

## **In The Spotlight with: Lisa Bradley, Law Student, Ohio Northern University**

By Kate Feeks

Lisa Bradley, law student at Ohio Northern University, will be on the show *Law Talk* with host John Celebrezze to discuss her recent win of the Ohio Northern Law School Anthony J. Celebrezze Appellate Advocacy Competition. This show will run throughout the month of October on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public access Chanel 21, and Armstrong Cable Access Channel 37 in Medina County along with Clear Picture Channels 21 & 22 in Wooster and Massillon.

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 Justice on the Sixth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals. This year's competition was held on April 25, 2015. The competition is offered each year to all second and third year law students attending Ohio Northern Law School.

The winner of this year's Appellate Advocacy Competition is Lisa Bradley, a second year law student. Lisa is from Lisbon, Ohio and completed her undergraduate studies in political science and history at Ohio Northern University. During her first year in law school she was the second runner up in the Dan Guy First year Appellate Advocacy Competition. During her second year she placed first along with Tabitha Moody in the Burke E. Smith Trial Advocacy Competition. This year she was a competitor in the American Bar Association (ABA) moot court team. Next year Lisa will serve as Associate Justice for the ABA team.

The Celebrezze Appellate Advocacy Competition is open to second and third year law students. "Anyone can enter the competition there are no rules or requirements. Anyone who wants to compete is free to sign up and compete" explained Bradley. Each year the competition involves an important issue that is before the United States Supreme Court. The issue that is chosen is currently before the high court, but not decided. The competitors read briefs from both sides, so they can develop their arguments. At the time of the competition the rounds of debate are decided depending on how many competitors sign up. "The competitors are assigned a side randomly and argue that side based upon the briefs that the (actual) parties have already completed on the Supreme Court website." noted Bradley.

This year's case was *Deboer v. Snyder*. The issue being whether a state is required to license a marriage between same sex couples, "The issue was whether or not the (United States) Constitution's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment requires each state to allow a couple of the same sex to get married. Another issue was whether or not the states had to recognize the marriage. "We just argued whether or not the Constitution required that the state allow same sex marriage. So the competitor either represented the state or the couple that brought the case..." explained Bradley.

This summer high court decided the case. The Supreme Court decided that the Constitution does require that states allow couples to marry even if they are of the same sex.

To learn more about this case watch for the interview with Lisa Bradley and Mr. Celebrezze throughout the month of October on *Law Talk*.