



THE LAWYERS GUILD

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

June 29, 2017

Justice Terrence O'Donnell Honored by The Catholic Lawyers Guild with 2017 St. Thomas More Award



Ohio Supreme Court Justice Terrence O'Donnell has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the prestigious St. Thomas More Award by The Lawyers Guild of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Justice O'Donnell joined the Supreme Court of Ohio in 2003, and since that time has led statewide efforts to increase professionalism among lawyers and judges across Ohio.

Justice O'Donnell will receive the St. Thomas More Award on October 20, 2017, at a luncheon for the legal community held immediately following The Red Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. This prestigious award honors the patron saint of lawyers and is presented annually to a distinguished member of the legal community for contributing to high ethical standards and spiritual growth in the practice of law.

Justice O'Donnell received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Kent State University and Juris Doctor from Cleveland State University in 1971. He practiced law with the firm of Marshman, Snyder & Corrigan in Cleveland before beginning his judicial service in 1980 on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. In 1994, He was elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeal. His leadership on the Ohio Supreme Court has culminated in the implementation of a nationally acclaimed Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program.

A former teacher at St. Brendan School in North Olmsted, Justice O'Donnell is a founding member and past president of the Legal Eagles – a law fraternity for alumni of St. Edward High School in Lakewood. In 2005, St. Edward High School presented him with its Alumnus of the Year Award. He is also a member of the Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows Class of 2005, a past member of the board of trustees of Magnificat High School, and the board of trustees of the Lawyers Guild of the Diocese of Cleveland.

Justice O'Donnell has served as chairman of the Ohio Legal Rights Service Commission, which oversees the protection and advocacy of the developmentally disabled and mentally ill statewide. He is a past member of the board of trustees of Our Lady of the Wayside, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the mentally and physically challenged.

Justice O' Donnell and his wife, Mary Beth, are members of St. Bernadette Parish in Westlake. The couple has four adult children: Terrence, Michael, Colleen, and Nora, and also have seven grandchildren.

The St. Thomas More Award will be presented during a noon luncheon at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center on October 20 after The Red Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 1007 Superior Ave., Cleveland. Additionally as part of this event, The Lawyers Guild will present a Special Recognition Award to AM 1260 The Rock, a lay apostolate which provides quality programming faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. For information or to order tickets, please contact Colleen Rigo of The Catholic Community Foundation at (216) 696-6525 x4080 or crigo@catholiccommunity.org.

The Lawyers Guild of The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland serves the counties of Ashland, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Summit and Wayne. The Guild fosters spiritual growth and fellowship within the legal community, encourages observance of high ethical standards, and calls attention to legal and societal issues that affect morality, justice, and faith. Past recipients of the St. Thomas More Award include Attorney Michael J. Frantz, The Honorable Patricia Gaughan, Larry Dolan, The Honorable Richard McMonagle, Robert Maynard, Geoffrey Mearns, The Honorable Leo M. Spellacy, GERALYN M. Presti, Kathleen Burke, and Peter Carfagna as well as others.