Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association’s 11th Annual Meeting
New leaders sworn-in and distinguished legal professionals honored

CLEVELAND – June 4, 2018 | The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) introduced the new slate of officers and directors for the CMBA and the new president of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation (CMBF) at the 11th Annual Meeting on Friday, June 1 at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center.

Approximately 600 people attended the sold-out event which marked eleven years of unification since the merging of two predecessor organizations, the Cuyahoga County Bar Association and the Cleveland Bar Association – the 145th year of continuous operation.

Awards were also bestowed on members recognizing their specific contributions to the Cleveland-area legal profession and community at large.

- **Marlon Primes** (United States Attorney’s Office) sworn-in as the first black president of the CMBA.
- **Stephanie E. Trudeau** (Ulmer & Berne LLP) sworn-in as president of the CMBF.
- **Bruce Hennes** (CEO, Hennes Communications) received President’s Award for exceptional service to the Bar and the community.
  - “I am convinced that we are a better Association today because of Bruce’s candid and insightful contributions to our governance and decision-making. He did his work behind the scenes, virtually without public credit, content in the knowledge and satisfaction that he was serving the best interests of our Association for no reason other than it was the right thing to do.” Darrell A. Clay, 2017-18 CMBA President & Immediate Past President (Walter | Haverfield LLP)
- **Susan J. Becker** (Cleveland State University) & **Mario C. Ciano** (Reminger Co., LPA) received the Hon. William K. Thomas Professionalism Award, 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.”
- **Gabrielle T. Kelly** (Brouse McDowell) received the Justice for All Volunteer of the Year Award for exemplary service to the greater Cleveland community through the CMBA’s pro bono and public service programs.

2018-19 Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Officers:
President **Marlon A. Primes** (United States Attorney’s Office)
President-Elect **Ian N. Friedman** (Friedman & Nemecek, L.L.C.)
Vice President **Joseph N. Gross** (Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP)
Treasurer **Ann M. Caresani** (Tucker Ellis LLP)
Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion **Gregory G. Guice** (Reminger Co., L.P.A.)
Vice President of Membership **Ryan P. Nowlin** (Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP)
Secretary **Rebecca Ruppert McMahon** (CEO, CMBA)

In addition, the following distinguished legal and business professionals were honored:

- New class of CMBA members who have reached 50 and 65-years of practicing law.
- First Graduating Class of **CMBA Leadership Academy**.

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

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.

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