2027 VBA Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster-Essay Contest

Rules and Information

Sponsors: The Vermont Bar Association's Diversity Section and Young Lawyers Division

Theme: "Let us all hope that… in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."

Eligibility: Vermont Middle School Students

Criteria: Each of the criteria listed below must be met:

- The poster and essay must relate to the theme above.
- Essays must be written or typed on a separate sheet of paper and taped to the back of the poster. No more than 250 words per essay for entries. Essays to explain how the poster reflects Dr. King's statement. Essays should be the original work of the entrants.
- Any drawing instruments may be used for the poster; photos taken by the student may also be incorporated into the poster design.
- The essay and any images submitted must be the original work of the student(s) without any use whatsoever of Artificial Intelligence.
- A completed entry form must be taped to the back of each poster.
- Posters may not be larger than 12" x 18" on white paper. Lamination is optional.
- One submission per student or student team. Teams of up to two students are permitted.
- Essays will be judged on relevance to theme, spelling, grammar, punctuation, content, and creativity.
- Posters will be judged on relevance to theme, quality of design, and creativity.

Deadline: All submissions must be addressed to Vermont Bar Association, PO Box 100, Montpelier, VT 05601-0100 and be postmarked on or before December 20, 2026, or hand-delivered to the VBA Office, 35-37 Court Street, Montpelier VT by 4:00 p.m. on December 23, 2026.

Prizes: Three winners will be selected. The 1st place winner will receive a plaque. The 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive framed certificates. All winners, along with their teacher(s) and family, will be invited to a ceremony at the Vermont Statehouse around the time of the Martin Luther King, Jr. 2027 holiday for recognition. The date of the ceremony is to-be-determined based on the Governor's schedule. The winning posters will also be displayed at the Vermont Supreme Court Building, published in the Vermont Bar Journal, and posted on the www.vtbar.org website.

More Information: If you have questions, please contact the Vermont Bar Association at 802-223-2020 or e-mail info@vtbar.org .with "MLK" in the subject line. Thank you and good luck!

2027 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster-Essay Contest Entry Form*

Name_____

Grade_____

School/Home School_____

Teacher Name_____

Teacher E-Mail Address _____

Teacher Phone Number_____

By submitting this entry, the student confirms that the attached poster and essay are solely his or her own work, and agrees that once submitted, the poster and essay become the property of the Vermont Bar Association for display or publication purposes.

* If you are a student team of two, please indicate both names. Student team members must be from the same school/home school.