



AN EXCELLENT AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY LEADER

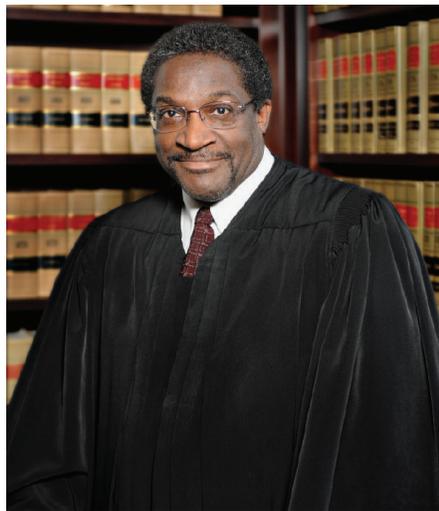
Patrick J. Krebs

For the past several years, the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation (CMBF) has publicly recognized a member of our community with our highest honor, the Richard W. Pogue Award for Excellence in Community Leadership and Engagement. This year's recipient is Judge Solomon Oliver, Jr. Judge Oliver's life story is a truly remarkable one, and his service as a federal judge is long and distinguished. I encourage everyone to do a quick internet search to learn more about Judge Oliver's inspiring journey, from growing up in Bessemer, Alabama in the segregated South to becoming the Chief Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Although Judge Oliver would be deserving of the Pogue Award based solely on his 25 years of outstanding judicial service, we are also recognizing him for his significant engagement in the Cleveland Bar. Judge Oliver's many contributions include volunteering with a variety of Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) programs funded by the CMBF, including several pipeline programs designed to connect students to mentors, resources, and practical experiences that help them succeed in achieving their education and career goals. Those diversity pipeline programs, which start in high school and continue through college and law school, are making a real difference in the lives of thousands of students each year with the help of people like Judge Oliver.

The 3Rs Program — Rights, Realities and Responsibilities — connects lawyers, judges, law students, and paralegals with 11th grade high school students in Cleveland and East Cleveland schools through a series of in-person lessons designed to help foster an understanding and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution, as well as share important information about how students can achieve their goals beyond high school. For more than a decade, Judge Oliver has welcomed 3Rs students into his

courtroom to meet with and hear from Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Federal Public Defenders, and special agents from both the U.S. Marshals Service and the FBI. Following mock charges and an arrest by the respective agencies, students put on a suppression hearing before Judge Oliver, who issues rulings and provides a judicial perspective of what is involved in reaching a decision. He also spends time talking with the students about the importance of education and working diligently in pursuit of their individual goals.



The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Legal Academy introduces high school students to the legal profession through hands-on experiences. Judge Oliver has regularly served as a guest faculty member, sharing his insights and wisdom, and challenging and inspiring students to take an aggressive role in charting their future career paths.

The Louis Stokes Scholars Program enables college students, graduates of Cleveland and East Cleveland public high schools, interested in ca-

reers in the law, to participate in paid summer legal internships with Cleveland courts, law firms, and legal nonprofits. Each year, Judge Oliver invites Stokes Scholars to his courtroom to observe proceedings, and then to spend time engaged in discussions about the justice system, the path to becoming a federal judge, and the individual students' goals for the future. He also serves as a mentor to several Stokes Scholar Alumni.

Judge Oliver's distinguished service on the federal bench and his unwavering support for the CMBF's pipeline programs serve as a shining example for all of us in the Cleveland legal community. Judge Oliver received the Pogue Award on February 8th at Rock the Foundation 15. Please join me in thanking him for all of the work he has done to positively impact the lives of so many people in our community.

In closing, the CMBF could not achieve its mission of giving back to those in need in our community without the tireless work of volunteers like Judge Oliver and the generous support of many sponsors, donors, and fellows. We recognized all of our volunteers, sponsors, donors, and fellows at Rock the Foundation 15 on February 8th, but I wanted to give special mention in this column to our friends at Huntington National Bank. Over the years, Huntington has been steadfast in its financial support of the CMBF, our programs, and our mission. Thank you Huntington for your help in giving back to the City we love!

Patrick Krebs is a partner in the Cleveland office of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP and is a member of the Litigation, Public Law, and Sports Law practice groups. He is the 2019-2020 President of the CMBF, a Fellow of the Foundation, and a CMBA member. He can be reached at (216) 706-3867 or pkrebs@taftlaw.com.