



Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association

PRESS RELEASE

January 29, 2018

For Immediate Release

AnnMarie Thomas

Director of Membership and Communications

816-474-4322

athomas@kcmba.org

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA) Hosts 24th Annual LEAP Luncheon

The 24th Annual LEAP (Foundation for Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance) Mardi Gras Luncheon will take place Tuesday, February 13, 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 Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Young Lawyers Section of KCMBA, Eastern Jackson County Bar Association, 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, Asian American Bar Association, Kansas City Lesbian, Gay and Allied Lawyers, and 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 \$1.4 million for Operation Breakthrough. The Mardi Gras Luncheon is one of several projects jointly supported by KCMBA and its sister organization the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation (KCMBF). KCMBF also supports the annual LEAP Back-2-School Breakfast, along with other LEAP activities.

Each year the Luncheon honors two individuals for their continued commitment to LEAP and Operation Breakthrough with the crowning of a LEAP King and Queen. In an exciting break in tradition, this year's announcement of LEAP King and Queen will not be unveiled until the day of the Luncheon. 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.

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation (KCMBF) is the charitable arm of KCMBA and has worked toward the improvement of both the legal community and the community at large in Kansas City since 1979. KCMBF, through its own resources and through grants and donations, promotes the advancement of the legal profession and the study of law; improves the standards of legal conduct and the relations between the bar and the general public; and develops law-related education and legal assistance programs for the public.

###