



## **2016 Racial Justice Essay Contest Equal Justice Initiative**

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) is pleased to announce a scholarship contest open to Etowah County high school students in grades 9-12 where prizes totaling \$5000 will be awarded to winning participants.

The scholarship contest coincides with EJI's forthcoming dedication of a marker in Gadsden, Alabama. The marker will memorialize the brutal lynching of Mr. Bunk Richardson on February 11, 1906. Scholarship winners will be announced and recognized at an event unveiling the historical marker on December 13, 2016 in Gadsden.

### **Eligibility**

*The 2016 Racial Justice Essay Contest* is open to all students in grades 9-12 living in or attending school in Etowah County, Alabama.

### **Guidelines for Entries**

The history of racial inequality and economic injustice in America has created continuing challenges for all Americans. The lives of African Americans have been profoundly impacted by the era of slavery, the era of racial terror that continued from the end of Reconstruction until World War II, the era of Jim Crow and racial apartheid that produced the civil rights movement, and the present-day era of mass incarceration. EJI believes that a deeper understanding about our nation's history of racial injustice is important to addressing contemporary questions of social justice and equality.

Students should review EJI's 2016 *A History of Racial Injustice* calendar months of November and December and select one of the historical entries as a topic to write an essay of 750 words or less. Entries can focus on any event referenced in the calendar. The full-wall calendar includes hundreds of historical entries and twelve short essays highlighting historical events and issues in our nation's racial history.

The 2016 *A History of Racial Justice* calendar months of November and December are provided at the end of this announcement.

### **Submission Details**

Contestants should include the attached entry form and provide their name, home address, email address and telephone number. Entrants should provide the name of the school they attend, their grade level, title of the submission, historical event referenced and a word count. Submissions must not be longer than 750 words. Entries that are not the original work of the student will be disqualified.

Essays along with the application form must be submitted by **Friday, December 2nd, 2016** via email to Jonathan Kubakundimana at the Equal Justice Initiative at [jkubakundimana@eji.org](mailto:jkubakundimana@eji.org) or via mail to the following address:

Equal Justice Initiative  
c/o Jonathan Kubakundimana  
122 Commerce Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104

### **Awards**

Scholarship awards will total \$5000. Winners will be notified via phone or email, and receive their awards and scholarships at a historical marker dedication ceremony planned for December 13, 2016.

**EJI Scholarship Contest Application Form  
2016 Racial Justice Essay Contest  
Etowah County, Alabama**

The Equal Justice Initiative is a nonprofit human rights organization providing legal services to the poor, incarcerated, and condemned. We challenge over-incarceration, excessive punishment, and unconstitutional conditions of confinement in American jails and prisons. EJI fights against abuse of children in the criminal justice system and the criminal prosecution of kids as adults. We are working to reform how police, prosecutors, and prisons treat the mentally disabled and other disfavored and vulnerable people, and we provide services to formerly incarcerated people. EJI is changing the way we talk about racial injustice in the United States by re-examining our country's history of enslavement, racial terror, segregation, and racial subordination. We produce reports, studies, documents, and interactive tools designed to advance social justice and protest for human rights, and we work with communities across the country to support criminal justice reform and improve the status of poor people and people of color.

**Entry Form and Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver Form**

<b>Student Name:</b>
<b>Student Email Address:</b>
<b>School Name and Grade Level:</b>
<b>Title of Entry and Word Count:</b>
<b>Home Mailing Address:</b>
<b>City, State, Zip Code:</b>
<b>Parent/Legal Guardian Name:</b>
<b>Parent/Legal Guardian Phone Number:</b>
<b>Parent/Legal Guardian Email Address:</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Legal Guardian Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Entries along with this application form must be submitted by **December 2, 2016** via email to Jonathan Kubakundimana at the Equal Justice Initiative at [jkubakundimana@eji.org](mailto:jkubakundimana@eji.org) or via mail to the following address:

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