



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rita Klein
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
216-539-3713 (direct)
216-696-3525 x5000
440-263-3056 (mobile)
rklein@clemetrobar.org

LOOKING BEHIND THE CURTAIN: HOW ‘SECRET’ GRAND JURIES WORK
Public Forum to Feature Former U.S. Attorney, Grand Jury Foremen, Prosecutor

(Cleveland, Ohio) – A panel of experts and participants in the Grand Jury process will take members of the public inside one of the most well-publicized yet least understood parts of the U.S. legal system.

The public forum on the Grand Jury process will be held from **7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on May 17** at Elizabeth Baptist Church, 6114 Francis Avenue in Cleveland. The forum, which is part of the series Anatomy of Justice – A Symposium on Criminal Justice, is co-sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, The City Club of Cleveland and Elizabeth Baptist Church.

“Grand Juries make big headlines. Just consider the recent Tamir Rice and Michael Brelo cases,” said Judge John J. Russo, Administrative and Presiding Judge for the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. “But we know that Grand Jury proceedings are often misunderstood by the public. We want to help strip away some of that mystery and invite our citizens to participate in that process.”

Russo is part of a coalition of judges, attorneys and Cleveland Bar leaders who have organized the Anatomy of Justice symposiums as a series of public discussions on issues including bail, grand juries and other criminal justice issues.

Participants in the May 17 panel include: Carole Rendon, former U.S. Attorney for northern Ohio; Cleveland Municipal Court Judge Michelle Earley, a former prosecutor and participant in reviewing Grand Jury proceedings; and two former Grand Jury foremen, Eric Kennedy, a Cleveland attorney, and Lewis Katz, a Case Western Reserve University law professor.

“These panelists are intimately familiar with the Grand Jury process,” said Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Donnelly, one of the organizers of the Anatomy of Justice series. “We know they’ll have interesting perspectives. But above all, we want the public to participate. We want to answer their questions and hear their suggestions.”

ABOUT ANATOMY OF JUSTICE

Anatomy of Justice – a Symposium on Criminal Justice is a series of public discussions on criminal justice issues in Cuyahoga County.

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 more than 5,500 members. Learn more at CleMetroBar.org.

###