



**Ford Motor Company Fund
and Community Services**



2011 Ford Freedom Award Essay Contest for Grades 4-8

**Brought to you by Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services in cooperation with the
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History**

The Ford Freedom Award is given posthumously to honorees who have dedicated their life to improving the African American community and the world at large through their chosen fields. Each year, a Ford Freedom Award honoree and scholar is selected. The scholar is chosen for furthering the honoree's achievements for a new generation.

The 2011 Ford Freedom Award Program honoree is Judge Constance Baker Motley, who was a crusader for civil rights and the first African American appointed to the federal judiciary. As a dedicated jurist, she had a major impact on ending racial discrimination by participating in nearly every important civil rights case brought to trial between 1945 and 1965.

The 2011 Ford Freedom Award Scholar is Judge Damon J. Keith, who was born in Detroit and has served since 1977 as a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit Court. When Harvard University bestowed an honorary degree on Judge Keith in 2008, the citation read that he is an "Avatar of independence, champion of equal justice under law, a just and humane jurist who has shared and shaped the action and passion of his time."

Essay Contest for Grades 4-8

In celebration of the 2011 Ford Freedom Award's recognition of these noteworthy jurists, Michigan students in grades 4-8 are invited to submit essays on the following topic:

The law affects people in many ways. Laws cover both big issues — business practices, violent crimes — and smaller issues — how many days kids go to school, what to do at a crosswalk or red light. Laws are national, state and local. Pick a law that affects you or your family every day. Research what the law was designed to do, how and when it was passed and how life in the community is better as a result of the law.

Contest Rules

It is preferred that essays be typed. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman or Arial font, 12 point type, double-spaced with 1" margins, and limited to two pages. Handwritten essays must be legibly printed, double-spaced and limited to three pages. An official entry form must be stapled to the back of each essay. No names should appear on the essay, **only on the entry form.**

**All essays must be received by Detroit Newspapers in Education no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2011.
Mail or hand deliver to:**

DNIE Ford Freedom Award Essay Contest
615 W. Lafayette Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

Prizes

1st Prize--\$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond, Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit for ONE winner
2nd Prize--\$2,500 U.S. Savings Bond, Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit for ONE winner
3rd Prize--\$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond, Ford Freedom Award medal and certificate of merit for ONE winner
Honorable Mentions -- \$250 U.S. Savings Bonds, Ford Freedom Award medals and certificates of merit for TWO winners

**Teachers of winning students will be notified by phone.
Questions? Call Sharon Martin, 313-223-4460**

2011 Ford Freedom Award Essay Entry Form

Student's First and Last Name _____

Title of Essay _____

Grade (circle one): 4 5 6 7 8

School Name _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Teacher's First and Last Name (including Mr., Mrs., Ms. or Miss) _____

School Phone Number (including area code) (_____) - _____

Teacher's E-Mail Address _____

I verify that this essay is the original work of the above named student.

Signature of teacher/parent or guardian is required or entry cannot be judged

Entry form may be copied

All entries must be received by 5 p.m., Friday, April 1, 2011

Staple a completed entry form to the **BACK** page of each essay and mail or hand deliver to:

DNIE Ford Freedom Award Essay Contest
615 W. Lafayette Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

Judging Guidelines

Essays will be judged based on content, clarity of student's writing and overall creativity. Is the work imaginative, reflecting time, thought and care that is appropriate for the grade level? Is sentence structure and language appropriate for grade level? All essays must follow the contest rules.

Essay competition winners will be selected by the staff of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services.