



# MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Shubin Law Group

### **SHUBIN LAW GROUP 2024 POLICY DEBATE**

We are thrilled to announce and formally invite you to the Shubin Law Group Policy Debate Tournament

**This tournament will be held on October 19, 2024, at The University of Miami, 5100 Brunson Drive, Coral Gables, FL. School of Communication. Shoma Hall - Room 3053**

**All coaches, students, and judges are required to arrive no later than 7:30 AM. We look forward to seeing you there!**



[www.miamiudl.org](http://www.miamiudl.org)



[@miamiurbandebate](https://www.instagram.com/miamiurbandebate)

# The Case for Debate: Investing in Future Attorneys Through Competition By Ben Mitchel, Associate Attorney at Shubin Law Group

September 30, 2024

Advocacy is one of the fundamental skills required to successfully practice law. Whether arguing in court, negotiating a contract, or advising clients, effective and persuasive presentation is the bedrock of the legal profession. But this skill is not cultivated overnight; rather, it must be honed through practice and with guidance. For many attorneys, the foundation of this ability is laid not in law school but much earlier—in high school debate.

Debate requires students to analyze and argue complex issues with precision. Policy debate, in particular, mirrors the process attorneys follow in preparing for litigation or negotiations. Policy debaters must interpret vast amounts of information, identify the strongest arguments and counterarguments, think critically in real-time, and communicate their positions persuasively. Debate also gives students an opportunity to build confidence in speaking in public. All of these are core skills required of a litigator preparing for oral argument in court, or a transactional attorney working to resolve outstanding issues to close a deal.

For students from underrepresented and low-income backgrounds, debate offers more than just a chance to develop advocacy skills; it provides an essential pathway to academic success and professional achievement. Organizations like the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League (“MDUDL”), a local chapter of the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues (“NAUDL”), are committed to bringing the transformative power of debate to these students. The NAUDL serves as the national leader of the urban debate movement, working with local chapters like the MDUDL to ensure that underrepresented students have access to high-quality debate programming.

Research has shown that these initiatives significantly impact students' academic and professional trajectories. In 2016, nearly 9,500 students across 22 cities participated in urban debate programs. A staggering 72% of these students came from low-income families, and 86% were students of color. The benefits of participation in debate are clear: 90% of urban debaters graduated from high school on time; 85% of urban debaters enrolled in college; and urban debaters are 80% more likely than non-debaters to earn a degree within six years.



Research by the Journal of Adolescence and the Educational Research and Reviews has also demonstrated that each semester a student participates in debate, their grades improve—a direct testament to the academic discipline and intellectual growth fostered by the activity.

In Miami-Dade, the MDUDL is playing a critical role in closing the achievement gap by using debate as a tool to empower students, improve their educational outcomes, and equip them for college and career success. Whether or not these students ultimately become attorneys, they are learning to think independently and advocate for themselves and their communities.

As the legal profession continues to place greater emphasis on diversity and inclusion, organizations like the MDUDL should serve as pipelines for underrepresented students to connect with and join law firms. Whether through direct mentorship of students, volunteering time to serve as judges at tournaments, or offering financial support, there are a variety of ways that practicing attorneys can help these students learn critical skills and introduce them to a potential future career path. Supporting the MDUDL and similar organizations is an investment in the next generation of advocates, change-makers, and attorneys for the courtroom of tomorrow.

**BIO:**

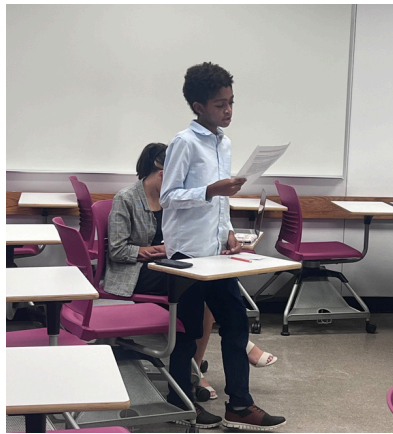
**Ben Mitchel** is an associate attorney with Shubin Law Group and a Board Member of the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League. He is a litigator with broad experience handling commercial, antitrust, financial services, land use and development, and other complex civil litigation matters for his clients. While Ben was not a debater in high school, he wishes now that he had been! Ben is dedicated to helping provide Miami-Dade public school students the opportunity to participate in debate, and to serving as a mentor to students in his community.



Pictured:  
Ben Mitchel, Shubin Law Group  
Associate Attorney & MDUDL  
Board Member



# TOURNAMENT 1 RECAP



## Middle School Winners

1st Place: Ponce de Leon  
Middle School

2nd Place: Redland Middle  
School

## High School Winners

1st Place: South Miami Senior  
High School

2nd Place: Miami Senior High  
School



# OCTOBER LEAGUE WIDE PRACTICE

**MDUDL**

**October League Wide Practice**

**Date: October 14, 2024**

**Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**Register on our website under the League  
Resources Page - closes on October 11, 2024**



[www.miamiudl.org](http://www.miamiudl.org)



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## SHUBIN LAW GROUP SPONSORS SECOND MIAMI-DADE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT WITH \$10,000 DONATION

Miami, FL – October 4, 2024 – The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League is proud to announce Shubin Law Group as the official sponsor for the second debate tournament of the 2024-2025 season. The firm’s generous \$10,000 donation will help provide essential resources for the event, which will bring together talented students from across Miami-Dade County to compete in a day of intellectual engagement and public speaking.

John Shubin, the firm’s Founding Partner, expresses “I have been a supporter of the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League since Rick Perez introduced me to the organization. The League does critical work in connecting students at Title 1 schools in our community with quality debate programming, and our firm is proud to do whatever we can to pitch in to make that possible. We are excited to see the students’ hard work come to fruition at the upcoming tournament, but more importantly, to see the future these students build with the skills they are learning through the League today.”

Shubin Law Group's support underscores their commitment to the local community and aligns with MDUDL’s mission to empower students, particularly those from Title 1 schools, through the art of debate. Their contribution will ensure students have access to coaching, materials, and competition opportunities to develop critical thinking and advocacy skills.

The second tournament will be held on October 19, 2024, at the University of Miami. MDUDL looks forward to another successful event and is grateful for Shubin Law Group’s commitment to supporting future leaders.

### **About the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League:**

The Miami-Dade Urban Debate League serves Title 1 schools in Miami-Dade County, offering students the opportunity to engage in competitive debate. The league fosters critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills while promoting academic excellence.

**Contact: Kalyn Lee, Program Director**

**Email: [klee@urbandebate.org](mailto:klee@urbandebate.org)**

**[www.miamiudl.org](http://www.miamiudl.org)**



Shubin Law Group



# MDUDL IN THE NEWS

Scan the QR code to watch a video featuring Miami-Dade Urban Debate League students advocating for an issues-driven presidential debate.



Scan the QR code to watch our debaters join CBS News Miami to share insights from young Hispanic voters on the 2024 election.



# 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





# 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

**MDUDL**



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# 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!

