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## **Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Participates in Pro Bono Week**

*Week of Activities Showcases and Honors Work Done by the Legal Community for Cleveland*

CLEVELAND – Oct. 16, 2009 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) will host a number of events and activities to celebrate Pro Bono Week. Events will be held throughout the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>, ending with the Halloween Bench-Bar Run for Justice on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Established by the American Bar Association (ABA), the largest voluntary professional association in the world, Pro Bono Week serves as a reminder of the needs in the community and allows the legal community to collectively serve and honor the pro bono work done throughout the year in our communities.

“We are very excited to embrace Pro Bono Week and raise awareness of the programs and services the legal community offers collectively to meet the needs in Cleveland,” said Mary K. Whitmer, president of the CMBA. “More than 1,500 lawyers volunteer their services to help those who cannot afford lawyers. We celebrate those volunteers, and we are looking to inspire others to follow their lead. It is our privilege to host events this week that cast a spotlight on the important service of these volunteer lawyers and the need for the pro bono work we do year round.”

In addition to events planned by the CMBA, organizations like The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland will host events throughout the week to serve the community.

“Our partnerships in the community, such as with Legal Aid, are important to helping us identify and meet the needs that exist,” added Whitmer. “Cleveland is the largest legal community in the state and that puts us in a good position to step outside our firms, courts and offices to serve the needs here in Cleveland.”

For more information and a full list of events, visit [www.clemetrobar.org](http://www.clemetrobar.org).

### **About the CMBA**

The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association is a nonprofit organization, operating as a center for legal professionalism in the region and promoting the highest ethical and professionalism standards. The CMBA has more than 6,000 members, with Cleveland being the largest legal community in the state. [www.clemetrobar.org](http://www.clemetrobar.org)

### **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 initiatives aimed at improving the pipeline of minority students entering the legal profession.  
[www.clemetrobar.org/Bar\\_Foundation/CMBF](http://www.clemetrobar.org/Bar_Foundation/CMBF).

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