New York County Lawyers Association Announces Winners of the 26th Annual Honorable Richard Lee Price New York City Public High School Essay Contest

June 1, 2020 -- New York, New York — New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) today announced that the awards ceremony for its Annual Honorable Richard Lee Price New York City High School Essay Contest will be held virtually on June 4, 2020. The competition, created by the Law Related Education Committee 26 years ago, was renamed this year in memory of the Honorable Richard Lee Price who was dedicated to this and other programs for high school and law students at NYCLA. Judge Price died in November 2019 but his legacy continues. Ten high school students will receive honors, and this year’s hypothetical essay topic generated over 200 submissions from high school students all over New York City.

Students wrote their submissions in response this question: In New York City, students are admitted to specialized high schools based on test scores alone. The outcome is that the racial/ethnic composition of students at specialized high schools is not equivalent to the racial/ethnic composition of the student population throughout the entire school system. Is the racial/ethnic disproportionality at specialized high schools itself evidence of unfairness in selecting students? Why or why not? Are there other selection methods that would better promote diversity yet maintain the quality of the specialized high schools and also be fair to all students? Compare any newly proposed selection methods to the existing
method. Do you recommend changing the current method? Why or why not? Is there any legal support—constitutional, statutory, or judicial—for your view?

Submissions are judged based on content and writing by the NYCLA Members of the Law Related Education Committee.

The winners are:

- 1st place $1,000.00: Mehrunissa Malick, Stuyvesant High School
- 2nd place $750.00: Sahar Nadi, James Madison High School
- 3rd place $500.00: Shahreen Haque, Stuyvesant High School
- 4th place $300.00: Helen Zhang, Stuyvesant High School.

The following are the (6) Honorable Mentions:

- Alla Zeidyyeh, William Cullen Bryant High School
- Dulcine Stephens, James Madison High School
- Keying Lin, Stuyvesant High School
- Sonia Tan, Stuyvesant High School
- David Fetik, Tottenville High School
- Kenya Dacres, James Madison High School

Members of NYCLA’s Law Related Education Committee will be joined by NYCLA President Stephen C. Lessard to present the awards.

About the New York County Lawyers Association

The New York County Lawyers Association (www.nycla.org) was founded in 1908 as one of the first major bar association in the country that admitted members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. Since its inception, it has pioneered some of the most far-reaching
and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence. For more information on NYCLA please visit nycla.org

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