



It is with great pleasure that we announce the JUDGE LISA WHITE HARDWICK ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION, sponsored by the Jackson County Bar Association (JCBA). This is an affiliate competition to the National Bar Association's DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRUM MAJOR FOR JUSTICE ADVOCACY COMPETITION. The JCBA is a voluntary bar association comprised of primarily African American attorneys from the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. High school juniors and seniors from the Kansas City Metropolitan Area are invited to participate in this exciting and worthwhile event. I hope you will encourage your juniors and seniors to participate. The deadline for essay submissions is **Saturday, March 12, 2022.**

Questions and essay submissions can be sent to Allison Williamson at allison.williamson1980@gmail.com



I. COMPETITION RULES

A. Essay Format:

1. The essay should be no longer than 1000 words.
2. The type of 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.
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 **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, 2022**.
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.
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.**



II. 2022 Judge Lisa White Hardwick Academic Excellence Scholarship Competition Question

Student loans are one of the highest sources of debt for Americans. Racial disparities in student debt have grown dramatically in recent decades. Black and African American college graduates owe an average of \$25,000 more in student loan debt than White college graduates. Four years after graduation, 48% of Black students owe an average of 12.5% more than they borrowed. Black borrowers liken student loan debt to “Jim Crow” saying it deepens racial inequality. Many respondents believe student loans were not set up to give Black Americans financial freedom and they disrupt their quality of life and mental health. Others argue that student loan debt is “good debt” because you get a college education which can help you to increase your earning potential.

If Dr. King were alive today, would he support canceling student loan debt in hopes of giving Blacks financial freedom and a better quality of life? Would Dr. King support student loans or tuition free colleges? If so, explain why? If not, explain why not?

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. 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://educationdata.org/student-loan-debt-by-race>

<https://www.debt.com/student-loan-debt/why-student-loans-are-good/>

<https://www.debt.com/news/what-martin-luther-king-jr-taught-us-money/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/revisiting-kings-metaphor-about-a-nations-debt/2011/07/26/gIQArshBaJ_story.html

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/purpose-education>



III. Official Contestant's Cover Sheet, Application Form, And Photography Release Waiver And Release Of Liability

**2022 Judge Lisa White Hardwick Academic Excellence Scholarship Competition
Contestant Cover Sheet**

**Applicant's Background Information Please type or print
Submit Photo and Essay with your Application**

Date:

I. Applicant Data

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: _____

*****NOTE: Attach all three pages of your application with photo, to your written essay on the official topic selected by the National Bar Association. The essay must not exceed 1,000 words.**

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 all three pages of your application with photo, to your written essay on the official topic selected by the National Bar Association. The essay must not exceed 1,000 words.**

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date



Photography Release Waiver and Release of Liability

I hereby grant permission to the Jackson County Bar Association (JCBA), 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 2022 Judge Lisa White Hardwick Academic Excellence Scholarship Competition (Competition).

I understand that the photograph(s) may be used by JCBA 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 JCBA, 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 JCBA, their agents, employees, or assignees, may modify photograph(s) in the process of editing. I hereby grant JCBA, 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 JCBA, 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