



Contact:  
Rita Klein  
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association  
216-539-3713 (direct), 216-696-3525, 440-263-3056 (mobile)  
[rklein@clemetrobar.org](mailto:rklein@clemetrobar.org)

## Bar Foundation to Host 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Servants Luncheon

CLEVELAND – August 26, 2016 – The [Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation](#) (CMBF) is proud to present the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Awards Luncheon on Friday, September 9 from 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. at the Westin Cleveland Downtown. The Awards Luncheon celebrates and honors public servants whose everyday commitment and dedicated service ensure full access to the justice system.

Each year city, county, state and federal courts and government agencies are asked to nominate eligible employees for their outstanding service to the legal profession, the general public, and our justice system. These merit awards are given for long and faithful service; devotion to duty; wise counsel; unflinching patience; and assistance to the public and members of the Bench and Bar of this county.

The 2016 Honorees are:

- Erika D. Bush, *Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas*
- Mary Davidson, *Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court*
- Lucy DeLeon, *Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court*
- Theresa (Terri) Lee, *Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office*
- Susan E. Little, *Cleveland Municipal Court*
- Gregory Nunn, *U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio*
- David Sierleja, *U.S. Attorney's Office*
- Tina Simeone, *Cleveland Municipal Court, Clerk's Office*
- Alethia Wordlaw, *Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts*
- Colleen Corrigan Zitello, *Cuyahoga County Probate Court*

“What a milestone year for this event! We are very excited about honoring our 70th class of distinguished public servants. Our honorees make our system of justice work through their dedication, expertise and commitment,” said Drew Parobek, president of the CMBF. “They are truly unsung heroes who help ensure that everyone has access to justice. Every attorney knows the critical role they play each and every day; we couldn’t do our jobs without them. The CMBF is proud to play a part in celebrating their accomplishments. We hope you’ll be able to join us at this event. I guarantee that you will leave with a smile on your face, a warm spot in your heart, and a great sense of gratitude for everything our honorees have done for the justice system, the bar, and our entire community.”

This event is open to the public and more information regarding the event, tickets or sponsorship, is available at [www.CleMetroBar.org/PublicServants](http://www.CleMetroBar.org/PublicServants).

The plan to honor deserving public servants was inaugurated in 1947 by the late Raymond D. Metzner, a past president of the Cuyahoga County Bar Association (CCBA). CCBA Past President Franklin A. Polk served annually as continuous chairman until 1986. Polk was involved with this program until his passing in 1991. In 1986, the Public Servants Merit Award was renamed the "Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Award" to honor Polk's dedication and outstanding service to the CCBA and Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation (CCBF). In 2009, the Cleveland Bar Foundation and CCBF unified as the CMBF. The names of all the past recipients are on display on the first floor of the Cuyahoga County Courthouse on Lakeside Avenue.

Sponsors\* for this year's event include: Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP; Tucker Ellis LLP; Ulmer & Berne LLP; Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP; Walter | Haverfield LLP; Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP; Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP; Thompson Hine LLP; Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; Kronenberg + Belovich Law LLC; Lazzaro Luka Law Offices,

LLC; Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis; Mary Catherine Barrett; Hon. Diane Karpinski (retired);  
John Lebold; Brian M. McDonough; Deborah W. Yue; Kelly M. Zacharias.  
*\*Sponsors current as of release date.*

**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.  
[www.CleMetroBar.org/Foundation](http://www.CleMetroBar.org/Foundation).

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