



Contact:
Rita Klein
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
216-539-3713
rklein@clemetrobar.org

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Names New Executive Director

CLEVELAND – December 19, 2014 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) announced that Rebecca Ruppert McMahon of Avon Lake, Ohio has been chosen as the new executive director of the CMBA and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation (CMBF).

McMahon said, “As both a Cleveland lawyer and a long term member of the CMBA, I am delighted to be joining an incredibly talented staff that works so diligently to promote our exceptional legal community.”

McMahon was approved by unanimous votes of the CMBA and CMBF Boards of Trustees this week and will start in early January. She replaces former Executive Director David R. Watson, who resigned in July to become executive director of the New York State Bar Association. Mary C. Groth, director of development and community programs, and Alla Leydiker, chief financial officer, served as co-interim directors for the past five months.

“Becky has been active in our local legal community for years and we look forward to capitalizing on her familiarity, energy and expertise for this role,” said Bruce G. Hearey, president of the CMBA. “A career-long CMBA member, she has served in many leadership roles as a volunteer. We believe she can quickly transition into the role and then leverage her talent and management experience to help the CMBA meet new goals.”

A 15-member search committee was tasked with finding the new executive director. That committee – with input from trustees, past presidents of the association, firm managing partners, judges, the CMBA staff and a third-party consultant – submitted its final recommendation to both boards of trustees for approval.

“It was critical that we took the necessary time and steps to select the right candidate,” added Hearey. “The CMBA recently relocated into new space inside One Cleveland Center, positioning us to serve our members and community like never before. As executive director, Becky will be taking advantage of this and other great opportunities available to us that will strengthen this organization and bring additional value to our members.”

In addition to serving as executive director of the CMBA, McMahon also will serve as executive director of the Bar Foundation. The CMBF, a separate 501(c)3, is the charitable arm and partner of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. It raises funds to support the important public outreach activities of the Association, which are organized primarily under the Justice For All umbrella. These activities include a variety of pro bono legal service, law-related education, tutoring and mentoring programs. Additionally, the CMBF assists the Association’s diversity and inclusion initiatives aimed at improving the pipeline of minority students entering the legal profession.

- continued -

Admitted to the bar in 1993, McMahon is a graduate of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and Smith College. She currently serves on the Boards of Directors for First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Lakewood and Lake Ridge Academy. Previously, she spent three years as general counsel for Cuyahoga Community College, where she provided advice and guidance on a variety of matters. Prior to joining the College, she served as deputy general counsel at KeyBank National Association, where she led the litigation and employee relations practice groups. Additionally, in the early part of her legal career, McMahon worked as an associate at Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP, as a law clerk for Ohio Supreme Court Justice Alice Robie Resnick, and as an assistant attorney general with the Office of the Ohio Attorney General.

McMahon said, "Through the engagement of nearly 6,000 lawyers, judges, law students, paralegals and other dedicated individuals, the CMBA and CMBF strive daily to improve the quality of and public trust in both the legal profession and our system of justice. I am profoundly honored to have the opportunity to lead organizations that in both word and deed advocate for the rule of law, integrity, community service and access to justice."

She resides in Avon Lake with her husband, Ron, and their daughter, Natalie.

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.

###