

In The Spotlight with: Jennifer Brunner, Attorney at Law

By Kate Feeks

In July watch for the next episode of *Law Talk*, hosted by John Celebrezze. This episode features Attorney Jennifer Brunner from the law firm of Brunner and Quinn. 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 1988 Jennifer Brunner started her law firm as a sole practitioner in a corner of her bedroom while raising her three small children. Four short years later her husband joined her in growing the firm to where it is today. From 2000-2005 Brunner served as a judge on the Common Pleas Court of Franklin County. Shortly after her term as judge, she then became Ohio Secretary of State making her the first woman to be elected to that position.

Much of her practice is in the area of election law and government consulting. It is this area of law that prepared her well for her position as secretary of state which she served as from 2007-2011. She now handles business, election and consumer oriented litigation. "I will also sit in on litigation meetings because of having the background of being a judge, it is helpful for the rest of the firm" explained Brunner.

Her election law expertise as an attorney served her well as Ohio's Secretary of State. It is election law that Brunner is well known for practicing. "For a lot of aspiring attorney's, I think they should choose an area of law that is more unique. There is a greater chance their practice will be sustained because they will gain their clients from a broader geographic area and the clients are looking for someone who focuses on that particular area. I am the only attorney that I know of in Ohio that centered my practice on election law. I found that practicing in a boutique area like that, I was never hurting for work." Brunner said.

Election law has significantly grown in its importance and is now an elective at some law schools. Some of the issues covered include questions about those persons who are entitled to vote, persons entitled to hold office, (age, residency and citizenship requirements), restrictions placed on campaigns such as rules on anonymous donations or false advertising, how votes are cast and counted, and whether voters or candidates may file legal actions.

In her personal life she remains active in the arts, and has started doing artwork again. Once an art major in college, she has a passion for mosaics. One of her favorite quotes is "... life beats down and crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one." Jennifer resides in Columbus, Ohio with her husband, Rick, of 32 years.

To learn more about Attorney Jennifer Brunner, watch for her interview with John Celebrezze on *Law Talk* throughout the month of July on the local cable network and You Tube.