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CMBA Bestows Awards at Annual Meeting

CLEVELAND – June 5, 2015 – Today the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) announced and honored its 2015 award recipients at its annual meeting and inaugural luncheon held at Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center.

At the luncheon, the following awards were bestowed:

The Honorable William K. Thomas Professionalism Award

Established in 2001 and named for the late Judge William K. Thomas, the Professionalism Award is annually given to a lawyer or judge who has significantly contributed to the enhancement of professionalism in the Greater Cleveland legal community by exemplifying the goals of the Ohio Supreme Court's "Lawyer's Creed" and "Aspirational Ideals." This year, the selection committee for the award chose to honor Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court **Judge Michael P. Donnelly**.

Among his many accomplishments, Judge Donnelly has served on and chaired the Supreme Court of Ohio's Commission on Professionalism and also participated in a national two year leadership and management initiative after being identified as a "Justice System Leader of Tomorrow." With the CMBA, he has co-chaired the Task Force on Civility & Professionalism and spearheaded the creation of a series of interactive continuing legal education programs on professionalism that are being widely lauded by the participants as the finest CLE programs on professionalism they have ever attended. He serves as Chairman of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court's Civil Rules Committee and as a trustee for the Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.

Justice for All Volunteer of the Year Award

The Justice for All (JFA) Committee serves as the oversight committee to coordinate and support the CMBA's pro bono and public service programs. It annually recognizes a volunteer for his/her outstanding service to the profession and community. This year, the **Honorable Dan Aaron Polster**, United States District Court, was named the 2015 JFA Volunteer of the Year Award for his exemplary service and outreach to the youth in our community.

Judge Polster has been a dedicated volunteer in The 3Rs program since its inception, serving as a team captain for each of the 9 years. He has served on The 3Rs Committee and is co-chair of the Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee, reaching out to new volunteers and ensuring that they remain committed to the program. In addition, Judge Polster volunteers time to the Louis Stokes Scholars Program. Each summer, he welcomes the Scholars to his courtroom to observe a court proceeding, followed by lengthy sessions in which he personally engages with them in discussions about the justice system and careers in the law. In the words of Stokes Scholars, "Judge Polster makes the law come to life by sharing his knowledge and experience with us in such a personal way."

Roger S. Aaron Award

Created in 2013, this award recognizes Cleveland natives who have made great contributions in the legal profession beyond Cleveland's borders – all with the idea of connecting Cleveland's lawyers to the larger Cleveland community around the world. The CMBA is proud to announce **Judge Kathleen McDonald O'Malley**, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington D.C., as the 2015 Roger S. Aaron Award recipient.

Judge O'Malley has her career rooted in Northeast Ohio, growing up in Richmond Heights and attending Regina High School. She received her undergrad degree from Kenyon College and her J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1982. A highly respected litigator at Jones Day and Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, she quickly advanced from a position as chief counsel to the Ohio Attorney General

to being nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio by former President Bill Clinton in 1994. She continued to impress on the bench, and was elevated to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit by President Barack Obama in 2010.

“When nominating her to the D.C. Circuit,” Bruce Hearey, outgoing CMBA president, said, “the President described her as ‘having an unwavering commitment to fairness and judicial integrity’. While we were sad to lose Judge O’Malley in 2010, we are very pleased to note her many accomplishments elsewhere, bringing reflected honor on the area of her roots.”

President’s Award

Each year, the outgoing president bestows this award to one or more individuals for exceptional service to the Bar and our community. Bruce G. Hearey of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.– the CMBA outgoing president – selected **Hugh E. McKay**, Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP and **Ginger F. Mlakar**, The Cleveland Foundation as the recipients.

“Hugh and Ginger have for years shown their selfless and tireless commitment to the profession, the Bar Association and the Greater Cleveland community,” said Bruce Hearey, outgoing president of the CMBA. “Furthermore, their remarkable successes on the recent Fellows and Endowment campaigns of our Bar Foundation speak volumes about their capabilities to lead by doing and to inspire others. As lawyers, we are passionate about making positive difference for our clients, peers, profession and community. It is a privilege for me, as one of my last acts as CMBA President, to recognize Hugh and Ginger for embodying our profession’s highest ideals and for inspiring so many of us.”

The Annual Meeting also included the introduction of new CMBA leaders. The 2015-2016 officers will be: President **Anne Owings Ford**; President-Elect **Richard D. Manoloff** (Squire Patton Boggs); Vice-President **Darrell A. Clay** (Walter I Haverfield LLP); Treasurer **Joseph N. Gross** (Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP); Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion **Majeed G. Makhlof** (Berns, Ockner & Greenberger, LLC); Vice President of Membership **R. Scott Heasley** (Chernett Wasserman, LLC); and Secretary **Rebecca Ruppert McMahon**, Executive Director (CMBA).

In addition, six new CMBA Board Trustees will be introduced and will each serve a three-year term, ending at the 2018 CMBA Annual Meeting. The new trustees are: **Komlavi Atsou** (Cavitch, Familo & Durkin Co., LPA); **Marcel C. Duhamel** (Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP); **Harlan D. Karp** (Harlan D. Karp, Ltd.); **Raymond Krncevic** (University Hospitals Health System, Inc.); **Irene A. Rennillo** (Stephanoff Rennillo LLC) and **Hon. Brendan J. Sheehan** (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas).

The CMBA thanks the sponsors supporting this year’s annual meeting. **Platinum:** All Covered Inc. a Division of Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA Inc.; Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.; Walter | Haverfield LLP; **Gold:** Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP; Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association; Maloney Novotny; Oswald Companies; Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP; Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP; Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP; Ulmer & Berne LLP; **Silver:** Cady Reporting Services, Inc.; Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP; Case Western Reserve University, School of Law; Gallagher Sharp; Stephanoff Renillo LLC; Thompson Hine LLP; **Table Sponsors:** Applied Business Strategy LLC; BakerHostetler LLP; Buckley King; Carlisle McNellie Rini Kramer & Ulrich Co., LPA; Cavitch, Familo & Durkin Co., LPA; Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.; Diebold, Inc.; Frantz Ward LLP; Giffen & Kaminski, LLC; Kadish, Hinkel & Weibel; Kohrman Jackson & Krantz PLL; McDonald Hopkins LLC; Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis; Nurenberg, Paris, Heller & McCarthy Co., L.P.A.; Reminger Co., L.P.A.; Roetzel & Andress, LPA; Spangenberg, Shibley & Liber LLP; Tucker Ellis LLP and Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP.

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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