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CMBA Partners with OneCommunity's Green Computing Program

Recycling drive kicks off partnership to provide computers and technology assets to Northeast Ohio schools

CLEVELAND – April 20, 2011 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) has partnered with OneCommunity's Green Computing program to collect unwanted computers and technology equipment so it can be refurbished and distributed to Northeast Ohio schools.

The first co-sponsored event is a recycling drive on April 28 from 7 to 9:30 a.m. at the Galleria and Tower at Erieview at the East 12th Street entrance. For this event, the CMBA encourages attorneys and law firms to contribute unwanted computers, LCD monitors, printers and cell phones to OneCommunity. The recycling drive is one step toward helping OneCommunity collect several thousand computers needed by this June for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD).

The CMBA/OneCommunity partnership was coordinated by the CMBA's Green Initiative Committee (GIC) with a dual goal of reducing the amount of computer e-waste that goes to landfills – a serious and growing environmental problem – and addressing the computer needs of students. GIC chair Carter Strang calls the effort “a huge ‘win-win’ for the environment and our school children. It is great to see our attorneys and bar association helping to address both needs.”

Although today's students have grown up with technology and are instructionally motivated by digital learning, too many students still lack in-school access to technology because of budgetary restrictions. Recognizing that gap, OneCommunity developed its Green Computing program to provide refurbished computers to Northeast Ohio schools and, thereby, enable 21st-century learning.

Meeting the computer needs of the CMSD is a natural fit for the CMBA, which is now in the fifth year of its award-winning 3Rs program that puts 500 attorneys in CMSD classrooms each month to teach a law-based curriculum and provide career counseling. CMBA attorneys also coach CMSD students to compete in the Mock Trial Competitions.

The CMBA's GIC promotes environmentally responsible practices through its Green Certification program, through which 44 law firms and offices are “CMBA Green Certified.” It also created a “Carbon Footprint Calculator” for law firms/offices to calculate their carbon footprint, and the GIC gives an annual “Green Innovation Award” to the law firm/office with the most innovative environmental program.

Law firms/offices that donate computers and other e-technology through the CMBA/OneCommunity's Green Computing program will be recognized by the CMBA at its Third Annual David Webster Greener Way to Work Day Luncheon on September 23, 2011.

For more information about donating, visit www.onecommunity.org/green-computing. For more information about the CMBA Green Initiative Committee visit www.clemetrobar.org/committees.

About the CMBA

The nonprofit Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association operates as a center for legal professionalism in the region, promoting the highest ethical and professional standards. Serving the largest legal community in the state, the CMBA has more than 5,500 members. Learn more at www.clemetrobar.org.

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