

**DREAM BUILDERS OF AMERICA'S YOUTH INC.
AND THE
AUGUSTA CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ATTORNEYS (ACAAA)
2016 JUDGE JOHN "JACK" RUFFIN, Jr. TRAILBLAZER SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY
CONTEST**

In honor of Judge John "Jack" Ruffin Jr., Dream Builders and the ACAA are sponsoring their Sixth Annual Judge John H. Ruffin Trailblazer Scholarship Essay Contest. The essay contest is for high school seniors who reside in the CSRA and will attend college in the fall of 2016. The requirements are a maximum 4 paged, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman essay. This year the essay writers must address the essay questions listed below, based upon actual research, relating to the ABA Law Day Theme ***Miranda: More Than Words***. A *minimum award of \$1000.00* each will be given to one male and one female high school senior, and one female and one male participant in the Fort Gordon Campus Youth Challenge. The winners will receive their checks at the Law Day Dinner held by the Augusta Bar Association on **May 12, 2016**.

ESSAY DUE DATE: May 6, 2016 - Essays must be emailed to dreamplanacheive.jeffords@gmail.com by **noon, May 6, 2016** or mailed to Dream Builders at 437 Walker Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901. If mailed, the essay must be **received by noon, May 6, 2016**.

DATE FOR AWARD: The winner will receive notification by May 10, 2016. The winner **must** be present at the dinner to receive the award. **The minimum \$1000.00 award must be used for school related purposes. (i.e., tuition, books, tests, college rent).**

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

The landmark case *Miranda v. Arizona* was decided by the United States Supreme Court in 1966. How did the decision in *Miranda v. Arizona* change the landscape of citizen encounters with law enforcement? Give some examples of how you see the continued impact of this case in society.

Johnnie Cochran was a trailblazer in the criminal justice field. He is probably most known for his work in the O.J. Simpson case. What *other* significant accomplishments did he have during his career?

If you have questions, please contact Tanya Jeffords or Elana Galvan at 706-724-4834.

Please complete the next page and submit it with your essay. The information on the 2nd page must be included with your email. **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME OR ANY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON YOUR ESSAY.**

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CONTEST**

Name: _____ Age: _____

High School: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Parent's Names: _____

College(s) that you plan to or will attend in the fall: _____

SCHOOL PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE \$1000.00 WILL BE USED: (I.E., what college will you be attending in the fall or what test or application for admission will the funds be used for): _____

(Proof of use for college related expenses is required. The Board reserves the right to send all money directly to the educational institution as identified by the winner of the essay contest).

ESSAY NUMBER: _____ (FOR REVIEWERS USE ONLY).

Case Summary: *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966)

Facts:

Ernesto Miranda was arrested for rape and kidnapping and taken in custody to a police station where he was identified by a witness in a lineup. He was then interrogated by two police officers for two hours. Mr. Miranda signed a confession that included the typed statement: "I do hereby swear that I make this statement voluntarily and of my own free will, with no threats, coercion, or promises of immunity, and with full knowledge of my legal rights, understanding any statement I make may be used against me." However, at no time was Mr. Miranda told of his right to counsel. Prior to being presented with the form on which he was asked to write out the confession he had already given orally, the police officers had not informed him of his right to remain silent. At trial, the oral and written confessions were presented to the jury and Mr. Miranda was found guilty and was sentenced to 20-30 years imprisonment on each count. Mr. Miranda's attorney appealed to the Supreme Court of Arizona, which held that Mr. Miranda's constitutional rights were not violated by the police while they were obtaining the confession. Mr. Miranda's attorney then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court who agreed to hear his case along with three other similar cases.

Questions before the U.S. Supreme Court: Are "statements obtained from an individual who is subjected to custodial police interrogation" admissible against him in a criminal trial? And are "procedures which assure that the individual is accorded his privilege under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution not to be compelled to incriminate himself" necessary?

Court Ruling: In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court held that "there can be no doubt that the Fifth Amendment privilege is available outside of criminal court proceedings and serves to protect persons in all settings in which their freedom of action is curtailed in any significant way from being compelled to incriminate themselves." As such, "the prosecution may not use statements, whether exculpatory or inculpatory, stemming from custodial interrogation of the defendant unless it demonstrates the use of procedural safeguards effective to secure the privilege against self-incrimination. By custodial interrogation, we mean questioning initiated by law enforcement officers after a person has been taken into custody or otherwise deprived of his freedom of action in any significant way."