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MEDIA OPPORTUNITY – October 10, 2017 at noon

How Free is Speech in the Workplace?

Bar Association “Hot Talk” to Discuss the First Amendment & the Workplace

WHAT: The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association will host its next “Hot Talks” conversation **Tuesday, October 10 at 12 p.m.** on the topic of the First Amendment and its intersection with the workplace. This free event is open to the public at the CMBA Conference Center, located in One Cleveland Center.

From recent examples of NFL players kneeling during the National Anthem, to the Google engineer who claimed he was fired for writing a memo criticizing the company's diversity efforts, to the “personal” Facebook posts that are easily discoverable by co-workers, bosses and potential employers, the news continues to be filled with examples where speech and the workplace intersect.

Join us for an interactive, lively discussion about what rights are granted under the First Amendment and the nuances of just how free speech is when speaking in the workplace.

Leading our conversation will be [Elizabeth Bonham](#), staff attorney for the **ACLU of Cleveland**, and [Bruce Hearey](#), shareholder with **Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.** After brief, introductory remarks, the conversation will be open to all for an interactive question and answer period.

As a civil rights litigator, **Elizabeth** is committed to leveraging the legal system to dismantle institutionalized oppression. She plans and litigates major impact cases including defending free speech in *Citizens for Trump v. Cleveland*, and voting rights in *APRI v. Husted*. She is particularly interested in advocating against mass incarceration and abuses in the prison industrial complex. Beyond her litigation pursuits, Elizabeth manages a student law clerk program and works with her organization's policy and legislative teams in integrated advocacy efforts.

Since 1975, **Bruce** has built a reputation as a pragmatic and creative litigator who, as one client describes, “represents his clients aggressively and professionally, while simultaneously maintaining a quick wit and dry sense of humor about his job and life in general.” Generally representing the interests of employers, Bruce has handled numerous jury trials both inside and outside of Ohio, including cases involving breach of contract, discrimination, harassment and more for clients ranging from professional sports teams, Fortune 200 companies, colleges, hospitals, law firms and other professional services and manufacturing companies.

Attendees may bring their own lunch or per-purchase one through the CMBA.

Hot Talks is a monthly series to address hot topics in our community and is co-presented by The Press Club of Cleveland. Learn more at CleMetroBar.org/HotTalks.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 10 from 12 - 1 p.m.

WHERE: CMBA Conference Center
1375 E. 9th Street, 2nd Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114

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 5,200 members. Learn more at CleMetroBar.org.

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