



The
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

MEDIA ALERT

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The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland elects new leadership

Cleveland -- The Legal Aid Society's of Cleveland's Board of Directors elected new officers for the 2010 calendar year:

Richard Panza, Esq. (Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Company) – **President**
Ilah Adkins, Esq. (Charter One Bank) – **Vice President**
Adrian Thompson, Esq. (Taft/) – **Vice President**
Rick Petrusis, Esq. (KeyCorp) – **Secretary/Treasurer**

Additionally, Legal Aid announces two new titles for current board members:

David Kutik, Esq. (Jones Day) – **President Emeritus**
Patricia Poole, Esq. (Baker Hostetler) – **President Emerita**

Richard Panza is the 31th president of the 104-year-old organization. He has served on Legal Aid's Board of Directors since 2006. He resides in Avon Lake.

Mr. Panza, 62, brings more than 35 years of experience to his new leadership role. "I can think of no greater way to use my legal education and decades of professional experience than to assist members of our community," said Mr. Panza. "Legal Aid is committed to offering services that people need and might not otherwise have access to, and it is our privilege to do so." Mr. Panza is Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook and Batista Co.'s chief financial officer, serves on the firm's board of directors, is a member of the firm's executive committee, and leads the firm's litigation practice.

Ilah Adkins is vice president and legal counsel at Charter One Bank. She has served on Legal Aid's Board of Directors since 2006. She is a resident of Cleveland Heights.

Adrian Thompson is a partner at the law firm of Taft/. He has served on Legal Aid's Board of Directors since 2009. He is a resident of Highland Heights.

Rick Petrusis is a senior vice president at KeyCorp. He has served on Legal Aid's Board of Directors since 2009. He is a resident of Westlake.

David Kutik, a partner at Jones Day, and Patricia Poole, a partner at Baker Hostetler, are previous Legal Aid presidents who hold the title of president *emeritus/emerita*. Mr. Kutik resides in Avon Lake and Ms. Poole resides in Cleveland.

Since 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has provided legal assistance to low income clients. The mission of Legal Aid is to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions. Legal Aid's 55 staff attorneys and 1400 volunteers handle about 10,000 civil cases annually. For further information, please call: 216-861-5217 or visit: www.lasclev.org.

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