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34 High School Teams Set to Compete at the 27th Annual Ohio Mock Trial Cuyahoga District Competition

CLEVELAND – February 4, 2010 –The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association will host the 27th Annual Ohio Mock Trial Cuyahoga District Competition this Friday, February 5 at the Justice Center in downtown Cleveland from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Hundreds of students representing 34 teams from 14 Northeast Ohio high schools will present their cases in the courtrooms of the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County and the Cleveland Municipal Court in two afternoon trials, beginning at 12:45 p.m. More than 50 volunteer judicial panelists – judges, magistrates and attorneys – will preside over the trials and score the event. The winners of both trials will advance to the Ohio Mock Trial Cuyahoga Regional Competition on February 26, 2010.

This year's fictional case asks whether a school may restrict students' off-campus online speech without violating their First Amendment rights. Each team has prepared to present both sides of the case in two trials at the District Competition. Students play the roles of attorneys, witnesses and bailiffs. Awards are presented in each trial to the "Outstanding Attorney" and "Outstanding Witness." The teams have been assisted by teachers and volunteer legal advisors. Trial #1 is set for 12:45 – 2:45 p.m. and Trial #2 is set for 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. An awards presentation will take place at the conclusion of both trials at approximately 5:30 p.m. The competition is open to the public and there will be an event information table in the Justice Center Atrium throughout the competition.

Participating high schools include: Beaumont School (Cleveland Heights), Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Cleveland Heights, Collinwood (Cleveland), Independence, Law & Leadership Institute (various students throughout the Cleveland Metropolitan School District), Mayfield, North Olmsted, Orange, Regina (South Euclid), Shaw (East Cleveland), Solon, Trinity (Garfield Heights), and University (Hunting Valley).

The Ohio Mock Trial program is conducted under the auspices of the Ohio Center for Law Related Education (OCLRE). The OCLRE is sponsored by the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio State Bar Association, Attorney General's Office and ACLU Foundation of Ohio. The Cuyahoga District Competition is sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, with funding support from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation. More information is available at <http://www.oclre.org/2010Districts/cuyahoga.htm>.

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. Learn more at www.clemetrobar.org.

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