



Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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KCMBA Hosts 23rd Annual LEAP Luncheon

The 23rd Annual LEAP (Foundation for Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance) Mardi Gras Luncheon will take place Tuesday, February 28, at KCMBA headquarters, to celebrate Kansas City's local legal profession's commitment to public service. LEAP is a not-for-profit foundation established in 1994 to provide needy children with mentoring services. It is composed of a unique, joint professional effort of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section of KCMBA, the Eastern Jackson County Bar Association, the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, Lawyers Association of Kansas City, Young Lawyers Section of the Lawyers Association, Jackson County Bar Association, Hispanic Bar Association, the Asian American Bar Association, Kansas City Lesbian, Gay and Allied Lawyers, and the Association of Corporate Counsel Mid-America Chapter.

Each year, LEAP's fundraising efforts culminate at its annual Mardi Gras luncheon held in February. Operation Breakthrough is currently LEAP's primary recipient. Since its inception, LEAP has raised more than \$1.3 million for Operation Breakthrough.

Being honored at the Luncheon for their continued commitment to LEAP and Operation Breakthrough will be LEAP's 2017 King the Honorable Alok Ahuja and Queen Samantha Wenger. Musical entertainment for this year's event will be provided by some of the children of Operation Breakthrough. A raffle containing more than a dozen prizes, including wine, gift certificates and other unique items will also be given away.

Founded in 1971, Operation Breakthrough's mission is to help children who are living in poverty develop to their fullest potential by providing them a safe, loving and educational environment. The center also strives to support and empower the children's families through advocacy, referral services, and emergency aid. Operation Breakthrough provides service for the children and families of the inner city of Kansas City, Missouri, including day care, meals, Children's Mercy Clinic, dental services, speech therapy, play therapy, housing assistance, food and clothing, and social services.

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association serves approximately 5,000 members in the nine-county Kansas City metro area: Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri. The mission of this Association is to serve our members and our community by promoting justice, professional excellence and respect for the law.

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