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Task Force on Judicial Excellence Issues Report and Recommendations

CLEVELAND – November 1, 2013 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) Task Force on Judicial Excellence today released its final report and recommendations. The report is available at www.tfoje.org and www.clemetrobar.org.

Created in 2010, Task Force on Judicial Excellence (TFOJE) was tasked with studying the process for selecting judges in state courts. Chaired by James Robenalt of Thompson Hine LLP and retired Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Judge Tim McMonagle, the task force was comprised of a group of bar leaders from various backgrounds. Specifically, the TFOJE was asked to address the following questions:

- Are we attracting the best qualified candidates to run for judge in Northeast Ohio?
- If not, why not?
- What are the root causes of the problem?
- Are we as an organized bar – with a vested interest in judicial excellence – taking appropriate measures to identify and encourage qualified candidates to run?

After years of extensive work, study and public meetings, the Task Force issued a report and recommendations to the CMBA's Board of Trustees. While the task force report and recommendations represent the views of the Task Force and its members only, and not those of the CMBA, the Task Force report contains a set of ideas for discussion and consideration by everyone concerned with ensuring an outstanding judiciary.

In addition, the CMBA invites its members and the public to provide comments and observations through an online comment form at <http://tinyurl.com/TFOJE>.

"In Cleveland, our legal community has a great tradition of finding the positive, emphasizing the good, crafting creative solutions to difficult problems, and reminding us of the genius of our democracy," said Jonathan Leiken, president of the CMBA. "On behalf of our bar association, we thank the dedicated and talented members of the TFOJE for their considerable time and effort, and for providing recommendations for consideration and discussion. We invite CMBA members and the public at large to share your comments on the Task Force's recommendations at <http://tinyurl.com/TFOJE>, and to join us at an upcoming forum (to be scheduled in December) to discuss the recommendations with the Task Force members."

For more information on the TFOJE and a complete list of TFOJE members, visit www.tfoje.org.

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 nearly 6,000 members. Learn more at www.clemetrobar.org.

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