

In The Spotlight with: LeAnn Garro-Haswell, Medina County Common Pleas Court, Court Reporter

By Kate Feeks

Watch for the next episode of *Law Talk*, hosted by John Celebrezze. This episode features court reporter LeAnn Garro-Haswell, Medina County Common Pleas Court. This show was aired on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access, Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public Access, Channel 21, and Armstrong Cable Access, Channel 37.

LeAnn-Garro-Haswell, a native of Akron, is currently a court reporter for Judge James Kimbler at the Medina County Common Pleas Court. LeAnn is a graduate of Archbishop Hoban High School and then went on to the Academy of Court Reporting. Over her career, she has worked as a freelance court reporter in the private and public sectors. For 15 years she worked with Associate Court Reporters before taking her current position at the Medina County Courthouse. "I truly was in the right place at the right time. Judge Kimbler's court reporter was retiring and he needed a court reporter" LeAnn said.

Court reporters are an integral part of the legal system. They are required to capture all the communication that takes place in a legal proceeding. The skills of a court reporter include excellent command of the language being spoken, attention to detail, and the ability to focus for long periods of time. They help judges and lawyers to organize and retrieve information that is essential to a trial or any other legal matter. Real time reporting has proven beneficial for the judiciary and many judges insist that their reporter be capable of reporting real time.

In 1988 LeAnn attended the Academy of Court Reporting and mastered reporting in 18 months. "Reporting is basically at your own speed. When you are capable of typing 225 words a minute you test out. You start out at 60-80 words a minute and once you master that you move to 100-120 and so on. Forty people started with me and I was the only one that finished" LeAnn explained.

LeAnn records felony and criminal trials and significant civil cases, usually in excess of \$25,000. She has also recorded school board meetings, depositions and local government meetings and proceedings. LeAnne soon realized the most difficult part about her job is seeing the large number of young adults coming through the court system. "It's just sad seeing all these young people involved with the courts already. It makes you think what kind of life do they have if they are already in our system? It can be difficult to have to watch ..." LeAnn said.

To learn more about court reporting and LeAnn Garro-Hasell, watch for her interview with John Celebrezze on *Law Talk* on our local cable network and You Tube.

