

In The Spotlight with: Ashley Meece, Judge James L. Kimbler Scholarship Winner

By Kate Feeks

Ashley Meece, 2015 graduate of Cloverleaf High School, is the first recipient of the Judge James L. Kimbler Scholarship sponsored by the Celebrezze- Zanghi Community Legal Education Project, Inc. (CZ). CZ hopes to provide graduating seniors interested in a career in law a “leg up” on their college expenses.

The purpose of the Judge James L. Kimber scholarship is to provide financial assistance to actively involved and academically successful high school graduates. Successful applicants must be graduating seniors, involved in school and or community activities, with a minimum 3.25 cumulative grade point average. Students who receive full scholarship support from other organizations or institutions were not considered for this scholarship, and students pursuing degrees in law or criminal justice are given preference.

Ashley Meece, winner of this year’s scholarship fulfilled all of these aspects. An “A” student, Ashley has worked very hard through her four years at Cloverleaf High School, striving for academic excellence. “Choosing to invest in my education is a safe venture. I have pushed myself intensely throughout high school because I want more out of myself and my future: I studied as hard as I could, chose every honors class, every elective that will help my future...” , Ashley explained.

Along with her studies, Ashley also participated in many extracurricular activities and helped her community. Some of the activities she was involved in were student council, national honor society, and Wayne County Historical Society volunteer work.

Ashley became aware of this scholarship through her guidance counselor. “I had told her I really want to be an attorney, do something with the law, I wanted to something with history, something in that spectrum. She told me I would be great for this scholarship...”.

The scholarship was awarded to Ashley at her school awards ceremony. “It was the last day of school and we all gathered in the gym for a ceremony where they handed out all the school awards and scholarships. I didn’t know that day that I had won the scholarship. Judge Kimbler actually came to the ceremony and personally presented it to me. I was really impressed...”.

When Judge Kimbler was asked to comment on his scholarship and Ashley Meece, he noted “I was honored by the decision of the Celebrezze-Zanghi Community Legal Education Project, Inc. Board of Directors to award a scholarship in my name. I was pleased that the winner of

the first scholarship is an outstanding student from Cloverleaf High School and, like myself, she was raised by a single mom. Both she and I had our fathers pass away before we graduated”.

John Celebrezze, co-founder of CZ said, “It is fitting that our first scholarship be named in honor of Judge Kimbler because of his incredible commitment to legal education during his many years on the bench and now.” Celebrezze also advised that a second \$1000.00 scholarship is currently be planned for a second high school to be named soon. Finally, he encouraged anyone interested in learning about the sponsorship of a scholarship to contact him via the CZ site at www.czclep.org .