Bar Foundation Hosts 72nd Annual Public Servants Luncheon

CLEVELAND – AUGUST 2, 2018 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation (CMBF) will present the 72nd Annual Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Awards Luncheon on Friday, August 24 from 12:00 to 1:15 p.m. at the Westin Cleveland Downtown honoring 12 public servants whose commitment and dedication is an invaluable part of ensuring full access to the justice system.

Following tradition, city, county, state and federal courts and government agencies nominate eligible employees recognizing their outstanding service to the legal profession, general public, and the justice system. Criteria for the award includes long and faithful service, devotion to duty, wise counsel, unfailing patience, and assistance to the public and members of the Bench and Bar of Cuyahoga County.

The 2018 Honorees are:

- **Phyllis Burks**, Cleveland Municipal Court, Clerk’s Office
- **Melissa M. Cummings**, Cuyahoga County Probate Court
- **Charles E. Fleming**, Federal Public Defender’s Office
- **Maureen Gregory**, Office of the Chapter 13 Trustee
- **Elizabeth Heraghty**, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court
- **Kathleen Kilbane**, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas
- **Steve Kunsman**, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Clerk’s Office
- **Analee Leibowitz**, Shaker Heights Municipal Court
- **Renee Sykora**, U.S. Attorney’s Office
- **Jolan Vagi**, Cleveland Municipal Court
- **Damon Wright**, Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals, Eighth Appellate District
- **Etoi Shaquila Young**, Cleveland Municipal Court, Housing Court Division

"This joyful and uplifting event shines a spotlight on the unsung individuals who devote their careers to serving members of the public with patience, grace and dignity," said Stephanie Dutchess Trudeau, president of the CMBF. "Each of them has dedicated 20 or more years to working in our justice system, and they deserve our thanks and gratitude every day. It is my pleasure to recognize their dedication and commitment in a very special way at this fast-paced luncheon where you will enjoy an emotional roller coaster ride of amusing and appreciative anecdotes."

Stephanie’s appreciation for service runs deep as she is also a volunteer for the Legal Aid Brief Advice Clinic, a judge for the Ohio High School Mock Trial Competition, a judge for the American Mock Trial Association, and Cleveland Regional Undergraduate Mock Trial Tournament.

This event is open to the public and more information regarding the event, tickets or sponsorship, is available at 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:
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP
Calfee Halter & Griswold LLP
Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis
Thorman Petrov Group Co., LPA
Tucker Ellis LLP
Ulmer & Berne LLP
Hon. Diane J. Karpinski (retired)

*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.

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