

## **In “The Spotlight” with: Attorney Richard J. Marco Jr.**

By Kate Feeks

In December watch for the next episode of *Law Talk*, hosted by John Celebrezze. This episode features Attorney Richard Marco Jr. of Marco and Marco, Medina, Ohio. Mr. Marco will talk about an attorney’s role in adoptions. This show can be viewed on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access, Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public Access, Channel 21, Armstrong Cable Access, Channel 37 and You Tube.

In 1982, Attorney Marco began working as a general practitioner at Marco and Marco alongside his father, Richard J. Marco, the firm’s founder and patriarch. Early on in his practice he was given the opportunity to work with adoption law. “An adoption case came across my desk and I soon realized that I really enjoyed doing the work” Marco said. Today fifty percent of his practice deals directly with adoptions and he has had experience with over a thousand cases thus far in his career. Marco practices adoption law domestically as well as abroad. He has visited many countries such as the Ukraine, Bulgaria, and China working with agencies to help children unite with the right parents.

The Building Blocks Adoption Agency was one of the first agencies that started Marco on his journey into adoption law. Building Blocks handles domestic and international adoptions.

Adoptions range from infancy to adulthood. Adult adoptions are often step parent and foster parent adoptions for those situations where a parent and child have established a relationship and want to make it official. Other circumstances where adults are adopted may occur when they are physically or mentally disabled and brought into situations where care can be provided for by other persons.

Some of the different kinds of adoption options available are: open, state waiting, adult and private adoption services. Private adoptions are carried out with the assistance of a specialized family law attorney. “An attorney will make sure the appropriate documents are in place and explained to the family. They are also responsible for arranging the required steps with the social worker, finances and setting up the court hearings” explained Marco.

International adoptions tend to be quicker than domestic. A family that decides to adopt in the United States will go through an extensive process. Once a family completes the required criteria, an agency can help find a good match between a child’s needs and a family’s ability to meet those needs.

A common stigma about adoption is the success of the children once placed into a loving family. The general public has associated adoption with difficulty or possible trouble. Marco disagrees stating “Adoptive children once in a home have no more deficiencies. Children fall right in with the general public and tend to excel because of their situation”.

To learn more about adoption law with Attorney Richard Marco Jr. watch for his interview with John Celebrezze on *Law Talk* throughout the month of December.