



**DONOR
SPOTLIGHT**



NURENBERG, PARIS, HELLER & MCCARTHY CO., LPA

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP & GIVING

BY GINGER F. MLAKAR, CMBF PRESIDENT

Back: Jordan D. Lebovitz, Jamie R. Lebovitz, Jonathan D. Mester, Brian Parker, David M. Paris, David Herman, Dana M. Paris, Jeffrey A. Leikin, Benjamin P. Wiborg, Brenda Johnson, Ellen M. McCarthy; Front: Thomas Mester and Kathleen J. St. John

A year ago on May 16, 2013, the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation (CMBF) announced it was launching a \$1 Million Campaign to grow its endowment to \$2 million. The purpose of the campaign was to increase the endowment to create a reliable funding model for the award-winning community outreach programs of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) supported by the CMBF well into the future. I am very pleased to report that the campaign has been a success, thanks to the generosity of so many! On May 15, 2014, we will make a formal announcement about the campaign results at a special event at which we will thank and recognize all those who contributed to the success of the campaign. To date, we have received commitments from over 30 Leadership Fellows and 160 new individual Fellows. We are so grateful to each individual, law firm and foundation for their support.

In the Bar Journal this year, the CMBF has featured a series of articles recognizing our Founding Fellows who have made commitments at the level of \$50,000 and above. So far, we have featured the law firm of Spangenberg, Shibley & Liber LLP, along with the late John D. (Jack) Liber and his wife, Nancy, who have committed jointly to a \$100,000 lead gift; Margaret W. Wong & Associates, Co., LPA and the Porter Wright law firm, which have also committed to \$100,000 lead gifts. This month, we are pleased to spotlight Nurenberg, Paris, Heller & McCarthy Co., LPA (NPHM) and its partners, David Paris, Jonathan Mester and William Jacobson for their commitment to the endowment campaign and the future of our public outreach programs.

NPHM just celebrated its 85th anniversary as a firm of trial lawyers with a national practice which includes aviation crashes, medical negligence, work place injuries,

trucking litigation, class actions and product liability. During that time, they have represented over 80,000 clients in nearly every state and nearly 1 million clients in class action litigation.

The firm's lawyers have had a long history of leadership in the local, state and national trial lawyer associations, including the Cleveland Academy of Trial Attorneys, Ohio Association of Justice, the American Board of Trial Advocates and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. They are also frequent speakers on topics involving trial techniques at programs throughout the state.

In addition to its success in the courtroom over its 85 years, NPHM is very proud of its rich history of sponsoring and participating in community initiatives. In 1940, firm founder, Abe Dudnik, created a scholarship fund at Marshall Law School in his mother's name. Since then, the firm has developed scholarships



at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and endowed scholarship funds at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, through which, over the years, more than 200 outstanding students have received scholarships.

The firm's culture of giving extends beyond scholarships and engages all members of the firm in annual outreach activities for the betterment of our community. Each December, NPHM has adopted a family facing a crisis to help make their Christmas a little brighter. Each year through the Make-A-Wish program, the firm hosts a party and sends a sick child and his or her family on a dream trip. The firm conducts food drives for Harvest for Hunger, and provides volunteers for Youth Challenge, Medwish, Habitat for Humanity, Pedal to the Point, the Buddy Walk and a host of other good causes serving members of our community in need.

NPHM partners, David Paris and Jonathan Mester, have taken leadership positions with the CMBF and CMBA. David has been a trustee on the CMBF board and

will serve as an officer starting in June 2014, while Jonathan will begin service as a CMBA board member in June 2014. In a recent discussion, they shared their views on the importance of getting involved in the bar association, supporting the bar foundation as a distinct charitable endeavor, and giving back to the community in which they live and work.

WHAT INSPIRED NPHM TO GIVE TO THE CMBF ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN AT THE HIGHEST LEADERSHIP LEVEL?

DAVID NPHM has a culture and tradition of giving back to the community and supporting charitable activities that benefit those in need. The CMBF is a charity unique to lawyers, allowing the legal community to provide service using the talent and skill of lawyers. Cleveland is our home — it is where we live and work, where we went to school, where our friends and families live. This community has done so much for us and we are fortunate to be able to give back to those among us who need help.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR LAWYERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CMBA AND ORGANIZED BAR ACTIVITIES?

JONATHAN Bar association involvement is important because it promotes collegiality among peers and the opportunity to interact with adversaries and other lawyers in a different environment than the courtroom. It also provides a way for lawyers to lead and serve, and to get their name out there and become known within the legal community.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT WORKING AT NPHM?

DAVID The lawyers and staff have been working together here for a long time and it is very much a family environment. We are committed to providing the highest quality service to our clients and each of us — lawyers and staff — challenge each other every day to be better, to continue to set the bar even higher every single day.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR NPHM TO SUPPORT THE CMBA PRO BONO AND PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS?

JONATHAN There are people in our community who need the help and resources that are provided by the CMBA programs. At NPHM, we are committed to helping the people in our community who are our clients as well as those who are not our clients. Our knowledge of the community and neighborhoods helps us understand the challenges that people face and the unmet needs that are addressed by the programs.

Muhammad Ali said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." We are grateful for the leadership provided by the partners at NPHM. We thank the lawyers and staff members of NPHM for their service and commitment to the improvement of our community. Their example of 85 years of service to their clients and to their community is one to celebrate and admire.

For more information on the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation, go to www.CleMetroBar.org/foundation.

Ginger F. Mlakar, President of the CMBF, is Senior Counsel and Director of Donor Relations at the Cleveland Foundation. She also practiced law for 16 years in the area of estate and charitable gift planning. She can be reached at (216) 615-7187 or gmlakar@clevedfn.org.