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Louis Stokes Scholars Program Named Best New Internship at 2013 Expys Awards Luncheon

CLEVELAND – March 21, 2013 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) is proud to announce that its Louis Stokes Scholars Program was named as the Best New Internship at yesterday's 2013 Expys Awards, presented by the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE) and CBC Magazine.

Chosen from five finalists, the [Louis Stokes Scholars Program](#) was launched as a pipeline diversity and inclusion initiative. The goal was to encourage college students who are graduates of the Cleveland and East Cleveland school districts to consider a career in law by engaging them in paid summer legal internships at law firms, courts and legal nonprofits. In addition to their work assignments, interns participated in field trips and programs to increase their understanding of the legal system, improve their writing skills and engage them in networking opportunities. Scholars were paired with an attorney mentor to guide them through the summer program and continue to mentor them upon their return to college.

"I am thrilled that the Stokes Scholars received this award. It is a testament to the hard work of the program co-chairs, CMBA staff, the Stokes Scholars and the Stokes Mentors," said CMBA President Carter Strang. "We are looking forward to an even bigger and better internship experience for our next class of Stokes Scholars this summer."

The Stokes Scholars program is co-chaired by Anne Owings Ford of McDonald Hopkins LLC and Ayesha Hardaway of Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Funding was provided by a broad spectrum of individuals, firms, foundations and entities, including the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation. NOCHE and College Now assisted in recruiting applicants.

The program is named after Louis Stokes, former Congressman, Cleveland Metropolitan School District graduate, civil rights advocate and distinguished attorney who has actively participated in the program.

Learn more about the program visit http://www.clemetrobar.org/Stokes_Scholars. To read more about The Expys, visit <http://noche.org/361>.

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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