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ABA President Coming to Cleveland for Law Day Program May 6

Stephen N. Zack to Focus on Civics Education for The City Club's Friday Forum

CLEVELAND – April 26, 2011 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association will welcome American Bar Association (ABA) President Stephen N. Zack for its annual Law Day program at The City Club of Cleveland on May 6 at noon. The focus of the 2011 Law Day program will be civics education.

Under Zack's leadership, the ABA has brought national attention to the critical importance of civics education. Similarly, the CMBA's 3Rs (Rights, Responsibilities, Realities) program has been a national, volunteer-driven model for civic engagement in urban high schools among bar association nationwide. It is this connection to The 3Rs that brings ABA President Zack to Cleveland.

Commenting on the civics education, Stephen Zack said, "Today there is significantly less understanding and appreciation of our Constitution and its role in preserving freedom. Civic education courses have become electives in some schools; at others, they are not offered at all. We are producing a generation of citizens who are ill-equipped to govern themselves as participants in our democracy. We must do better."

Michael N. Ungar, president of the CMBA, said, "We are thrilled to have Stephen Zack as our speaker for Law Day. His decision to come to Cleveland is a real tribute to the success and importance of programs like The 3Rs and the dedication of our volunteers."

The 3Rs is a unique program focused on the U.S. Constitution and career counseling. It offers 10th graders an opportunity to better prepare for life, work, higher education and citizenship. In its first five years, The 3Rs program has reached 20,000 students in the resource-challenged Cleveland and East Cleveland schools. Each year, more than 500 lawyers, judges and law students volunteer in the classrooms, helping contribute to a 31% increase in the passage rates on the social studies section of the Ohio Graduation Test.

Zack is the first Hispanic American to hold the distinction of ABA President. He also was named to the Hispanic Business Magazine's 2010 list of the 100 Top Influential Hispanics and named the Hispanic National Bar Association's 2010 Latino Lawyer of the Year. His full bio is available at <http://www.abanow.org/reporter-resources/officer-bios/stephen-n-zack-biography/>

Reservations for the May 6 Friday Forum 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. Lunch will begin at 12 p.m. and the program starts at 12:30 p.m.

About Law Day

Established nationally in 1958, Law Day focuses on educating the public on the critical role law plays in society. In partnership with The City Club of Cleveland, the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation funds an annual luncheon to commemorate Law Day and address a topic of profound national significance.

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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