COLUMN CMBF PRESIDENT



Patrick J. Krebs

n Saturday, February 8, 2020, the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation will host its signature event, Rock the Foundation 15. Since its inception in 2006, Rock the Foundation has grown into one of Cleveland's premier networking and fundraising events. Come join more than 500 of your friends and colleagues in the legal and business communities for a night to remember. And believe me when I say, we will Rock you!

Music Box Supper Club, with its spectacular views of The Flats and downtown Cleveland, will once again provide the perfect venue for our event. With firstclass food offerings, an open bar, and live entertainment from one of Cleveland's hottest bands, The Sunrise Jones Band, this is one party you do not want to miss. New this year for the more courageous among us, we will also host a talent competition called "Our Bar's Got Talent." Recognizing that the title of our competition is a bit presumptuous, we have assembled a distinguished panel of judges to

determine if there is any truth in that statement. If you think you have what it takes to be crowned the King or Queen of Cleveland, make sure you show up and show out on February 8th!

Throughout the years, we have changed the location of Rock the Foundation to highlight different treasured landmarks in the City of Cleveland. We have also changed the food and entertainment at the event to shine a light on Cleveland's many talented chefs and performers. One thing that we have not changed, however, is our commitment to raising funds to support the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's award-winning programs. Over the course of the last 14 years, Rock the Foundation has raised nearly \$2,000,000 to support 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 Gemstones. We at the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Foundation believe that the funds we raise for the programs listed above allow us to uncover hidden gems in our community. That includes not only the thousands of people who are positively impacted by the CMBA's programs each year, but also the countless volunteers, sponsors, donors, and CMBF Fellows who make it all possible. Rock the Foundation gives us the opportunity to say thank you to those people and organizations, and to publicly



Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Legal Academy, the Louis Stokes Scholars Program, 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. So if having a great time is not enough to get you to the event, keep in mind that you will be having a great time for a great cause!

In honor of the 15th anniversary of Rock the Foundation, the theme for our event this year is

recognize someone with our highest honor, the Richard W. Pogue Award for Excellence in Community Leadership and Engagement. This year's recipient is one of Cleveland's true crown jewels, Judge Solomon Oliver, Jr. Judge Oliver has built a long and distinguished career by opening doors and helping others to follow. Please help us celebrate Judge Oliver on February 8th and thank him for all he has done for our community.

For more information about Rock the Foundation 15, including to purchase event tickets, raffle

tickets, and sponsorship opportunities, visit CleMetroBar.org/RockTheFoundation.

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.