

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BARRISTER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

By Catherine Woltering

Have you ever been at a networking event wondering how to introduce yourself to a group of people you've never met? Do you want to be more involved in the legal community or city of Columbus? Do you wonder how you're supposed to plot your path to success? Would you like to meet other new attorneys in the Columbus area? If you answered yes to any of these, the Barrister Leadership Program might be for you.

The Columbus Bar New Lawyer Committee offers an opportunity to engage in ongoing substantive programming aimed at developing leadership skills and opportunities for young lawyers. Through the power of partnerships developed by successful Bar leaders, the Barrister Leader Program is able to connect new attorneys with the best and brightest from Columbus law firms and other groups, harnessing the wisdom and experience of some of our city's top legal minds and leaders of the profession.

The program is designed to help new attorneys find personal and professional success by developing communication skills, examining business development and marketing skills, learning how to manage client relationships and expectations, developing their negotiation techniques, and setting personal and professional goals. Participants attend monthly meetings where they engage in a mix of interactive exercises, classroom sessions, and question and answer sessions with notable leaders in the community. Additionally, the program hosts various networking and social events so the participants have the opportunity to get to know one another and develop a network of peers.

Former participant Lindsey D'Andrea believes the Barrister Leadership Program helped her "develop more confidence in networking – helping me gain comfort through both the formal sessions and the informal social events." The opportunity the program gave D'Andrea to meet and befriend other young leaders in the

community inspired her to become more involved, "I am excited to put the skills I've learned to use since the program has ended."

The program meetings take place from 7:30am-9am on the second Thursday of the month from January to June. Sound early? Don't worry, the program provides breakfast and plenty of coffee. Networking and social events are scheduled throughout the program, with the schedule confirmed in advance of the first session. The application period traditionally opens in early fall, with individuals selected for the program being notified in early December. Once accepted, participants are responsible for a \$125 enrollment fee.

Congratulations to the 2014 Barrister Leadership Class: Christopher Bagi, Ohio Attorney General; Gerrod Bede, Organ Cole + Stock; Andrew Bonnington, Fifth Third Bank; Jessica Carrico, the Law Office of Eric J. Allen; Marc Davis, Ohio Attorney General; Danielle Demming, Jump Legal; Eric Eilerman; Dale Frenz; Kailee Goold, Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter; Michaela Hahn-Lawson; Orsolya Hamar-Hilt, Supreme Court of Ohio Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Brian Harstine, Terrence A. Grady & Asscs.; Nicole Koppitch, Reminger Co.; Whitnie Kropp; Joseph Kunkel; Lisa Lagos, Lagos & Lagos; Anne McNab, Fishel Hass Kim Albrecht; Caitlyn Nestleroth, Ohio Attorney General; Zachary Pyers, Reminger Co.; J. Thomas Siwo, Bricker & Eckler; Susan Suriano, Grossman Law Offices; Craig Tuttle, Leeseberg & Valentine; Heather Williams, Franklin County Prosecutor's Office; Christopher Zoeller, Cooke Demers & Gleason.

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If you are looking for a way to develop leadership and communication skills, get involved in the Bar Association and build a strong network of colleagues, the Barrister Leadership Program might be for you. The program runs from January – June each year and includes interactive classroom sessions, small group meetings, and social events. Applications are available in August with a submission deadline of mid-October. Individuals selected to participate in the program are notified prior to Thanksgiving and the kick off session for the new program year is held at the beginning of January.

If you are interested in obtaining an application, contact **Donna Sweet** at donna@cbalaw.org or watch the New Lawyers Committee section of the Columbus Bar website.

