

APRIL 2026



CIVIL DISCOURSE & DIFFICULT DECISIONS

On April 17, 2026, MDUDL facilitated an event that brought together 53 students from six different schools at the Wilkie D. Ferguson Jr. U.S. Courthouse, continuing its collaboration with Judge Beth Bloom from the U.S. District Court. The participating schools included:

- Miami Senior High
- Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High
- South Miami Senior High
- Riviera Middle School
- Winston Park K-8 Center
- Ponce de Leon Middle School

This marked the first year that middle school students joined CD3, representing a significant expansion of civic programming for younger debaters. Students took part in organized constitutional discussions with federal judges and legal professionals, enhancing their civic literacy and awareness of career opportunities in the legal field.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE LAUNCHES INAUGURAL GALA WITH KEYNOTE BY JUSTICE JOHN D. COURIEL

MIAMI, FL — May 2, 2026 — The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League (MDUDL) will host its inaugural “Voices of the Future” Gala on Saturday, May 2 at Briza on the Bay, bringing together community leaders to celebrate student achievement and expand access to academic debate across Miami-Dade County. The event will feature a keynote address from Florida Supreme Court Justice John D. Curiel and recognize top student and coach honorees:

- High School Debater of the Year: Alessandro De Palma (Miami Senior High School)
- Middle School Debater of the Year: Domingo Martinez (Winston Park K-8 Center)
- Coach of the Year: Cecilia Suarez (Winston Park K-8 Center)

Proceeds will support MDUDL programming, including the expansion of Debate en Español for Spanish-speaking students. Champion of Debate sponsors include [Merrimac Ventures](#), [White & Case](#), and [Shubin Law Group](#).

Those interested in supporting the League can contribute through its [Fund-the-Need campaign](#).

Event Details:

Briza on the Bay | Miami, FL

Doors Open: 5:30 PM | Program Begins: 6:00 PM

For interviews, contact Kalyn Lee at klee@urbandebate.org.

About Miami-Dade Urban Debate League: The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League (MDUDL) provides debate opportunities to middle and high school students across the county, with a focus on underserved schools. Through debate, students gain critical thinking, communication, and leadership skills that prepare them for lifelong success.

Contact: Kalyn Lee, Program Director

Email: klee@urbandebate.org



NATIONALS RECAP

8th Annual UDL Middle School National Championship

- Team Results:
 - Ponce de Leon Middle School (Vicente Felan & Valentino Vazquez) — Semifinalists
 - Winston Park K-8 Center (Brandon Almaguer & Mariantonella Obando-Hernandez) — Octofinalists
- Individual Speaker Awards:
 - Mariantonella Obando-Hernandez — 7th Place Speaker
 - Brandon Almaguer — 8th Place Speaker
 - Marina Salcedo (Ponce de Leon Middle School) — 12th Place Speaker

National Urban Debate Championship (UDNC)

- Harvard University | April 10–14, 2026
- Highest level of competition in the Urban Debate League network
- MDUDL Representation:
 - American Senior High School — Krystal Cole & Rhianna Mack
 - Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School — Brian Hing & Isaura Valdes



INFORMATION STATION

MDUDL EOY Surveys

Student Surveys (Middle & High School)



Graduating High School Seniors Survey

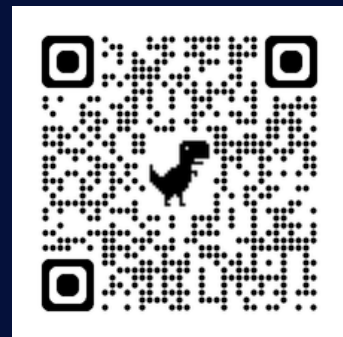


NAUDL EOY Surveys

NAUDL High School Survey



NAUDL High School Seniors Survey



Note: High School Seniors should complete all 4 surveys.



www.miamiudl.org



@miaurbandebate

INFORMATION STATION

2026 Summer Debate Institute

Location: University of Miami

Dates: August 3-6, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

More information to come!



Save The Date

INAUGURAL AWARDS GALA

Miami-Dade Urban Debate League

We are thrilled to invite you to our Inaugural Awards Celebration 2026, a special evening dedicated to recognizing the outstanding achievements, unwavering commitment, and exceptional spirit that has driven our success throughout the year.



Saturday

May 2, 2026



Time

6:00 PM

**BRIZA ON THE BAY, MIAMI FL
1717 N BAYSHORE DR, MIAMI, FL 33132**



For sponsorship opportunities,
please contact Kalyn Lee at
klee@urbandebate.org



Purchase tickets at mdudl-gala.rsvpify.com.

2025-2026 SY CALENDAR

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



2025-2026 SY CALENDAR

17 APR	SATURDAY	2 MAY	SATURDAY
CD3 - High School Only		Inaugural Award Gala	
Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. U.S. Courthouse		Briza on the Bay	
Arrival: TBA		Arrival: 6:00 PM	

