



MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



STEARNS WEAVER MILLER 2025 POLICY DEBATE TOURNAMENT

We are delighted to invite you to the Stearns Weaver Miller 2025 Policy Debate Tournament, proudly marking the fourth consecutive year of Stearns Weaver Miller's generous support for the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League.

This year's tournament will take place on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at Florida International University's Modesto Campus, University Towers, located at 11150 SW 14th St, Miami, FL 33199.

We kindly ask that all coaches, students, and judges arrive promptly by 7:30 AM to ensure a smooth and timely start to the day's events.



www.miamiudl.org



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HIALEAH-MIAMI LAKES SENIOR HIGH STUDENT ROBERTO CARMONA ACCEPTED TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2029

Miami, FL - January 3, 2025

Miami, FL – The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League is proud to celebrate one of its outstanding members, Roberto Carmona, a student at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High, on his acceptance to Harvard University’s Class of 2029 through the prestigious Early Action program.

This extraordinary accomplishment reflects Roberto’s dedication to academic excellence and his remarkable resilience as an immigrant who arrived in the United States just four years ago.

Roberto Carmona is a high-school student who immigrated to the United States when he was 13 years old, and entered MDCPS on January 4th, 2021. As a recently-immigrated student, Roberto entered the ESOL program and soon felt that his academic success was confined by a language he didn’t speak. He exited the program in less than a year and found his passion in the diverse world of International Relations and Diplomacy

As a committed participant in the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League, Roberto has demonstrated exceptional critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills through policy debate competitions. His acceptance into Harvard University not only highlights his individual achievements but also underscores the transformative impact of programs like the Urban Debate League, which empower students from diverse backgrounds to pursue their dreams.

The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League congratulates Roberto Carmona on this life-changing achievement and eagerly anticipates his future success at Harvard and beyond.

Contact: Kalyn Lee, Program Director

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STEARNS WEAVER MILLER RECOMMITS TO COMMUNITY THROUGH GENEROUS \$10,000 DONATION TO THE MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

Miami, FL - January 3, 2025 - Stearns Weaver Miller, a prominent full-service Florida law firm, has exemplified its dedication to the South Florida community by donating \$10,000 to the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League, serving as the sponsor for the Stearns Weaver Miller Policy Debate Tournament on January 25, 2025. This is their third consecutive annual donation, assisting the League in returning full force post pandemic.

The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League plays a crucial role in empowering and enriching the lives of young individuals by providing them with valuable skills through the art of competitive policy debate. By contributing to the organization, Stearns Weaver Miller is investing in the future of the community, fostering the growth of leaders who may, in turn, give back to the South Florida community.

This generous donation and sponsorship further underscore Stearns Weaver Miller's longstanding dedication to charitable giving and community impact. Over the past four years, the firm has contributed over \$2.5 million to not-for-profit organizations, showcasing its unwavering commitment to creating a positive difference in the community it serves.

Coral Del Mar Lopez, Stearns Weaver Miller attorney and Miami-Dade Urban Debate League Board Member expresses, "Stearns Weaver Miller is proud to once again support the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League - a critical program for the Miami-Dade community and its efforts to increase the likelihood of success now and into the future for our students.

Contact: Kalyn Lee, Program Director

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TOURNAMENT 4 RECAP

Middle School Winners

Owl Debate

High School Winners

Miami Senior High
School

Congratulations to all
participating students
and teams! We
thoroughly enjoyed
your enthusiasm and
wealth of knowledge.
Keep up the amazing
work!



JANUARY LEAGUE WIDE PRACTICE

MDUDL

January League Wide Practice
Monday, January 20, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Register on our website under the League
Resources Page - closes on January 19, 2025



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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, our league will reward three high school and three middle school students a small scholarship (amounts displayed below), based on their individual performance as a speaker throughout the season. Each students' individual speaker points will be tallied from the first to the last tournament. This scholarship is aimed to encourage participation, public speaking excellence, sportsmanship, and dedication to their craft. Please remind students that missing tournaments will impact their ability to rank, and therefore qualify for the scholarship. **Students will receive extra points for attending and participating in League Wide Practice.**

Middle School Scholars

Middle School Awards

First Place: \$200

Second Place: \$100

Third Place: \$50

High School Scholars

First Place: \$500

Second Place: \$250

Third Place: \$100



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tournament Arrival

Arrival time is no later than
7:30 AM!

It's crucial to arrive on time
and fully prepared. Every
minute counts, and being
punctual ensures we can
maximize our time for
intense, focused debate.

Come ready to engage,
challenge ideas, and elevate
your performance.

League Announcement Box

Students! Please let us
know of any
accomplishments you have
made to be highlighted by
the League!



2024-2025 SY CALENDAR

14
SEPT

SATURDAY

Location:

Miami-Dade College
North

Arrival: 7:30 AM

19
OCT

SATURDAY

Location:

University of Miami

Arrival: 7:30 AM

16
NOV

SATURDAY

Location:

Florida International
University

Arrival: 7:30 AM

14
DEC

SATURDAY

Location:

Miami-Dade College
Kendall

Arrival: 7:30 AM

25
JAN

SATURDAY

Location:

Florida International
University

Arrival: 7:30 AM

22
FEB

SATURDAY

Location:

Miami-Dade College
North

Arrival: 7:30 AM

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