



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 Hosts 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Public Servants Luncheon

CLEVELAND – August 11, 2017 – The [Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation](#) (CMBF) will proudly present the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Awards Luncheon on Friday, August 25 from 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. at the Westin Cleveland Downtown. The Awards Luncheon celebrates and honors 11 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 2017 Honorees are:

- Lisa Beeble, *Parma City Council*
- John T. Bilinski, *Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas*
- Kathleen Boval, *Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court*
- Sonja J. Colwell, *Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court*
- Liz Cullen, *Cleveland Municipal Court, Housing Court Division*
- Rita Haynes, *Cleveland Municipal Court*
- Jacqueline A. Johnson, *Federal Public Defender's Office*
- Lynda L. Lewis, *Cuyahoga County Probate Court*
- Judith Mathews Nash, *Rocky River Municipal Court*
- Mary Ann Schmuck, *Cleveland Municipal Court, Clerk's Office*
- Michael W. Vaccaro, *Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Clerk's Office*

"Each year we have the great pleasure of celebrating those individuals who play an irreplaceable role in our system of justice," said Mitchell G. Blair, president of the CMBF. "As a tribute to the dedication they have shown to our community throughout their careers, we look forward to the opportunity to thank them because we couldn't do our jobs without them. Guests will also enjoy heartfelt remarks shared by the honorees. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll walk away with a stronger sense of pride and gratitude for their amazing service."

This event is open to the public and more information regarding the event, tickets or sponsorship, is available at [CleMetroBar.org/PublicServants](http://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: Calfee Halter & Griswold LLP; Reminger Co., L.P.A.; Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP; Tucker Ellis LLP; Walter Haverfield LLP; Thompson Hine LLP; Giffen & Kaminski, LLC; Kronenberg + Belovich Law LLC; Lazzaro Luka Law Offices, LLC; Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis; Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP; Taft Stettinius & Hollister

LLP; Ulmer & Berne LLP; Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP; Hon. Diane J. Karpinski; and 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.

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

###