

For Immediate Release

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Black Professionals Name Robyn Minter Smyers as 2018 *Professional of the Year*



Cleveland, OH – March 5, 2018 – The Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation (BPACF) ended a month long celebration of Black History in February by announcing Robyn Minter Smyers, Partner-In-Charge of Thompson Hine's Cleveland office, as the 2018 Black Professional of the Year (BPOY).

BPACF shared the news at their Annual Meeting & BPOY Reveal, held on February 27th. The event also celebrated a group of six dynamic young professionals with an inaugural award, known as the BPACF Trendsetters.

Robyn Minter Smyers is best known for her stellar career as a real-estate attorney in Northeast and beyond. The organization received over 25 BPOY nominations from community members between December of 2017 and February of 2018, and selected Smyers because of her amazing professional accomplishments and history of civic engagement and volunteerism.

During the Annual Meeting, the BPACF Board of Trustees was sworn in by Cleveland Municipal Judge Ronald Adrine. Judge Adrine recently retired from the Cleveland Municipal Court, after serving for 36 years.

The foundation also initiated the Trendsetter Award, an honor for dynamic young professionals making a significant difference in their career field. The 2018 Trendsetters include the following: Donovan Boyd (The Boyd Group, LLC), Anita Bradley (Northern Ohio Recovery Association), Sharrona Burns (Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum), Juleian Curtis (CMHA), Joshua Edmonds (The Cleveland Foundation) and Torey Tolson (FirstEnergy). The Trendsetters will be featured in upcoming BPACF media campaigns and the group will co-host the foundation's *Nights Out Networking Series* this year.

Robyn Minter Smyers will receive the BPOY award at the **Thirty-Eighth Anniversary Scholarship and Awards Gala & BPOY Salute on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven** (6111 Landerhaven Drive, Mayfield Heights, OH). Corporate sponsorships, tables and individual tickets are now on sale. To support the event, visit www.BPACF.org, or call 216.229.7110. A portion of all BPACF event sales is contributed to the BPACF Scholarship Program.

About BPACF

The Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation (BPACF) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization based in Cleveland, Ohio. The mission of BPACF is to create opportunities for African Americans through scholarship, education, and leadership development. Its vision is to be a catalyst that prepares and develops students and leaders to elevate our community of professionals. Founded in 1985, BPACF has honored a black professional from Northeast Ohio each year for more than three decades, to raise an awareness of what our community is contributing to the business, social, cultural and civic life of our region, and to provide scholarship support and professional development

opportunities to low and moderate income college-bound students. To date, BPACF has awarded more than \$3.4 million in college scholarships to deserving young individuals from the region. The foundation also provides academic and career development opportunities with various workshops and networking events for local students and young professionals.

For more information about BPACF, please call 216.229.7110 or visit BPACF.org.

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