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# CHARLES HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION

*"Lift As We Climb"*



February 15, 2018

Greetings!

The Charles Houston Bar Association and Region IX of the National Bar Association invite you to participate in the National Bar Association's 2018, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice Advocacy Competition!

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 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. In order for students to participate, they must currently be a junior or senior in high school who will be accepted to an accredited two year or four-year college or university by the Fall of 2018 (Juniors will have until Fall of 2019).

Throughout the United States, affiliate chapters such as CHBA will hold a local competition in order to identify those students who will advance to the Regional Competition, which will be held in Emeryville, California the weekend of April 26-27, 2018. The first place winner of each Regional Competition will represent that Region at the National Competition held during the NBA's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention & Exhibits in New Orleans, Louisiana, between the following dates July 27- August 2, 2018. The NBA will pay travel expenses to New Orleans for the first place Regional Winner. If the first place winner is unable to represent the Region at the National Competition, the second place winner will represent the Region.

For the National Competition, 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.

CHBA's local 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 24, 2018**. The oral part of the local competition will be held on **March 31, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Oakland, CA**.

All contestants must send essays to CHBA, P.O. Box 1474, Oakland, CA 94604 or via email to: [vicepresident@charleshoustonbar.org](mailto:vicepresident@charleshoustonbar.org) on or before March 24, 2018.

I look forward to hearing from you, and good luck!

Sincerely,

Catherine Ongiri, Esq.

Vice President, Charles Houston Bar Association

*Representing the Interests of African-American Attorneys throughout Northern California  
An Affiliate of the National Bar Association  
"Celebrating Over 50 Years of Excellence"*

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