



MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

FEBRUARY 2026



WELCOME TO THE WHITE & CASE POLICY DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Logistics:

- Saturday, February 28, 2026
- Miami Dade College – Kendall Campus
- 11011 SW 104 Street Miami, FL 33176-3393
- Building R Room: R402/403
- Arrival Time: 7:00 AM sharp

Please report directly to Building 3 Room 3249. Late arrivals will result in a forfeited round. Students and parents, please reach out to your coach directly for any questions.

WHITE & CASE



www.miamiudl.org



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MDUDL JANUARY TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE AND COLLEGE ACCESS WITH DEBATE FAIR AND \$10,000 SPONSORSHIP FROM STEARNS WEAVER MILLER

Miami, FL — January 10, 2026 — The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League (MDUDL) successfully hosted its January policy debate tournament on January 10, 2026, at Miami Dade College North Campus, bringing together middle and high school students from across Miami-Dade County for a day of high-level competition, mentorship, and college access opportunities.

Held as part of the league's 2025–2026 competitive season, the tournament featured multiple rounds of policy debate and showcased the continued academic growth and advocacy skills of MDUDL students. Debaters demonstrated advanced research, critical thinking, and persuasive communication throughout the day.

At the conclusion of the tournament:

- Middle School Team Sweepstakes: Ponce de Leon Middle School
- High School Team Sweepstakes: Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School

In addition to competition, MDUDL hosted a Debate & College Fair, designed to expose students to postsecondary pathways and academic enrichment opportunities. Participating schools and institutions included Miami Dade College, Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School, Somerset Academy, Miami Senior High School, and American Senior High School. The fair allowed students to engage directly with representatives, ask questions about college readiness, and explore academic and debate-related opportunities beyond the tournament.

The January tournament was proudly sponsored by Stearns Weaver Miller, which contributed \$10,000 in support of MDUDL programming. Attorneys and professionals from the firm also volunteered as judges, reinforcing the connection between debate education and real-world civic and professional skills.

Contact: Kalyn Lee, Program Director
Email: klee@urbandebate.org



“By supporting debate and youth education, we teach young people critical thinking, confidence, and respect for diverse viewpoints,” said Coral del Mar López, MDUDL Board Member and Shareholder at Stearns Weaver Miller. “Investing in these skills early plays a key role in shaping engaged citizens, laying the foundation for resilient communities, and building a healthier democracy.”

“Events like our January tournament show students that debate opens doors,” said Kalyn Lee, Program Director of the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League. “Between the competition, the Debate Fair, and the support from partners like Stearns Weaver Miller, students are able to see how their voices translate into college access, career pathways, and long-term success.”

The January tournament continues MDUDL’s commitment to expanding access to high-quality debate education, professional mentorship, and postsecondary exposure for students across underserved communities.

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.

About Stearns Weaver Miller: Stearns Weaver Miller is a full-service Florida law firm representing clients in complex legal and business matters. The firm is committed to community engagement and educational initiatives that promote opportunity, leadership, and equity.

Contact: Kalyn Lee, Program Director
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE TEAMS DOMINATE TORNEO UDLS DE INVIERNO 2025-26 AT DEBATE EN ESPAÑOL NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Miami, FL — February 10, 2026 — The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League (MDUDL) delivered a commanding performance at the Torneo UDLS de Invierno 2025-26 (Debate en Español) on January 12, 2026, earning top honors across both Advanced and Novice divisions in a national competition that brought together Urban Debate Leagues from Miami, Minnesota, and Chicago. Competing entirely in Spanish, Miami students showcased elite research, advocacy, and bilingual communication skills, earning multiple team and individual championships.

Advanced Division (Avanzada): Miami's Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School claimed the Advanced Division Team Championship, with debaters Ceballos & CaballeroGomez earning first place overall. Individually, Alejandra Caballero Gomez secured 1st Place Speaker – Advanced, marking a sweep of the top honors in the division for Miami.

Novice Division (Principiante): In the Novice Division, Miami Senior High School earned the following placements:

- 1st Place Team: Alvarez & Incer
- 2nd Place Team: Osorto & Villasmil

Miami Senior High School also secured the top individual speaker awards:

- 1st Place Speaker: Denis Incer
- 2nd Place Speaker: Xavier Alvarez
- 3rd Place Speaker (Tie): Gabriel Villasmil

Overall, Miami teams earned championships in both divisions, multiple runner-up placements, and the majority of top individual speaker awards.



“Debate en Español allows our students to compete at the highest level while embracing their linguistic and cultural identity,” said Kalyn Lee, Program Director of the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League. “This tournament demonstrated not only academic excellence, but the power of bilingual advocacy. Our students are proving that rigorous policy debate thrives in every language.”

The Torneo UDLs de Invierno reflects MDUDL’s continued commitment to expanding equitable access to competitive debate opportunities. By competing in Spanish against other Urban Debate Leagues nationwide, Miami students demonstrated that they are leaders not only locally, but on the national stage. The Debate en Español initiative continues to strengthen MDUDL’s mission to empower students through critical thinking, civic engagement, and academic excellence.

Contact: Kalyn Lee, Program Director
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JANUARY

RECAP

Thank you for a successful January tournament and first ever Debate Fair!



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JANUARY

RECAP

Congratulations to the winning teams, Ponce de Leon Middle School and Hialeah Miami-Lakes Senior High School!



MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHAMPIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO PONCE
DE LEON FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL
TEAM SWEEPSTAKES!

MDUDL

HIGH SCHOOL
CHAMPIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO
HIALEAH MIAMI-LAKES SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL FOR HIGH
SCHOOL TEAM SWEEPSTAKES!

MDUDL



STUDENT CORNER

Debater of the Year Applications

High School Debater of the Year:

<https://tinyurl.com/y98dnxwj>

Middle School Debater of the Year:

<https://tinyurl.com/243rndfb>

Deadline:

Febraury 18, 2026

Tournament 6 Argument Limits

Middle School:

- On-Case Aff, On Case Neg
- DA - Russia
- Counterplan - Arctic

High School: Open

All high school debaters will be required to disclose prior to the start of the round.



COACHES CORNER

Debate en Español

- DEE Tournament 3 - March 21, 2026
 - New Arguments for the Marza event will need to be disclosed by February 21st
 - Register:
https://www.tabroom.com/index/tourn/index.html?tourn_id=39060
- National Tournament - April 10-13, 2026 at Harvard University (Nacional division) Qualification required

Tournament 6 Reminders

- Arrival is at 7:00 AM ET, Round 1 begins at 7:30 AM ET.
- Final entries and drops must be made by Wednesday, February 25, 2026 by 12:00 AM ET - no exceptions.
- High School competitors



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	

