

September 23, 2014

**OCMC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT  
OCLRE 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LAW & CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE**

Shaunte Russell, OCMC communications director participated in the OCLRE 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Law and Citizenship Conference Monday, September 22, where she spoke about the commission, its members, and its mission.

The Law & Citizenship Conference is an annual statewide gathering of teachers, professors, lawyers, and other civic and law-related education professionals who come together to share curriculum, effective teaching strategies, best practices, and the latest hot topic issues important to teachers. The conference features interactive and engaging workshops for teachers of civics, government, law, and related subjects, complete with ready-to-use lessons and resources.

Russell identified the key mission of the commission identified under the Ohio Revised Code Section 103.61. The commission is charged with, “studying the Constitution of Ohio; promoting an exchange of experiences and suggestions respecting desired changes in the Constitution; and making recommendations from time to time to the General Assembly for the amendment of the constitution,” she says. Russell went on to say, “the commission will be going through the Ohio Constitution Article by Article and, in most cases, will be recommending no changes at all. However, when a recommendation is made, it will be a thorough and very democratic process.”

The conference also featured sessions on Ohio Senate Bill 165 requiring school curricula to include state and federal constitutions, the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment, and keynotes from Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor, as well as, Mary Beth Tinker who was the plaintiff in a landmark student rights case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).