

Michael A. O'Mara

Michael A. O'Mara, J.D. is Vice President of Hennes Paynter Communications, a crisis communications, media training and media relations consulting firm based in Cleveland.



Considered by many to be one of the premier television reporters in Cleveland – and certainly one of the most recognizable – O'Mara brings more than 30 years of experience in media and law, having worked as an Emmy award-winning television news reporter, anchor and attorney.

In 2010, O'Mara joined Hennes Paynter where he is responsible for the development, management and implementation of communication strategies for clients of the firm. Hennes Paynter counts among its current and former clients such companies as Avery Dennison, Case Western Reserve University, Degussa, The Greater Cleveland Partnership/COSE (Cleveland's Chamber of Commerce), The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Great Lakes Construction, John Carroll University, KeyBank, NASA, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and Westfield Insurance (Ohio Farmer's Insurance), as well as many of the leading law firms in Cleveland.

Admitted to the practice of law in Michigan and Ohio, O'Mara's legal work encompassed a broad range of corporate and private clients, as well as contentious planning and zoning issues.

In 1978, O'Mara moved into television journalism at WSPD-TV13 in Toledo. Hired as a reporter/photographer/editor, he was soon promoted to weekend anchor/weather/producer/reporter. He came to Cleveland in 1982 and joined the news staff at WJW-TV8, the local CBS affiliate, whose news department at that time enjoyed a reputation for tough journalism. In 1994 he reported and anchored for WOIO/WUAB, which by then had become the Cleveland CBS affiliate and, in 2001, he joined the staff of WKYC-TV3, Cleveland's NBC affiliate, as a reporter.

During his three decades in the media, O'Mara covered everything from disasters to feature stories, including a long list of political issues on the federal, state, and local levels. His reporting won five regional Emmy Awards and the top prize from the Ohio Associated Press for Best Reporting. He has also been honored many times by the Press Club of Cleveland for reporting excellence.

O'Mara is a member of the Ohio Bar Association, the American Federation of Television Radio Artists and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

About Hennes Paynter Communications

Hennes Paynter Communications is a crisis communications, media training and media relations consulting firm based in Cleveland. Serving corporations, government agencies, nonprofits and individuals who are "on trial" in the court of public opinion, Hennes Paynter Communications also offers litigation communication support, pre-crisis preparation, crisis drills, presentation training and public relations services to clients. The firm is a coalition member of ProtectingAmerica.org and National Preparedness Month (US. Dept. of Homeland Security). In 2009, Hennes Paynter won the coveted "Best of Show" award from the Public Relations Society of America - Greater Cleveland Chapter for its work with another agency on the national peanut butter recall. For more information, please go to www.crisiscommunications.com.