



OWBA Presents 2017 Diversity and Inclusion Sponsor Award to James Johnson, Founder of Summer Work Experience in Law, at Annual Meeting and Conference

Columbus, OH (May 2017) – On Friday, May 12th, the Ohio Women's Bar Association held their Annual Meeting where they presented James Johnson with the 2017 OWBA/OWBF Diversity and Inclusion Sponsor Award. Lisa Whittaker, a member of the OWBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee and Sherri Dahl, OWBA's Awards Committee Chair presented the award to James Johnson who then briefly described his gratitude for the recognition and his desire to value and implement diversity and inclusion within his career.



Whittaker explained that the Diversity & Inclusion Sponsor Award is designed to recognize a legal professional who has individually championed the careers of women attorneys and the topic of diversity and inclusion. Mr. Johnson is highly deserving of such an award as he has demonstrated a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout his years of service.

Johnson served over 25 years with the City of Cincinnati and retired as the Assistant City Solicitor in 2005. During his time as City Solicitor, Johnson devoted countless hours to numerous community and legal organizations and volunteered his time and knowledge to collaborate with law firms, judges, corporations and public agencies to create the Summer Experience in Law Program, otherwise known as SWEL. Over 30 years ago SWEL was launched in order to give diverse high school and college students' exposure to the legal profession. SWEL offers paid internships with state and federal judges, top law firms, and corporations such as Procter & Gamble and GE. Johnson not only helped organize and create SWEL, but he continued to stay heavily involved in the program and with the individuals who participate. As SWEL has become one of the most highly recognized legal enrichment and exposure programs in the United States, Johnson has continually made an effort to stay committed to the students involved in the program as he has built long-lasting relationships with well over 100 graduates.

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