



For immediate release
Visual *Back to School* story

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Kansas City Lawyers and Judges Help Operation Breakthrough Children Leap into New School Year

Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP) has raised more than \$2,100,000 for Operation Breakthrough children since 1994.

Kansas City, Mo. (July 22, 2019) Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP) will help the children at Operation Breakthrough leap into the new school year. LEAP is providing book bags, school supplies and breakfast by Chris Cakes, a pancake-flipping favorite in the metropolitan area. The *Back to School Breakfast* is Friday, July 26th from 8:00 am to 9:30 am at Operation Breakthrough, 3039 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri. **The media is invited to attend.**

The event will be held in Operation Breakthrough's brand new gym located at Corita's Place 3036 Troost Ave. Access can be gained by entering through the front door of Operation Breakthrough's new building at 2026 Troost. Parking is available in the lots north of Operation Breakthrough (on Troost).

More than 600 children from Operation Breakthrough are expected to attend the *Back to School Breakfast*, and lawyers and judges from around the metro will help the children pack their school supplies. The event is only for the children and families of Operation Breakthrough.

“With LEAP's help, our children see the start of school as a reason to celebrate. Year after year, the legal community sends our families the message that education is important and that they're cheering for our children's success,” said the CEO of Operation Breakthrough Mary Esselman.

Members of the media are invited to photograph Operation Breakthrough and to conduct interviews of leaders of it and of the LEAP Initiative prior to and the morning of the *Back to School Breakfast*.

Interview opportunities include:

- LEAP Co-Chairs of the *Back to School Initiative* Michelle Marvel, Bartimus Frickleton Robertson, and Sam Wenger, Dentons, as well as many other attorneys and local judges who will be participating.

“It is our honor, through LEAP and its supporters, to help Operation Breakthrough students feel confident and empowered to do their very best. They have dreams that go beyond the classroom. Removing the barrier of not having school supplies is one less obstacle for them to overcome,” said Michelle Marvel, co-chair for the 2019 event.

“The generous donors and volunteers who support LEAP's Back-to-School Breakfast not only provide OB kids with the supplies they will need for the upcoming school year, but even more importantly, they get the kids excited to head back into the classroom and learn,” said Sam Wenger, co-chair for the 2019 event.

About LEAP

The event is an initiative of The Foundation for Lawyers Encouraging Academic Performance (LEAP), a unique, joint professional effort comprised of the of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Eastern Jackson County Bar Association, the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, the Jackson County Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, the Kansas City Chapter of the Association for Corporate Counsel of America, the Asian American Bar Association, and KC LEGAL.

For more than 25 years LEAP has supported Operation Breakthrough with proceeds raised by its annual fundraising campaign celebrated at the LEAP Mardi Gras Luncheon held annually at the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association on Fat Tuesday. To date more than \$2,100,000 has been donated to help the children at Operation Breakthrough develop to their fullest potential providing them a safe, loving and educational environment.