

2011 CBA AWARD RECIPIENTS

The following award recipients were to be recognized for their achievements at the 2011 CBA Annual Meeting April 29. Look for more about the Annual Meeting at www.cincybar.org and on the CBA's Facebook page. More will also be in the June issue of the CBA Report.

TRUSTEES' AWARD



Patrick J. Garry

*Presented by: Jim Brockman,
Chair of CBA Awards Committee*

Patrick J. Garry, who has a solo practice concentrating on criminal defense, has worked to strengthen the profession, in part by sharing the experience of his own worst days with others.

A graduate of Boston College and then the UC College of Law, Garry began the alcoholism recovery process almost 10 years ago. With the support of his wife, Catharin, his family, his professional colleagues and his friends, Garry went through what he describes as the "humbling experience" of his recovery, and he later became an associate director of the Ohio Lawyers Assistance Program which confidentially serves attorneys who suffer from mental health issues including depression, alcoholism and substance abuse.

He has focused a great deal of his personal and professional life to assisting others. Periodically he returns to Falmouth, Ky. — where he initially received treatment — to participate in 12-step meetings. He also regularly participates in 12-step meetings at River City Correctional Center. Garry also serves on the board of the Gateway House. His father, attorney Timothy A. Garry, said he "has no idea" how many people his son has helped over the past decade, but knows that "so very many people from Cincinnati" have benefited from his care, concern and assistance.

It's a "great gift," Garry said of the experience. "I've been a witness to many quiet, remarkable, seemingly miraculous transformations."

Nominator Jean M. Geoppinger noted that in her work on the CBA Grievance Committee, she is well aware of the "plague substance abuse is upon our profession. I, too, know that Pat is a primary resource for attorneys in our community who struggle with such demons."

Garry, who considers it a privilege to work with OLAP, was selected for the Trustees' Award because he not only serves the CBA, the legal profession and the general community, but also demonstrates a high level of commitment, dedication and courage.



William R. Graf

*Presented by: Jim Brockman,
Chair of CBA Awards Committee*

No one would ever accuse Bill Graf of doing things half-heartedly. He is one of those individuals whose natural intellectual curiosity includes more than books and spills into his whole life. Graf's zest for law and life has made him the finest of mentors — a true statesman in the Cincinnati estate planning arena (and beyond).

Graf has demonstrated his commitment most clearly through his creation and teaching of the 18-week "Estate Planning and Drafting Series" for the CBA. Since 2006, Graf has led the comprehensive class on a biennial basis with his former law partner, Michael Moyers, in the first class and his current law partner, Mark A. Stiebel, in subsequent classes. The class is much like a graduate level program, with an ambitious syllabus and reading list, and weekly homework, including detailed drafting assignments.

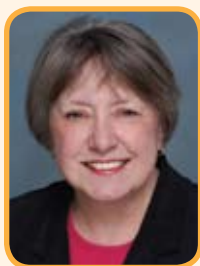
Graf conceived of the class, with the encouragement of his colleague John Campbell, as a way to raise the bar for estate planning attorneys, with the lofty but simple goal of making Cincinnati the home of the best of the best in the estate planning field. One of Graf's students said it best: his "approach makes me proud to be in the profession and in this practice area. The amount of preparation time he has devoted is beyond belief."

A partner at Graf & Stiebel LPA, Graf practices in the areas of estate and trust administration, estate planning, business law, estate and gift tax controversies and contested trust and estate proceedings. He is a graduate of Denison University and The Ohio State University College of Law, where he earned his J.D. *cum laude*.

Admitted to the U.S. District Court — Southern District of Ohio and the U.S. Tax Court, he also serves as a member of the OSBA Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law Section Council and is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He served as president of the Cincinnati Estate Planning Council during 2008-2009.

In addition to his work at the CBA, Graf has presented at the ACTEC 2010 Ohio meeting, the OSBA Advanced Probate and Estate Planning Seminar and has been published in the Probate Law Journal of Ohio.

JOHN P. KIELY PROFESSIONALISM AWARD



Kathleen M. Brinkman

*Presented by: Presented by Dale Stalf,
Chair, Professionalism Committee*

Kathleen Brinkman served for 24 years as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, specializing in complex white collar crime, major environmental crime and public corruption. In 2007, after she retired from that post, she joined Porter Wright Morris & Arthur. Brinkman now represents corporations and individuals who

face investigations or charges by state or federal authorities, in areas such as immigration, environmental and fraud.

Brinkman graduated from the UC College of Law in 1975. She has been an active participant in the annual Trial Advocacy Institute and the Federal Bar Association. Brinkman serves on the Hamilton County Public Defender Commission and on the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education board. She has served on various committees of the CBA and on the Board of Trustees. She is the past president of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

As a recognized authority in asset forfeiture, she is a well-known teacher and lecturer. She is a retired adjunct professor of trial practice at the UC College of Law.

As a mentor for many young attorneys, she has always served as a role model, demonstrating the highest degree of professionalism while serving as a zealous advocate. In 2005, Brinkman was awarded the Nettie Cronise Lutes Award from the Ohio State Bar Association awarded to outstanding women lawyers who have improved the legal profession.

She and her husband, George, live in downtown Cincinnati, where she can walk to work and take in many downtown activities. She speaks conversational French, which has served her and George well on their trips to Paris, where they enjoy sitting and sipping wine at outdoor cafes. They are avid Xavier University basketball fans of both the men's and women's teams. They have a daughter, Jennifer, and are the proud grandparents of Mitchell and Elliott.

VOLUNTEER LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Mary M. (Mardee) Sherman

*Presented by: Fredric J. Robbins,
Chair of the Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor
Foundation Board of Trustees*

Mary M. (Mardee) Sherman, an associate with the Cincinnati law firm Robbins Kelly Patterson & Tucker, practices primarily in the area of family law, including divorce, dissolutions, child custody matters, property settlement, prenuptial agreements, post-decree modifications and paternity, as well

as adoptions and guardianships. With this award, the Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor Foundation honors her outstanding work done on behalf of low-income clients and her commitment to the Volunteer Lawyers Project.

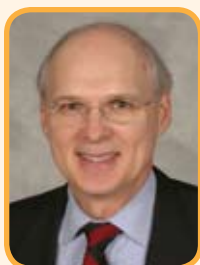
After earning a B.S. degree from the University of Cincinnati, graduating *summa cum laude*, Sherman began her career as a theatrical costumer, working for Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and Cincinnati Opera, as well as theatrical and operatic productions across the country. She then attended the Salmon P. Chase College of Law where she served as a student articles editor of the Law Review.

As soon as she became an attorney, she began to serve as a VLP volunteer. Sherman has accepted 21 case referrals from the VLP, which is an average of five per year. She has helped some of the VLP's most challenging clients in a variety of extremely difficult situations: divorce, domestic violence, contested custody, protracted adoptions and guardianships. Sherman is known at VLP as a quintessential professional: selfless, enthusiastic and a generous volunteer.

She is also an adjunct professor in the University of Cincinnati's paralegal program and serves on the fundraising committee for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries. In addition, she is an advocate for sustainable and local farming, and is a member of the Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council, as well as a committee member of the Southwest Chapter of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association.

Sherman loves traveling, biking and gardening. Her most frequent trips, however, are to Minneapolis to visit her daughter, son-in-law and her two grandchildren.

JOHN W. WARRINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Michael W. Hawkins

Presented by: Michael A. Marrero, Chair, Community Service Subcommittee

Michael Hawkins's long-standing volunteer commitments have made an impact both locally and internationally. Some of his key commitments have been to the American Red Cross, which he served for 30 years, the Board of Refugees International and Bridges for a Just Community.

A partner at Dinsmore & Shohl, Hawkins began working on the national board of the American Red Cross in 2001. His board service and his work with the Red Cross's International Services Committee have taken him to Geneva, Santiago, Chile, Ghana, Vietnam, Cambodia, Palestine and Israel. He's taken part in peace negotiations between Red Cross societies, and has worked on efforts to inoculate children in Africa from measles.

As part of the Board of Refugees International since 2005, which he serves as secretary, Hawkins has advocated for the rights and needs of refugees and displaced people around the globe. He has traveled on missions to Pakistan and Kashmir, Thailand, and recently, Kenya. He's also brought his legal talents to this realm, developing a brochure for Refugees International about the laws around the world that protect refugees.

A graduate of UK College of Law, Hawkins served as president of the CBA in 1993-1994. During his tenure he initiated the Nast Trinity Project for the Nast Trinity Church on Race Street across from Washington Park by Music Hall. Pursuant to the Nast Trinity Project, various law firms have taken responsibility for serving lunch on Sundays to anyone who walks into the church's soup kitchen.

Among other recognition Hawkins has received, he was honored with the American Red Cross Clara Barton Award for Meritorious Volunteer Leadership in 2000, the Cincinnati Bar Association Trustees' Award in 1998, and the Bridges for a Just Community Distinguished Service Citation in 2010.