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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO WOMEN'S BAR FOUNDATION LAUNCHES 2013-2014 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Dayton, Ohio - This week the Ohio Women's Bar Foundation is launching its 2013-2014 Leadership Institute, a program designed in 2011 to cultivate, promote, and enhance the leadership skills of woman attorneys. The Leadership Institute invites exceptional women attorneys from across Ohio to attend this premier program. Sessions include practical, interactive training by successful lawyers and business professionals in areas such as, business development strategies, effective communication techniques, social media, and public speaking.

"This outstanding program was created by top women lawyers in Ohio who understand what it takes to be a leader," says Denise Platfoot Lacey, Immediate Past President of the Ohio Women's Bar Foundation, Leadership Institute Chair and Lecturer of Law at the University of Dayton School of Law. "These dedicated lawyers are demonstrated leaders in the legal profession and are integrally involved in the training of the program participants by teaching in the program and serving on its Advisory Committee." The Advisory Committee includes: The Honorable Vernelis Kinsey Armstrong, U. S. District Court, Northern District; Kim Bixenstine, University Hospitals; Valoria Hoover, Kohrman Jackson & Krantz PLL; Elizabeth Kessler, Jones Day; Maria A. Kortan-Sampson, Goodrich Corporation (Retired); Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger, The Supreme Court of Ohio; Cynthia C. Lazarus, Flying Horse Farms; Margaret J. Lockhart, Cooper & Kowalski, LPA, The Honorable Yvette McGee Brown, Jones Day; The Honorable Betty D. Montgomery, MacMurray Petersen & Shuster; Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, The Supreme Court of Ohio; Kathleen Hayes Ransier, Vorys Sater Seymour & Pease LLP; Mary W. Sullivan Peck, Shaffer & Williams LLP; and Maxine S. Thomas, Charles F. Kettering Foundation.

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The Ohio State Bar Association 2011 Gender Fairness Survey and the 2012 National Association of Women Lawyers Survey on Retention and Promotion of Women in Law Firms both find women attorneys lag behind in leadership positions. "It is our goal to give women attorneys the necessary skills to become successful leaders in the legal profession and their communities," says Platfoot Lacey. The mission of the Leadership Institute is to advance inclusiveness within the legal profession and supplement the professional skills of women lawyers by enhancing their leadership, business development, and communication skills for the benefit of the diverse communities in which they work, live, and serve.

The Class of 2014 includes: Tara Aschenbrand, Squire Sanders (US) LLP; Christina Grasseschi, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company; Stephanie Hanna, Franklin County Common Pleas Court; Ann Hunt, McDonald Hopkins LLC; Kimberly Jones, US District Court-Magistrate Judge Bowman; Pramila Kamath, Bricker & Eckler LLP; Micheline Kidwell, WilmerHale; Christine Li, Nationwide; Shelby McMillan, Reminger Co., LPA; Melinda Nanning, Bailey Cavalieri LLC; Vanessa Nichols, The Procter & Gamble Co.; Catherine Peters, Gallagher Sharp; Adrienne Pietropaolo, Barnes & Thornburg LLP; Denise Pleska, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services; Sabrina Riggs, Nationwide; Rachel Steinlage, Meyers Roman Friedberg & Lewis; and Catherine Wexler, Brouse McDowell.

The Leadership Institute officially kicks off its 2013-2014 session with a session on "Rainmaking and Practical Business Development Strategies" on September 19. Other sessions planned between October 2013 and March 2014 include "Executive Coaching", "Branding and Career Strategy", "Public Speaking", "Effective Communication", "Social Media" and "Effective Leadership". Graduation ceremonies will take place on May 22, 2014.

The Ohio Women's Bar Foundation is the charitable counterpart to the Ohio Women's Bar Association.

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For more information about the Leadership Institute, an application for the 2014-2015 class or if interested in supporting the Ohio Women's Bar Foundation, contact OWBF at (866) 932-6922 or admin@owba.org. Visit www.owba.org 24/7.

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