



# news release

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**ATTENTION REPORTERS & EDITORS**

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## **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HOLDS MOOT COURT COMPETITION Local high school students to participate in first-time event**

Local high school students will be putting on their advocacy hats on **Wednesday, Nov. 14**, as they try to argue their way to victory in the First Annual Donald N. Silverman Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Westchester County Human Rights Commission.

The Competition will take place all day at the **New York State Supreme Court, Westchester County, 111 Martin Luther King Blvd. beginning at 8:45 am.** County Executive Andy Spano and William Ryan, chair of the County Board of Legislators, will be on hand to welcome the students and open the competition along with Robin Bikkal, Esq., the widow of the late Hon. Donald N. Silverman in whose honor the competition has been named. **The final arguments will be at 2:30 p.m.**

The students participating in the competition will compete in four rounds of argument and argue their case before real judges, administrative law judges and attorneys. The schools will argue against each other and the winning school will receive a trophy. The individual student winners will also receive a monetary award. All winners will be honored at the Commission's Annual Human Rights Day Breakfast on December 11 at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains.

"This is an excellent opportunity for high school students, not just those who may aspire to the legal profession, as it offers the chance to develop skills in writing and oral presentation that will be of value in any profession," said Delores Scott Brathwaite, executive director of the commission.

Students will participate from the following high schools: Gorton, Ardsley, Bronxville, Harrison, Rye Neck, Pleasantville and Sleepy Hollow.

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Each team was required to research and review applicable laws and prepare a written brief. The students are prepared to argue both sides of the case which involves a student who alleges racial discrimination and violation of freedom of expression by the school.

“It has been exciting for us to see the interest and enthusiasm of the students and we are looking forward to this being another signature event of the commission,” said Mayo Bartlett, chair of the commission.

The Donald N. Silverman Moot Court Competition is also supported and sponsored by Pace University School of Law, Moot Court Board, the Westchester County Bar Association, the Westchester Black Bar Association and the Westchester Women’s Bar Association. For more information, call the Westchester County Human Rights Commission at (914) 995-7710.

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