



March 2, 2021

Dear High School Principal and Counselor:

The Minority Bar Foundation writes to announce our annual 2021 “Minority Youth Law Pipeline Essay Contest” for high school juniors and seniors interested in a career in law. This year, the Foundation is again partnering with the National Bar Association’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition. The Competition encourages students to express their views on a preselected topic and focuses on the ability of the students to communicate in writing. The contest is designed to motivate high school students to excel in education.

The essay question and instructions are outlined below. The deadline for submission of essays will be **May 3, 2021**. Essays will be judged by a committee of sitting judges and other members of the legal community. The Foundation will award first, second, and third place prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100, respectively to the winning students and give recognition to the teacher of each winner.

By way of background, the Minority Bar Foundation is a not-for-profit organization which provides financial assistance and support to minority law students seeking to become members of the bar and assistance to high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in law. The Foundation is committed to expanding opportunities for minority students to attend law school, to ensuring continued minority representation in the legal community and to empowering individuals to shape the legal landscape in Western New York.

The Foundation is contacting the Buffalo City School District, suburban school districts, Buffalo Prep, Say Yes Buffalo and other community organizations to disseminate information about the contest to encourage student participation. We hope that you will support this effort and make this information available to your faculty, program directors, guidance counselors and other staff and direct them to ensure that your students are made aware of this opportunity and are able to participate.

Our contest will take place around “Law Day,” an annual observance celebrated on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Law Day aims to help people understand and appreciate their rights and liberties, especially regarding equality and justice. Law Day also aims to cultivate respect for the law. Lastly, Law Day encourages citizens to reflect on the role of law in the foundation of our country and to recognize its importance in our daily lives. We need and will appreciate your support in helping to make this essay contest a success. Should you have any questions, please contact our Education Committee at [minoritybarfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:minoritybarfoundation@gmail.com) or Stephanie Calhoun ([calhounsj@gmail.com](mailto:calhounsj@gmail.com)). Thank you.

Very truly yours,

*Carmen L. Snell*

Carmen L. Snell, Esq.  
President, Minority Bar Foundation



### **Essay Question:**

On August 28, 1963, a mass protest brought Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and some 250,000 others to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. What is today phrased as the March On Washington, was officially known as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. One specific demand of Dr. King was linked to the horror still facing us today, police brutality. As part of his “I Have a Dream” speech, Dr. King states: “We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality.” Fifty-seven years later, citizens descended upon Washington DC to address the same injustice of police brutality and daily protests are being held throughout the Nation.

**If Dr. King were alive today, would he support the call to defund police departments across the Nation as a reform to police brutality? If so, explain why? If not, explain why not?**

### **Research:**

Students are encouraged to conduct research of the Competition Question. These materials, articles or sources of information will help you to understand the legal, political and public policy issues and social issues presented. References to sources should also be cited.

**Assessment of Essays:** Essays will be evaluated according to six categories: (a) quality, (b) content, (c) persuasiveness, (d) style, (e) organization, and (f) creativity.

### **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 may be submitted via email and must be postmarked by **May 3, 2021**.
- A. The Contestant must send the essay as an attachment to an email in PDF format to the Minority Bar Foundation at: [minoritybarfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:minoritybarfoundation@gmail.com).

**Minority Bar Foundation  
PO Box 393  
Niagara Square Station  
Buffalo, NY 14201**



## 2021 Minority Youth Law Pipeline Essay Contest Application Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School & Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

College/Career Plans: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Referring Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_