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Mary Groth Receives High Honor from the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education

CLEVELAND – September 22, 2015 – The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) is proud to announce that Mary Groth, the CMBA's director of development & community programs, received the 2015 Founders' Award from the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education's (OCLRE) at the annual Law & Citizenship Conference on Monday, Sept. 21 in Columbus.

One of the highest honors bestowed by the OCLRE, the annual Founders' Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the ideals and growth of law-related education. Like the OCLRE founders, for whom this award is named, recipients are visionaries who have devoted their time and talent to develop and support programs that engage students in learning about and value the rule of law, democracy and, most importantly, the importance of civic responsibility.

"As a lawyer with a passion for law-related education, I am very honored to be recognized by the OCLRE for this important cause – promoting law and citizenship education," said Mary Groth. "From my own career experience, I can attest that 'magic happens' in strong partnerships between the legal community and the education community. Who is better suited to provide first-hand information and share their knowledge and experience in the classroom or in the mock trial practice room than lawyers and judges? I am humbled by this award and am pleased to help facilitate the relationships formed between volunteer lawyers and teachers to benefit students and improve their understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities."

Groth was jointly nominated by Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation President Hugh McKay and CMBA Executive Director Rebecca Ruppert McMahon.

"Mary truly stands as an inspiration to all those who work in the community engagement space," said McMahon. "Her work and commitment are tremendous. Absent Mary's commitment to public outreach, her engagement of a broad spectrum of stakeholders and volunteers, and her passion for changing lives one person at a time, the CMBA would not have accomplished all that it has."

"One of Mary's greatest strengths is analyzing unmet needs in the community, and then working both creatively and collaboratively to build lasting, impactful solutions," wrote McKay. "Our Association, Foundation and Community are forever changed for the better because of Mary's passion for civic engagement and education, self-improvement, and crating access to justice for all."

About the OCLRE's Founders' Award

The Founders' Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the ideals and growth of law-related education and the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education. Those nominated for the award must have shown leadership as a volunteer or supporter of law-related programs for Ohio's students, and consideration was given to candidates who have worked to develop citizens empowered with an understanding of democratic principles. Candidates must also have demonstrated an ability to provide quality service to educators or have contributed to the development of excellent programming in the area of law and citizenship.

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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