **\$5,000 (first place) to \$250**. The five finalists who enter the oral competition will also receive a recognition plaque. The first place finalist's name will be memorialized on a perpetual plaque.

The essay requirements are included on the attached submission rules and guidelines. Strict adherence to the stated requirements is necessary. Failure to adhere to the guidelines may result in the disqualification of the submission.

We encourage teachers to consider using this Competition as a starting point for a class project. In the past, students attending various schools in Oakland and Wayne counties have successfully participated in the Competition. We invite all students who submit entries, their families, sponsors, members of the participating Associations, the press, and others to attend the advocacy portion of the Competition.

We believe that your students will find involvement in this Competition most rewarding, and we look forward to their participation. Should you have any questions regarding the Competition, please do not hesitate to contact Chairperson, Michael K. Jackson, II at (248) 866-5942 or via email at [Michael.Jackson@wcaa.us](mailto:Michael.Jackson@wcaa.us).

Sincerely,

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE ADVOCACY COMPETITION  
COMMITTEE

*Michael K. Jackson, II*

Michael K. Jackson, II, Chairperson

**ESSAY CONTENT:**

- ESSAYS MUST CONSIST OF ORIGINAL WORK
- STUDENTS MUST INCORPORATE THE TOPIC AND ANSWER THE ESSAY QUESTION. THE QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE RECITED VERBATIM.
- STUDENTS MUST SPECIFY THE SOLUTION(S) AND PROGRAM(S) THAT THEY BELIEVE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WOULD HAVE MADE, AND FULLY EXPLAIN WHY THE PROPOSED SOLUTION(S) AND PROGRAM(S) SHOULD BE ADOPTED
- ESSAYS MUST NOT EXCEED 1000 WORDS

**FORMAT:**

- STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT DOUBLE SPACED ESSAYS, TYPED, 12-POINT ARIAL FONT
- MARGINS MUST BE 1-INCH AND TEXT MUST BE FULLY JUSTIFIED
- STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL AND ONE PHOTOCOPY (IF SUBMITTED BY MAIL)
- STUDENTS **MUST PLACE A COVER SHEET ON TOP OF THE ORIGINAL** WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: (1) NAME, (2) ADDRESS, (3) TELEPHONE NUMBER, (4) E-MAIL ADDRESS, (5) HIGH SCHOOL, (6) GRADE, (7) SCHOOL CONTACT PERSON'S NAME, TITLE, AND CONTACT INFORMATION (TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR OR STAFF), AND (8) GRADE POINT AVERAGE
- STUDENTS MUST RETAIN ONE COPY OF THE ESSAY BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL AND PHOTOCOPY SUBMITTED WILL NOT BE RETURNED

**ORAL COMPETITION**

- FOR THE ORAL COMPETITION, THE FIVE FINALISTS MUST PRESENT THEIR ESSAY IN THE TIMEFRAME OF AT LEAST THREE MINUTES AND NO MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES.

**DEADLINE DATE:**

- **ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, April 9, 2019**
- **ENTRIES MAY BE SUBMITTED USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:**

**Mail:** Michael K. Jackson, II, Esq.  
Assistant General Counsel  
Wayne County Airport Authority  
Michael Berry Administration Building  
11050 Rogell Drive, Bldg. #602  
Detroit, MI 48242-5004

**Email:** [Michael.Jackson@wcaa.us](mailto:Michael.Jackson@wcaa.us)



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

### 2019 MLK COMPETITION QUESTION & RESEARCH GUIDE

#### A. QUESTION:

In the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt enacted the “New Deal.” It responded to the needs for relief, reform and recovery from the Great Depression. Recently, a number of U.S. Congressional leaders, including Senators Cory Booker, Kamala Harris and Bernie Sanders, among others, have advocated for the passage of the “The Green New Deal,” which is a series of legislation and economic stimulus programs that aim to address both economic inequality and climate change.

**Would Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. support “The Green New Deal” and why?**

#### RESEARCH GUIDE:

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.

#### B. Sources on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Archives at The King Center - > <http://www.thekingcenter.org/>
- The King Research and Education Institute - > <http://mlkpp01.stanford.edu/>
- Books - > <http://www.worldcat.org/search?q=au%3AKing%2C+Martin+Luther>

#### C. Sources on the Green New Deal

- What is the Green New Deal - > <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/what-green-new-deal-anyway-alexandria-ocasio-cortez>
- Draft Proposal for Proposed Rules Establishing for Committee for a Green New Deal - > <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jxUzp9SZ6-VB-4wSm8sselVMsqWZrSrYpYC9sIHKLzo/edit>
- Green Party -Green New Deal - > [https://www.gp.org/green\\_new\\_deal](https://www.gp.org/green_new_deal)