

## **In The Spotlight with: Zachary Smith, Law Student, Ohio Northern University**

By Kate Feeks

Zachary Smith, a Law Student at Ohio Northern University, will be on the show **Law Talk** with host Attorney John Celebrezze to discuss his recent win of the Ohio Northern Law School Anthony J. Celebrezze Appellate Advocacy Competition. This show will run throughout the month of August on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public access Chanel 21, and Armstrong Cable Access Channel 37

The Appellate Advocacy Competition is named in honor of the late Anthony J Celebrezze, LLB '36 , distinguished alumnus of the Ohio Northern College of Law and former Senior Justice of the Sixth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals. The competition held on April 6<sup>th</sup> is offered each year to all second and third year law students.

Zachary Smith, the youngest of seven children, grew up outside of Augusta Georgia in a small town called Hephzibah. In 2002 Zack moved to Atlanta to attend Kennesaw State University and graduated with a degree in American History. Prior attending law school he worked for a few years at Kennesaw as a leadership program coordinator. It was his experience in this job that influenced him to want to study law. "I worked with the Department of Justice and the United Way on a council through a government grant on a project called Project Weed and Seed. The Department of Justice invested a substantial amount of money and resources into communities that have had some issues with crime. My job was to coordinate an after school leadership program for the youth between ages 8-16", said Zachary.

At Ohio Northern, Zachary is an editor for the ONU Law Review. He is also the 2010 Daniel S. Guy First-Year Moot Court Competition Champion. His experience in that competition, along with his enjoyment for public speaking and debate, helped motivate him to participate in this year's Appellate Advocacy Competition. "I really wanted to see how well I could do arguing on this issue about jurisdiction", noted Zack.

The problem presented to the competitors usually focuses on a controversial issue that will be heard by the United States Supreme Court. The ONU Moot Court Board of Advocates is in charge of the competition. These law students are responsible for handing out the case problem to the competitors. Students are then given one week to prepare their arguments. Zachary was one of about 20 students competing this year.

The case presented dealt with the case of *Goodyear v. Brown*, and the issue was whether a foreign corporation is subject to general personal jurisdiction.

The competition required completing and winning a series of three rounds of arguments before two Ohio Appellate Court Judges from the Third and Sixth districts. The third judge was a clerk with the Federal Northern District Court of Ohio. The entire competition takes approximately three weeks to complete from start to finish.

After working through the problem Zachary feels a necessary means of protection needs to be considered by the court for Americans while traveling overseas. "I think ultimately with the way our global economy is operating that there needs to be a reassessment of due process in terms of the plaintiff's rights. Since people travel overseas all the time and they may be injured over there. It's not economically feasible for them to

fight a products liability suit overseas. The Court is going to have to reassess what contacts would be required, so that an American plaintiff could sue here in the United States for an accident that occurred overseas. It can be considered a consumer protection”, Zachary explained.

To learn more about this Zachary Smith, watch for the next episode of *Law Talk* with host Attorney John Celebrezze.