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Louis Stokes Scholars Program Wins Outstanding Program Award

CLEVELAND – November 20, 2014 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) is proud to announce that its Louis Stokes Scholars Program was honored with the Outstanding Program Award at the Ohio State Bar Foundation's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner on November 7.

Each year, the OSBF's Outstanding Program Award is given to a program that promotes the dissemination of legal information or generates improvements in the Ohio justice system.

The [Louis Stokes Scholars Program](#) was launched in 2012 as a pipeline diversity and inclusion initiative. This program for undergraduates serves as a link between the CMBA's diversity and inclusion programs available to high school students – like The 3Rs, mock trial competitions and the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Legal Academy – and the Minority Clerkship Program available for law students.

The program provides college students who are graduates of the Cleveland and East Cleveland school districts and are considering a career in law with a 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.

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. The Stokes Scholars program is co-chaired by Ashley M. Edwards of URS Corporation and Ayesha Hardaway of Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

The Stokes Scholars Program was recognized in 2013 with the Expys Best New Internship Award (<http://noche.org/361>) and the 2013 National Association of Bar Executive's LexisNexis Community and Educational Outreach Award.

Learn more about the program visit http://www.clemetrobar.org/Stokes_Scholars.

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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