



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 21, 2017

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**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CIVIL TRIAL ATTORNEYS  
PRESENTS AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING ATTORNEYS**

Columbus, Ohio – The Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA) during its Annual Meeting on November 16th in Cleveland, presented awards to recognize attorneys for their service to OACTA, the profession and the community.

The *Excellence in Advocacy Award* was presented, posthumously, to **Lawrence A. Sutter, III, Esq.**, Sutter O’Connell Co., Cleveland, Ohio. The *Distinguished Contributions to the Profession Award* was presented to **Terrance M. Miller, Esq.**, Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, Columbus, Ohio. **James (Jay) M. Kelley, III, Esq.**, Elk & Elk Co., Ltd., Mayfield Heights, Ohio, was the recipient of the *Respected Advocate Award*. **Timothy J. Fitzgerald, Esq.**, Koehler Fitzgerald LLC, Cleveland, Ohio, and **Michael M. Neltner, Esq.**, Staff Counsel for the Cincinnati Insurance Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, received the *Outstanding Advocacy Award*. **Melanie Irvin, Esq.**, Claims Attorney, National Interstate, Richfield, Ohio, received the *Outstanding Young Lawyer Award*. The *Public Service Award* was presented to **Judge Michael P. Donnelly**, Cuyahoga Common Pleas Court, Cleveland, Ohio. The *Committee Chair of the Year Award* was presented to **Michael M. Neltner, Esq.**, Staff Counsel for the Cincinnati Insurance Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. The *Frank Seth Hurd Member of the Year Award* was presented to **Anne Marie Sferra, Esq.**, Bricker & Eckler LLP, Columbus, Ohio. OACTA congratulates these award recipients for their outstanding contributions and their dedication to the profession!

The Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys is an organization of attorneys, corporate executives and managers who devote a substantial portion of their time to the defense of civil lawsuits and the management of claims against individuals, corporations and governmental entities. The mission of OACTA is to promote fairness, excellence, and integrity in the civil justice system by providing resources and education to attorneys and others dedicated to the defense of civil actions.

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