



# A FOUNDATION OF FELLOWS

Patrick J. Krebs

Perhaps you attended the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation's (CMBF) Public Servants Merit Award luncheon in September and you experienced the goodwill and positive energy that event generates. Maybe you took part in the CMBF's Halloween Run for Justice in October and you felt the sense of comradery and shared purpose that comes with running with your colleagues to support those in need in our community. Or maybe you are one of the volunteer lawyers who is getting ready to start another year of the 3Rs Program in November and you have witnessed first-hand the difference that program makes in the lives of the students we help. Whatever the case may be, you want to do more to support the CMBF but aren't quite sure how. I have the answer for you — consider becoming a CMBF Fellow.

Fellow status is an honor bestowed on a select group of Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) members who have demonstrated professional excellence, the highest standards of integrity, and a commitment to the advancement of justice in the greater Cleveland community. Both lawyers and business professionals who

meet these criteria are eligible. Lawyer nominees must be admitted to practice for at least 10 years, while other business professional nominees must have an equivalent level of experience. To become a Fellow, the member must be nominated by a CMBA member and receive the approval of the CMBF and CMBA Boards. In addition to being recognized as a Fellow in CMBA publications, Fellows are also provided with unique opportunities to further their Bar and civic engagement through participation in various events and initiatives of the CMBF and CMBA.

Once approved, Fellows commit to contributing crucial funds to the CMBF that are earmarked for the CMBF Endowment. The CMBF Endowment provides a steady stream of income in perpetuity for transformative programs that impact our community in the areas of education and workforce development, social justice, and non-profits and the arts. Those programs include the 3Rs Program: Rights, Responsibilities, Realities and 3Rs+, High School Mock Trial Competitions, the Louis Stokes Scholars Program, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Legal Academy, the Cleveland Homeless

Legal Assistance Program, Pro Se Divorce Clinics, Reach Out Pro Bono for Nonprofits, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, Law Day, and many more.

Starting with this issue of the Bar Journal, we are rolling out a new "Fellows Feature" column that will spotlight a few Fellows each month. Much like "The Scoop," which is a brief question and answer column focusing on three CMBA members, the Fellows Feature will give readers a chance to get to know our Fellows and learn about why they decided to become Fellows. This is just another way for the CMBF to say thank you to our Fellows for answering the call to make a difference for those who need our help. We hope you enjoy the new Fellows Feature, and we look forward to featuring you in that column in the very near future!

*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.*

