

In The Spotlight with: Attorney Michael Ash

By Kate Feeks

In September watch for the next episode of *Law Talk*, hosted by Attorney John Celebrezze. This episode features Michael Ash of the law firm Marco and Marco, Medina, Ohio. Mr. Ash will discuss his experiences as a criminal defense lawyer. 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.

Michael Ash is a graduate of Cloverleaf High School. After high school he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he was selected to join the Air Force Honor Guard in Washington, D.C. After his active duty service, Ash completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Akron and continued his military service in the Ohio National Guard as a member of the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield, Ohio. Ash then completed the JD/MBA program at the University of Akron. In 2005, he was admitted to practice in Ohio courts and in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

In October of 2010, Attorney Ash joined one of Medina County's older firms, Marco and Marco. With only six years experience, Ash has become an accomplished trial attorney. At Marco and Marco he handles all types of criminal matters, from minor misdemeanors to the most serious felony cases.

A felony is a major criminal act. Violent felony crimes include murder, aggravated assault, rape and robbery. These offenses are punishable by time in state prison or death. A misdemeanor is considered a lesser criminal act. Misdemeanor crimes are usually punishable by probation or local incarceration. Of course, there are fines involved with both.

Ash has recently taken the steps required to become certified for death penalty defense in Ohio. "I have attended the seminar and so my next step is to turn in my paperwork to be certified" he explained. In order to be certified for death penalty defense, an attorney needs to have tried a required number of felony trials as first chair, have the required number of years of experience as a practicing attorney, and complete a death penalty seminar approved by the Ohio Supreme Court.

"Right now it's (death) a valid punishment in capital cases in Ohio. The U.S. Supreme Court has said it's not unconstitutional. My legal opinion is it can be enforced, but my personal opinion is I am opposed to it", said Ash. He feels that the idea is to take someone out of society. "This can be accomplished the by incarcerating someone for life." he emphatically stated.

Throughout history people have been executed for crimes. Ohio is one of thirty five states that still enforces the death penalty. There was a capital murder trial in Medina County in November, 1950 when Gerald Killinger was accused of the murder of Harold Mast. That trial resulted in Killinger's death in the state's electric chair.

To learn more about criminal defense and Michael Ash watch for his interview with Attorney John Celebrezze on *Law Talk* throughout the month of September.