



MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

MAY 2026



OUR SUCCESS IS THANKS TO YOU!

The 2025–2026 season stands as a defining chapter in the story of the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League. After years of rebuilding and steady growth, this year we did not just recover — we transformed. We launched bold new programs, forged powerful new partnerships, competed on national stages, and hosted our first-ever fundraising gala to cement our financial future.

The numbers tell a compelling story: 136 active debaters, 1,290+ debate rounds, 11 schools, and sustained 506% growth since our lowest point in 2022. But behind every statistic is a student who found their voice, a coach who showed up week after week, and a community partner who believed in this work.

We are proud to share this report — a testament to what is possible when we invest in underserved students and give them tools to speak, think, and lead.



www.miamiudl.org



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIAMI-DADE DEBATE LEAGUE HOSTS VOICES OF THE FUTURE AWARDS GALA

On May 2, 2026, the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League proudly hosted its inaugural “Voices of the Future” Awards Gala at Briza on the Bay — a landmark evening celebrating the transformative power of debate, civic engagement, and student leadership across Miami-Dade County. This event marked a defining milestone in MDUDL’s continued growth and evolution.

Since 2023, the organization has experienced extraordinary expansion, including:

- 136 student debaters across 11 Title I schools
- 506% participation growth
- National competition representation at Harvard University
- The launch of Debate en Español, the first Spanish-language policy debate program in Miami-Dade County history.

The evening brought together an incredible group of leaders and supporters committed to civic leadership, including Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice-Designate John D. Couriel, U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom, U.S. District Judge Darrin P. Gayles, U.S. Magistrate Judge Enjoliqué A. Lett, and former Florida Circuit Court Judge Michael A. Hanzman.

We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and partners whose support made this evening and our continued impact possible, including our Champions of Debate: [Shubin Law Group](#) , [White & Case LLP](#), [Merrimac Ventures](#), along with the generous support [Boies Schiller Flexner LLP](#), [Stearns Weaver Miller](#), [Bilzin Sumberg](#), and [McDermott Will & Schulte](#).

With the support of our sponsors and the community, we fundraised over \$70,000 for our students and the future of our League. Every season, we watch students grow into stronger advocates, researchers, speakers, and leaders. The Voices of the Future Gala was not only a celebration of how far we have come — but a reflection of where we are headed. The future of debate in Miami-Dade is bright, and this is only the beginning.

Contact: Kalyn Lee, Program Director

Email: klee@urbandebate.org



GALA RECAP

We can't wait to see you next year!



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THANK YOU TO OUR GALA SPONSORS!

CHAMPION OF DEBATE



Shubin Law Group



WHITE & CASE

ADVOCATE FOR ACCESS



VOICE BUILDER



We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the sponsors who contributed to making this event possible.



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INFORMATION STATION

MDUDL EOY Surveys

Student Surveys (Middle & High School)



Graduating High School Seniors Survey



NAUDL EOY Surveys

NAUDL High School Survey



NAUDL High School Seniors Survey



Note: High School Seniors should complete all 4 surveys.



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INFORMATION STATION

2026 Summer Debate Institute

Location: University of Miami

Dates: August 3-6, 2026

Time: 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

More information to come!



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2025-2026 SY CALENDAR

4-6 AUG MONDAY- WEDNESDAY	13 SEP SATURDAY	11 OCT SATURDAY
Location: _____ University of Miami _____ Arrival: 7:00 AM	Location: _____ MDC-North _____ Arrival: 7:00 AM	Location: _____ FIU - Modesto _____ Arrival: 7:00 AM
15 NOV SATURDAY	13 DEC SATURDAY	10 JAN SATURDAY
Location: _____ MDC- Hialeah _____ Arrival: 7:00 AM	Location: _____ Barry University _____ Arrival: 7:00 AM	Location: _____ MDC North _____ Arrival: 7:00 AM
28 FEB SATURDAY	28-29 MAR SATURDAY- SUNDAY	10-14 APR FRIDAY- MONDAY
Location: _____ MDC Kendall _____ Arrival: 7:00 AM	Location: _____ Middle School Nationals Virtual _____ Arrival: N/A	Location: _____ High School Nationals Harvard University _____ Arrival: N/A



2025–2026 SY CALENDAR

17
APR

SATURDAY

CD3 - High School Only

Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr.
U.S. Courthouse

Arrival: TBA

2
MAY

SATURDAY

Inaugural Award Gala

Briza on the Bay

Arrival: 6:00 PM

