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CLEVELAND BAR ASSOCIATION'S 134TH ANNUAL MEETING

Cleveland Bar Calls for Unification with the Cuyahoga County Bar Association

The Cleveland Bar Association (CBA) hosted its annual meeting and inauguration of new officers on June 29, 2007. Kerin Lyn Kaminski, co-founder of Giffen & Kaminski LLC, was inaugurated as the CBA's 97th President. Ms. Kaminski is only the fourth woman in the CBA's history to lead this prestigious Association. This meeting featured the officers' installation, a tribute to attorneys who have practiced law for 50 years, a presentation of the CBA annual awards and a motivational call-to-action by President-Elect Kerin Lyn Kaminski, to join forces with the Cuyahoga County Bar to create a unified "One Bar Town."

In addition to the installation of Ms. Kaminski, seven new trustees and one new public representative were sworn in by Eighth District Court of Appeals Judge Melody Stewart. Other newly installed CBA officers are Michael E. Brittain, Partner at Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP as President-Elect, M. Neal Rains of Frantz Ward LLP as Vice-President and Ginger Fuller Mlakar of Thompson Hine as Treasurer. The event also featured a presentation of the William K. Thomas Professionalism Award, the Justice for All Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Cleveland Bar Association Trustee's Award.

Ms Kaminski invited the Association to use their collective voices to empower the public, to improve the administration of justice, to foster fulfillment in the practice of law and to provide service to the community. Central to her call-to-action theme are three areas that will become the focus of the CBA over the next 12 months:

- Instilling pride and a sense of duty in the legal profession by continuing to build the 3 R's program and the CBA's relationship with the Cleveland Public School System;
- Challenge the legal profession and our region to diversify the seats of power;
- Unite the profession and become a "One Bar Town" by joining with the Cuyahoga County Bar Association.

"I am energized by the opportunity to lead such a vibrant Association," Ms. Kaminski stated. She continued, "We have voices that need to sing out together. Our local and regional economy demands that lawyers work collaboratively to demonstrate the leadership required to help develop a vital economy that attracts business to our region." Ms. Kaminski closed her comments with, "I hope that over this next year we create ways to build a stronger and more unified profession and community. It is time to Sing out!"

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The Cleveland Bar Association's mission is to build a competent, professional and collegial legal community by enhancing the practice of law, improving the system of justice and serving our members and region.