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## **Bail and Bond Review Steering Committee Announces Selection of Subcommittee Co-chairs**

CLEVELAND – August 5, 2016 – The Bail and Bond Review Steering Committee announced today the selection of co-chairs for each of the four subcommittees that will conduct a thorough review of the bail and bond system in Cuyahoga County. The Steering Committee, created in June by Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Administrative and Presiding Judge John J. Russo, has been charged with leading the bail/bond review.

“I am so pleased that the Steering Committee was able to identify such a strong group of leaders, and ahead of their proposed schedule,” said Judge Russo. “Their selections show a tremendous amount of thoughtfulness and reflect the value being placed on the work to be done for our community.”

The Steering Committee, comprised of Richard D. Manoloff, president of the CMBA; Rebecca Ruppert McMahon, executive director of the CMBA; Jessica Berg and Michael Scharf, co-deans of the Case Western Reserve University School of Law; and Lee Fisher, dean of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, named the following leaders for each subcommittee:

1. **Jurisdictional Comparison Subcommittee** – co-chaired by Jonathan Witmer-Rich, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; and Nailah Byrd, Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts
2. **Policy and Procedure Subcommittee** – co-chaired by Michael J. Benza, Case Western Reserve University School of Law; and Jay Milano, Milano Attorneys At Law
3. **Arrest to Arraignment Subcommittee** – co-chaired by Peggy Foley Jones, Giffen & Kaminski, LLC; and Carmen Naso, Case Western Reserve University School of Law
4. **Social and Financial Impact Subcommittee** – co-chaired by Mary Jane Trapp, Thrasher Dinsmore & Dolan LPA; and Lewis R. Katz, Case Western Reserve University School of Law

“The critical work of these subcommittees will be to gather reliable data from which the Cuyahoga County courts will be able to evaluate opportunities for improvement and/or change within Cuyahoga County’s system,” said Rebecca Ruppert McMahon, spokesperson for the Steering Committee.

Together, the Steering Committee and designated co-chairs will now move forward to complete the organizational phase of the initiative by finalizing the composition of the subcommittees and developing a framework for the subcommittees’ future work. Once the organizational phase has been completed, which is targeted for early September, the subcommittees will then proceed with conducting the substantive work with which they are charged.

The areas of focus for each subcommittee are:

1. Jurisdictional Comparison Subcommittee is charged with:
  - a. Comparing Cuyahoga County to similar jurisdictions and practices locally, statewide and nationally;
  - b. Reviewing and comparing the process of setting misdemeanor and felony bonds by the Municipal Courts in Cuyahoga County; and
  - c. Reviewing federal, state and local laws.

2. Policy and Procedure Subcommittee is charged with:
  - a. Documenting the utilization of pretrial services and screening tools in the Municipal and Common Pleas courts (likely to involve collaboration and coordination with the Jurisdictional Comparison Subcommittee on 1c above);
  - b. Reviewing access to counsel during bond setting in all courts;
  - c. Evaluating the bond and booking process from Municipal Court to Common Pleas Court;
  - d. Reviewing the felony bind over process from the Municipal Courts to the Common Pleas Court; and
  - e. Reviewing a pilot project that will be going forward in the Cleveland Municipal Court which will involve the use of a risk assessment tool designed to gauge a defendant's risk of committing crimes if released after arrest and/or of failing to appear in court.
3. Arrest to Arraignment Subcommittee is charged with:
  - a. Documenting each step in the arrest to arraignment process in Cuyahoga County; and
  - b. Comparing the arrest to arraignment process in Cuyahoga County with similar jurisdictions.
4. Social and Financial Impact Subcommittee is charged with:
  - a. Analyzing the social and economic impact of the current arrest to trial system on defendants and case outcomes;
  - b. Determining the actual daily fixed costs for inmates in the municipal jails and the Cuyahoga County Jail; and
  - c. Determining the cost of implementing potential changes in Cuyahoga County based on different national models (funding, technical needs, staffing, etc.).

The Steering Committee and Co-Chairs will periodically conduct update meetings for key stakeholders and the general public, with the first such update planned for late October.

**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](http://www.CleMetroBar.org).

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