

F.A.Q.



FOUNDATION ANSWERS *your* QUESTIONS

1 WHAT IS THE CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN BAR FOUNDATION (CMBF OR BAR FOUNDATION) AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO THE CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN BAR ASSOCIATION (CMBA OR ASSOCIATION)?

The CMBF is a leading law-related, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The CMBF, which has origins dating back more than 50 years, is the charitable arm of the Association.

2 WHAT IS THE MISSION AND PURPOSE OF THE CMBF?

The Bar Foundation's mission is to be the fundraising vehicle that allows CMBA members to provide outstanding programs and initiatives that serve the Cleveland metropolitan community, promote pro bono legal assistance, and advance public law-related education.

More specifically, its purpose is to raise money to fund programs that serve the general community by providing (1) law-related public education and increase public understanding of the law and justice system; (2) pro bono legal services to indigent and low-income individuals and families, as well as income-eligible artists and arts organizations and other nonprofit organizations serving the community (with missions focused on education and social services); and (3) mentoring, tutoring and career counseling to disadvantaged students in the resource-challenged Cleveland Metropolitan and East Cleveland city schools.

3 HOW DOES THE CMBF FULFILL ITS MISSION?

The CMBF accomplishes its mission by seeking and securing financial support for the programs it funds from individuals and organizations, both within and outside of the legal community, and encouraging CMBA members and the entire legal community to donate their time, talents and expertise in service to the public.

4 WHAT PROGRAMS DOES THE CMBF SUPPORT?

The CMBF funds outreach programs that are organized primarily under the Justice For All and Diversity & Inclusion umbrellas of the CMBA. Those programs currently include:

- The 3Rs: Rights. Responsibilities. Realities
- The 3Rs+
- Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance Program
- High School Mock Trial Competitions
- Pro Se Divorce Clinics
- Reach Out Pro Bono for Nonprofits
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
- Law Day
- Louis Stokes Scholars Program
- Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Legal Academy

HOW DOES THE CMBF RAISE MONEY?

The CMBF relies almost entirely on financial support from individuals, law firms and other organizations, within and outside of the legal community, through special events, donations, grants and the Endowment Fund Campaign.

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Annual Support from CMBA Members

Each year, members of the CMBA have the opportunity to show their support for the CMBF when they renew their CMBA membership by making a "check off" contribution of \$25. The availability of this donation vehicle ensures that every lawyer active in the CMBA has the opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to the CMBF. The CMBF also is an eligible United Way recipient to which contributions may be designated.

Special Events

The CMBF hosts three major fundraisers annually. Rock the Foundation is a casual rock 'n' roll party typically held in March where lawyers and leaders in the community enjoy an evening of live music, great food, networking and entertainment. Each fall, the CMBF honors select, exceptional staff of the courts at the Franklin A. Polk Public Servants Merit Awards Luncheon. In October, the CMBF hosts one of the best, family-oriented road races in Northeast Ohio, the Halloween Run for Justice. Money is raised by these events through the generous support of sponsors, as well as through individual ticket sales/registrations.

Founding Fellows

Individuals, firms, and corporations making gifts of \$50,000 or more join a distinguished group of Founding Fellows. The gifts grow the Endowment Fund and form the foundation for future program support.

Fellows

Members of the CMBA and leaders in the community can demonstrate a commitment to the CMBF by becoming a Fellow. Through participation in the Fellows Program, individual lawyers and friends of the legal community make a pledge that will help secure the future of the Justice For All programs. Fellows pledge \$2,500 (\$250 per year for ten years) or \$2,350 in one lump sum payment. Fellows can continue their support after completing their original pledges by becoming Silver or Gold Level Fellows, with gifts totaling \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively. The money contributed by Fellows funds the endowment to ensure that the CMBA is poised to support future programs and pro bono efforts.

Legacy Fellows and Planned Giving

The Legacy Fellows Program is a way for an individual to support the CMBF through a future gift in their estate plan. Such gifts will help secure the charitable outreach programs of the CMBA for generations to come.

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ARE CONTRIBUTIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

The Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (Tax ID: 34-1671726). While contributions may be tax deductible, please contact a tax advisor regarding individual circumstances.

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HOW WILL CONTRIBUTIONS BE DIRECTED?

Gifts can be made to benefit general operations, unspecified programs, designated programs and/or the Endowment Fund.

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DOES THE CMBF PROVIDE GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?

No. The CMBF is a supporting organization of the CMBA and, at this point, CMBF funds support programs and projects conducted by the CMBA that are in line with the CMBF's mission.

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HOW DO I GET INVOLVED WITH ONE OF THE PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE CMBF?

There are countless volunteer opportunities available to CMBA members and others who wish to be involved. These opportunities range from small group tutorial sessions with Cleveland and East Cleveland high school students through The 3Rs program to volunteering time to field legal questions at a homeless shelter. If you are interested in finding out more about our programs, please contact Jessica Paine at 216-696-3525. To get involved in fundraising or one of the fundraising events, please contact Mary Groth who will assist in matching you with an area of need. Alternatively, please visit www.clemetrobar.org/foundation to learn more.

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WHO RUNS THE CMBF?

The Board of Trustees of the CMBF manages all fundraising activities of the CMBF, and provides direction for future funding and stability. The Board is comprised of more than 30 leading lawyers, committed business partners from the Greater Cleveland community, as well as designated community, non-lawyer individuals. Administratively, the CMBF is overseen by the Executive Director of the CMBA and receives staffing and administrative support from the CMBA. The CMBA President sits as an ex-officio member of the CMBF Board of Trustees and the CMBA Board of Trustees elects the officers and trustees.