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Congressman Louis Stokes Honored by Squire Patton Boggs Sustaining Sponsorship of CMBA Program

CLEVELAND – August 19, 2015 – This summer, 17 Scholars completed the eight-week, award-winning Louis Stokes Scholars Program run by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA). Each Scholar was recently awarded a certificate during a recognition ceremony attended by participants, family members, mentors, judges, court administrators, lawyers, past and current CMBA leadership, founding members, and others, that included inspirational speeches made by Scholars.

Created in 2012, the Louis Stokes Scholars Program provides paid summer legal internships for college students who are graduates of the Cleveland and East Cleveland school districts and have an interest in careers in the law. The program is named after former Congressman Louis Stokes, a Cleveland Metropolitan School District graduate and retired Senior Counsel of what is now Squire Patton Boggs.

At the ceremony, Squire Patton Boggs announced a new pledge of support for the Louis Stokes Scholars Program, through the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation, in the amount of \$12,500 annually for an additional five years to help fund the program through 2023.

"We are excited for the opportunity to develop a sustaining partnership with Squire Patton Boggs," said Hugh McKay, president of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation. "The Stokes Scholars Program serves a critical role in our series of pipeline initiatives, changing real lives, one student at a time. Thanks to their generous commitment, Squire Patton Boggs, as Sustaining Sponsor of the Program, is helping to ensure the future of this program remains bright."

"We at Squire Patton Boggs are proud to extend our commitment of the Stokes Scholars Program," said Rick Manoloff, a partner at Squire Patton Boggs and president-elect of the CMBA. "Advancing the ideals and vision of our esteemed colleague and former Congressman Louis Stokes, the Stokes Scholars Program is a fitting tribute to the impact he has made in this community, and our society."

About the Louis Stokes Scholars Program

The Louis Stokes Scholars Program is a pipeline diversity initiative through which college students engage in paid summer legal internships of eight-week duration – at Cleveland law firms, courts and legal nonprofits. Participating students, known as Stokes Scholars, must be graduates of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District or East Cleveland Municipal School District and enrolled in college or scheduled to begin college in the fall following the summer program. At each firm, court and legal nonprofit employer, students are matched with an attorney-mentor. Mentors help introduce Scholars into the profession, provide career counseling, and continue to serve as a resource for their interns after the summer ends. www.clemetrobar.org/stokes_scholars

The Louis Stokes Scholars Program is just one of the CMBA's law-related education and diversity pipeline programs. Collectively, the CMBA's programs have directly impacted more than 25,000 Cleveland and East Cleveland students over the past ten years.

About the CMBA

The nonprofit Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association operates as a center for legal professionalism in the region, promoting the highest ethical and professional standards. Serving the largest legal community in the state, the CMBA has nearly 6,000 members. Learn more at www.clemetrobar.org.

About the CMBF

The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation is the charitable arm and partner of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. It raises funds to support the important public outreach activities of the Association, which are organized primarily under the Justice For All umbrella. These activities include a variety of pro bono legal service, law-related education, tutoring and mentoring programs. Additionally, the CMBF assists the Association's diversity and inclusion initiatives aimed at improving the pipeline of minority students entering the legal profession. <http://www.clemetrobar.org/foundation>.