



For Immediate Release

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**CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FUND LAUDED FOR GLOBAL SUCCESS
HAS PUMPED NEARLY \$150 MILLION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT INTO NORTHEAST OHIO**

DECEMBER 3, 2013 – CLEVELAND – Cleveland International Fund (CiF) has received a national award from a pool of 400 similar organizations for its successful role in boosting the Northeast Ohio economy.

CiF earned the EB-5 Regional Center of the Year Award from EB5NewsBlog.org by Artisan Business Group, Inc.

The award states that “CiF is responsible for promoting local economic development in America’s heartland including the greater Cleveland, Ohio area. CiF has shown tremendous efforts to educate the local governments and economic development groups on the benefits of the EB-5 regional center program.”

“CiF is pleased to accept this award and looks forward to continuing to bring the benefits of EB-5 financing to Ohio,” said Stephen Strnisha, CiF’s CEO.

A federally sanctioned, private equity fund, CiF provides qualified individuals and their families with an expedited path to permanent U.S. residency, via the program known as EB-5. CiF raises money from foreign investors who then receive accelerated consideration for U.S. residency. The investments from overseas residents into local economic development projects must result in the creation of a minimum of 20 American jobs for every one million dollars of foreign investment.

CiF received its official designation to operate as an EB-5 fund (called a Regional Center) in January 2010, and has since raised approximately \$150 million for Cleveland-area economic development projects including the Flats East Bank, the University Hospital System’s expansion, the Westin Hotel adjacent to Cleveland’s new convention center and Uptown Phase II, located in University Circle.

Artisan Business Group, Inc., the operator of EB5NewsBlog.org, provides consulting services for US companies seeking new business opportunities in China.

Artisan’s EB5NewsBlog.org has been recognizing leaders in EB-5 through its annual awards since 2010. CiF was chosen as 2013 Regional Center of the Year from a pool of more than 400 Regional Centers.

Two CiF industry partners also won awards. Miller Mayer LLP was named EB-5 Immigration Law Firm of the Year and NES Financial earned EB-5 Service Provider of the Year.

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