

September 10, 2010

The Editor
The Plain Dealer
1801 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Editor,

In connection with its ongoing coverage of the county corruption scandal, The Plain Dealer's article "Who's Who: The Named or Implicated" regrettably included the names of several lawyers and judges.

This has prompted concerned citizens to ask why the local bar association has not been more proactive in addressing the issue of alleged misconduct by lawyers and/or judges. This is a fair question.

The public should be assured that the legal profession takes these matters seriously. Most members of the legal profession act professionally and ethically; sadly, a few exceptions can often taint the rest of the profession. All are required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct, governing lawyers; and the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct, governing judges.

If a lawyer or judge engages in illegal or unethical behavior and such behavior is brought to the attention of this Bar, a Certified Grievance Committee or Disciplinary Counsel investigates and prosecutes the alleged misconduct. When a lawyer or judge is convicted of a felony, he or she is subject to an immediate suspension from the practice of law by the Ohio Supreme Court.

As has been the case for decades, the organized bar will continue to play a vital role in policing the legal profession and vigorously protecting the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael N. Ungar, Esq.
President
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

David R. Watson, Esq.
Executive Director
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

NOTE TO EDITOR: MY NAME IS MELANIE LEKAN AND I AM THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO DAVID WATSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION. I AM SUBMITTING THIS ON HIS BEHALF AS WELL AS ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF OUR ORGANIZATION, MICHAEL UNGAR. IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK TO THEM DIRECTLY, WATSON'S CELL PHONE IS 216-571-5899 AND UNGAR'S CELL PHONE IS 216-978-9187. IF YOU NEED TO REACH ME, MY CELL PHONE IS 440-479-2703.