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43 High School Teams to Compete at the 30th Annual Ohio Mock Trial Cuyahoga District Competition on Friday

CLEVELAND – February 7, 2013 –The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association will host the 30th Annual Ohio Mock Trial Cuyahoga District Competition this Friday, February 8 at the Justice Center in downtown Cleveland from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Hundreds of students representing 43 teams from 16 Northeast Ohio high schools will present their cases in the courtrooms of the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County and the Cleveland Municipal Court in two afternoon trials, beginning at 12:45 p.m. More than 60 volunteer judicial panelists – judges, magistrates and attorneys – will preside over the trials and score the event. The winners of both trials will advance to the Ohio Mock Trial Cuyahoga Regional Competition on February 22, 2013.

This year's fictional case asks whether a police violated the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment rights of a 15-year-old student when they obtained a statement claiming responsibility for a fire at the high school that caused the death of a maintenance worker. Each team has prepared to present both sides of the case in two trials at the District Competition. Students play the roles of attorneys, witnesses and bailiffs. Awards are presented in each trial to the "Outstanding Attorney" and "Outstanding Witness." The teams have been assisted by teachers and volunteer legal advisors. Trial #1 is set for 12:45 – 2:45 p.m. and Trial #2 is set for 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. An awards presentation will take place at the conclusion of both trials at approximately 5:30 p.m. The competition is open to the public and there will be an event information table in the Justice Center Atrium throughout the competition.

Participating high schools include: Beaumont (Cleveland Heights), Benedictine (Woodland Hills), Brecksville Broadview Heights, Charles F. Brush (South Euclid/Lyndhurst), Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Mayfield, North Olmsted, Orange, Padua Franciscan (Parma), Shaw (East Cleveland), Solon, St. Edward (Lakewood), Strongsville, University (Hunting Valley), and Walsh Jesuit (Cuyahoga Falls).

The Ohio Mock Trial program is conducted under the auspices of the Ohio Center for Law Related Education (OCLRE). The OCLRE is sponsored by the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio State Bar Association, Attorney General's Office and ACLU Foundation of Ohio. The Cuyahoga District Competition is sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, with funding support from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation. More information is available at www.clemetrobar.org/OhioMockTrial.

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 5,400 members. Learn more at www.clemetrobar.org.

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