



akron bar association
(Serving all of Summit County)

NEWS RELEASE

Release: **Immediate**

Contact: C. Allen Nichols, Executive Director
Phone: 330.618.6248 (mobile)
E-mail: callen@akronbar.org

Akron Bar Association Response to Judicial Criticism: From ABA President Ann Marie O'Brien

Akron, OH, February 3, 2015 – The Mayor of the City of Akron has written a letter to the Beacon Journal recounting his disagreements with sitting US District Court Judge John Adams. Were this simply a private matter between two citizens, the Akron Bar Association would not be involved. Rather this involves the Mayor's concerns about past and present cases and the alleged prejudice of a sitting federal judge. Judges are not permitted by their codes of conduct to respond in like manner. Thus, the Akron Bar Association must speak for Judge Adams. We understand that when emotions run high and interests are weighty, people may resort to such approaches. However, proper regard for our system of justice dictates that these matters be raised in the proper forum.

When parties disagree with a judge's rulings, they may appeal those rulings to a higher court. When questions are raised about the impartiality of a judge, motions to recuse, or excuse, that judge may be filed in court. At that point, the opposing party may reply, hearings may be held and opinions issued so that the public will know the result of the dispute. These proceedings are conducted according to well defined rules of procedure. Our most important societal issues are often addressed in court. That is the way we deal with matters like this.

Our forefathers fought for a judicial system that exalts the rule of law. That system is the envy of the world, and for good reason. Due respect for our citizens, our judges and their important concerns direct us to use that system. Matters like this cannot and should not be resolved in the media.

###

The Akron Bar Association, through education, advocacy and community service, empowers its members to reflect the highest professional standards, enabling them to earn the community's utmost respect so our legal system will be recognized as fair, accessible and just.

57 S. BROADWAY STREET, AKRON, OHIO 44308-1722 ♦ 330-253-5007 ♦ FAX 330-253-2140 ♦ www.akronbar.org

ANN MARIE O'BRIEN, President
LAWRENCE J. SCANLON, President-Elect
MARGARET ANDREEFF MATEJKOVIC, Vice-President Membership/Secretary
DAVID J. LEWIS, Treasurer

Board of Trustees
OLIVIA P. DEMAS
SUSAN L. DURR
STEPHEN W. FUNK
JOHN F. HILL
KERRI L. KELLER

HON. TODD M. MCKENNEY
LISA OKOLISH MILLER
JON A. OLDHAM
JOHN C. PIERSON
HON. THOMAS A. TEODOSIO

Bar Counsel:
THOMAS P. KOT
Ex-Officios:
BRIAN D. BREMER
EDWARD L. GILBERT
RONALD S. KOPP
GARY W. SPRING