



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CDFA Announces Winners of CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards**

*Winners to receive awards at annual Ohio Conference in September*

Columbus, OH – The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is proud to announce the winners of the 2014 CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards.

“Each year CDFA is proud to honor excellence in development finance. The work of our award winners is cutting-edge, innovative and an example of best practices in our industry,” said Toby Rittner, CDFA President & CEO.

The CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Excellence Awards recognize outstanding development finance programs, agencies, leaders, projects and success stories. These awards, presented at the CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Conference, honor excellence in the use of financing tools for economic development, as well as the individuals who champion those efforts. This year’s honorees include:

**CDFA Excellence Award: Agency - Development Finance Authority of Summit County**

CDFA is proud to award the **Development Finance Authority (DFA) of Summit County** with the CDFA Excellence Award. Lead by Executive Director Chris Burnham, the DFA of Summit County is a cutting-edge and collaborative financing agency that works with economic development, legal, financial, business and industry leaders to bring economic opportunity to Summit County and Northeast Ohio. CDFA is proud to honor the DFA for their work on transformative projects such as the University Edge – Akron Project and also their highly effective Jobs & Investment Bond Fund that is supporting manufacturers throughout Ohio.

**CDFA Excellence Award: Leadership - Price Finley, Partner, Bricker & Eckler LLP**

CDFA is proud to award **Price Finley** with the CDFA Excellence Award. Price is a partner in Bricker & Eckler’s Public Finance group, and has served as chair of the CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable since its inception in 2008. He has extensive knowledge and practice in development finance, having represented developers, local communities and port authorities in 501(c)(3) and healthcare bond issues, structured and project financings, and other economic development finance arrangements. CDFA is proud to honor Price for his leadership and his role in advising the City of Upper Arlington for the successful implementation of the Lane Avenue Mixed Use project.

**CDFA Excellence Award: Program - Cleveland International Fund, EB-5**

CDFA is proud to award the **Cleveland International Fund (CiF)** with the CDFA Excellence Award. Lead by Chief Executive Officer Stephen Strnisha, CiF has been a licensed EB-5 Regional Center since 2010, offering EB-5 investment projects centered in the commercial development, mixed-use construction, and healthcare sectors. CDFA is proud to honor CiF for their latest projects, including the Flats East Bank Phase I and University Hospitals System Expansion, as well as their innovative work in offering the EB-5 program outside of Cuyahoga County through unique partnerships with the Development Finance Authority of Summit County and the Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority.



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**CDFA Excellence Award: Project - The Joseph**

CDFA is proud to award **The Joseph** with the CDFA Excellence Award. The Pizzuti Companies is developing The Joseph – a unique contemporary development bi-located on each side of High Street in Columbus’ Short North district. One side features an 11-story, 135-room hotel with a restaurant, while the opposite side holds a six-story office building and parking garage with over 300 spaces. The Pizzuti Companies worked with the City of Columbus to secure a 10-year, 75% tax abatement on the office building, and the established TIF district is responsible for funding the parking garage and upgrades to the surrounding streets. CDFA is proud to honor The Joseph for what has easily become the largest and most ambitious private development in the Short North to date.

The CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable Conference Excellence Awards will be formally presented at the 2014 CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable, in Columbus, Ohio on September 9.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation’s leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit [www.cdfa.net](http://www.cdfa.net).

CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

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