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## **Task Force on Judicial Excellence Holds Third Public Forum**

*Forum provides opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of a judicial rating system*

CLEVELAND – April 12, 2011 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) Task Force on Judicial Excellence will hold its third public forum this Thursday, April 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. at its first, non-legal location, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church at 7510 Woodland Avenue in Cleveland.

The discussion will center on the Judicial Candidates Rating Coalition, better known as Judge4Yourself.com. Established in 2001, Judge4Yourself has been interviewing and rating candidates in every election cycle and provides the voting public with information on the candidates and their qualifications to take on the important responsibilities of being a judge. The ratings group, comprised of the Norman S. Minor Bar Association, the Ohio Women's Bar Association, the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and the Criminal Defense Lawyers Bar Association, has worked well but not without some critics who would like to see changes in how it conducts its business.

This forum is meant to give critics and supporters alike the opportunity to interact with the Judge4Yourself leadership in a panel discussion setting sponsored by the CMBA's Task Force on Judicial Excellence. It will be an opportunity to find out more and to listen to a debate about the pros and cons of a rating system and how it might be improved and made more accessible to the voting public.

The forum will be open to the public for comment. To register for the upcoming forum or to learn more about the Task Force on Judicial Excellence, visit [www.tfoje.org](http://www.tfoje.org).

### **About the Task Force on Judicial Excellence**

Publicly launched in June 2010, the Task Force on Judicial Excellence is an initiative of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA). It is comprised of experienced local attorneys representing a wide spectrum of practices that will study the strengths and weaknesses of the system through which Ohioans elect their judges, and then recommend improvements. The Task Force's initial efforts will be directed at gathering information and ideas. Monthly public forums will explore current electoral practices and procedures and elicit suggestions on how we can improve on them. In addition, the Task Force will review articles and studies examining state models for judicial elections from across the country and interview academic, statehouse, and civic leaders who have crafted and participated in judicial election models in other states. After collecting as many perspectives as possible, the Task Force will present recommendations for ensuring the ongoing quality and stability of this critical third branch of government. For more information, please go to [www.tfoje.org](http://www.tfoje.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. Learn more at [www.clemetrobar.org](http://www.clemetrobar.org).

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