

## **In The Spotlight with: Magistrate/Judicial Attorney John Kassinger, Medina County Common Pleas Court**

**By** Kate Feeks

In December watch for the next episode of *Law Talk*, hosted by Attorney John Celebrezze. This episode features Magistrate John Kassinger, of the Medina County Common Pleas Court. This show can be viewed on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access, Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public Access, Channel 21, and Armstrong Cable Access, Channel 37 in Medina County.

In January of 2016, John Kassinger began his new position as Magistrate/Judicial Attorney at the Medina County Common Pleas Court under the honorable Judge Joyce V. Kimbler. “I have known Judge Kimbler for over thirty years, I worked with her as a clerk at the Ninth District Court of Appeals from 1984-1986. After she was elected as judge she was searching for a judicial attorney and I was asked to take that position as well as a part time magistrate. I thought it would be an interesting position because I could work on both criminal and civil matters. I was ready for a change, so I took the job!” Kassinger explained.

Magistrate Kassinger presides over cases that are allowed by the Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure. A magistrate can hear non-jury civil cases, garnishment proceedings, and motions and petitions for civil stalking protection orders. Judge Kimbler decides what cases are referred to Magistrate Kassinger. A case can be referred to a magistrate without the consent of the parties.

Magistrate Kassinger works diligently to ensure a balance when making appropriate sentences to those that appear before him. “I think the most difficult part about my job is that before the trials on civil stalking cases there’s a lot of times ... that the two parties have exactly opposite stories and I have to decide who is telling the truth. To do so, I try to judge the credibility of the two parties.” Kassinger said.

Kassinger attributes his experience in his private practice as his best preparation for the many duties required of a magistrate. A magistrate has the authority to regulate the proceedings as a judge would. This includes the power to issue rulings on the admissibility of evidence, take testimony, and make a contempt finding when a person behaves improperly in court or does not abide by the court’s orders. Magistrate orders generally are effective without a judge’s approval.

To learn more about Magistrate John Kassinger and the functions of a magistrate in Medina County Common Pleas Court watch for an interview with Magistrate John Kassinger and Attorney John Celebrezze on the show *Law Talk* throughout the month of December on your local cable channel.