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## Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Annual Award Winners Announced

CLEVELAND – May 25, 2017 – Today the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) announced its 2017 annual award recipients who will be honored at the upcoming [annual meeting and inaugural luncheon](#) on Friday, June 2 at the Cleveland Public Auditorium.

At the luncheon, the following awards will be bestowed:

### The Honorable William K. Thomas Professionalism Award

Established in 2001 and named for the late U.S. District Judge William K. Thomas, the Professionalism Award is annually awarded to a lawyer or judge who has significantly contributed to the enhancement of professionalism in the Greater Cleveland legal community by exemplifying the goals of the Ohio Supreme Court's "Lawyer's Creed" and "Aspirational Ideals." This year, the selection committee for the award has chosen to honor **Avery S. Friedman** of Avery Friedman & Associates.

Friedman has devoted his professional life to civil rights and fair housing, and has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to marginalized people. In recognition of his devotion to civil rights, Friedman was inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2010. He also served as President of the William K. Thomas Inn of Courts and through his leadership, it achieved Platinum status—the highest honor for an Inn of Court. He established the Human Rights Scholarship at Ursuline College and spearheaded the CMBA's Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts. Throughout his career, including serving as a legal analyst for CNN since 2001, he has demonstrated an ability to be both a vigorous and courageous advocate, while also practicing as a consummate professional.

### Justice For All Volunteer of the Year Awards

The Justice For All (JFA) Committee serves as the oversight committee to coordinate and support the CMBA's pro bono and community programs. It annually recognizes a volunteer for outstanding service to the Cleveland community. In the history of the award, the JFA has sometimes selected dual honorees for their contributions in the two main areas of volunteer service, pro bono and community programs, when faced with two such deserving candidates. This year, JFA is pleased to recognize Rebecca J. Bennett and Charles E. Jarrett.

#### 2017 Justice For All Volunteer of the Year Award (Pro Bono):

**Rebecca J. Bennett**, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C., with special thanks to the CMBA Women in Law Section

Rebecca Bennett's legal career is built on demonstrating the highest level of professionalism to her paying and pro bono clients, her colleagues at the bar, and the larger community. Her leadership, along with the volunteers of the CMBA Women in Law Section, has brought much-needed legal help to women and children at the West Side Catholic Center and other locations through a joint Legal Aid and CMBA program called "Lawyers for Women in Crisis." Bennett is passionate about causes that empower women and promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

#### 2017 Justice For All Volunteer of the Year Award (Community Programs):

**Charles E. Jarrett**, Progressive Corporation (retired)

Charles (Chuck) Jarrett's commitment to pro bono and public service has been truly exemplary for many years. He volunteered for the first year of The 3Rs in 2006, and every year since has made Progressive a great force in the program, with at minimum two corporate teams at JFK High School. In the Ohio Mock Trial program, Jarrett has coached the Orange High School teams for 15 years to great success, including top placement in 2017 and a state championship in 2016. As part of his zealous commitment to CMBA programs

and to his community, he has led the Orange School Board; Up With People, Inc.; Ohio Guidestone; Garfield Memorial Church; and various other important civic engagements. He has also served on the Host Committee for the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation's very successful endowment campaign kick-off.

### **President's Award**

Each year, the outgoing president bestows this award to one or more individuals for exceptional service to the Bar and the community. Richard D. Manoloff, the CMBA's outgoing president, has chosen to keep his selection a surprise until the Annual Meeting, and will announce this year's recipient at the June 2 luncheon.

The CMBA thanks the sponsors supporting this year's annual meeting. **Platinum:** Huntington; KeyBank; Toshiba; Walter | Haverfield LLP; **Gold:** Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP; Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP; Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association; The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland; Maloney & Novotny LLC; Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP; **Silver:** All Covered, Inc.; BakerHostetler LLP; Buckley King LPA; Case Western Reserve University Law School; Cavitch, Familo & Durkin Co., LPA; Cleveland Metroparks; Cliffs Natural Resources, Inc.; Hennes Communications; McDonald Hopkins LLC; Oswald Companies; PNC Bank; Reminger Co., LPA; Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP; Stephanoff Rennillo LLC; Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP; Thompson Hine LLP; Tucker Ellis LLP; Ulmer & Berne LLP; Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP; **Table Sponsors:** Brouse McDowell; Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; Dominion East Ohio; Friedman & Nemecek, LLC; Gallagher Sharp; Grant Thornton LLP; Koehler Fitzgerald LLC; Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C; The Primes Family; Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP; Shapero & Roloff Co., LPA; Synenberg, Coletta & Moran, LLC; Thorman Petrov Group Co., LPA; Walter | Haverfield LLP; **In-Kind Sponsor:** Avalon Document Services; Source3Media. *\*Sponsors current as of press release distribution*

### **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](http://CleMetroBar.org).

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