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## The City Club Friday Forum – Task Force on Judicial Excellence

### *October 1<sup>st</sup> Topic: “Why Good Judges Matter”*

CLEVELAND – Sept. 29, 2010 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association is pleased to announce its Task Force on Judicial Excellence, created in June, will be featured at The City Club’s Friday Forum on October 1 at 12:30 p.m.

The forum discussion will be timely, informative and forward-looking as it addresses how we can improve the quality of candidates seeking to become judges.

The speakers are Michael N. Ungar, CMBA president and partner at Ulmer & Berne LLP as well as task force co-chairs, James D. Robenalt of Thompson Hine LLP and Judge Timothy E. McMonagle of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

“Recent news has certainly brought the issue of good judges to the forefront,” said Ungar. “The importance of quality judges reaches far beyond those in the legal profession, and with elections upcoming, this forum comes at the perfect time to educate voters as they begin to look at the judicial candidates on the ballot now and in the future.”

Specifically, the CMBA’s bipartisan and diverse Task Force on Judicial Excellence was created by Ungar to address a number of questions he posed, including:

- Are we attracting the best qualified candidates to run for judge in Northeast Ohio?
- If not, why not? What are the root causes of the problem?
- Are we as an organized bar – with a vested interest in judicial excellence – taking appropriate measures to identify and encourage qualified candidates to run?
- What, realistically, can be done to address the problem? In light of current events, including sea–changes in the political landscape in Cuyahoga County, are there potential windows of opportunity for our bar association to work with the political parties in pursuit of these objectives?

“There is no doubt that over the years, a significant number of qualified and distinguished individuals have served and continue to serve as our judges. In fact, the vast majority of our judges serves with distinction”, said Ungar. “However, that has not been the case on an across-the-board basis, and the bar association, through this task force and working with others, has stepped forward to try to address the problem. We look forward to this panel and to discussing the issues facing us on this front.”

Reservations for the October 1 luncheon at The City Club of Cleveland, located at 850 Euclid Ave., can be made by phone (216-621-0082) or online at [www.cityclub.org](http://www.cityclub.org). Lunch will begin at 12 p.m. and the panel discussion starts at 12:30 p.m.

#### **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. Learn more at [www.clemetrobar.org](http://www.clemetrobar.org).

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