

THE SIMON KARAS FELLOWSHIP 2016-2017

The Ohio Attorney General invites talented new lawyers to apply for the Simon Karas Fellowship. This Fellowship offers one new lawyer each year the chance to work as an appellate advocate on cases involving significant legal issues. Those interested in constitutional law, public policy, and public service should consider applying.

The Fellowship Experience

Work on major cases and issues

The Simon “Si” Karas Fellow works with our State Solicitor, our Deputy Solicitors, and other top lawyers in the office on the State’s major appellate cases. These cases often stand at the crossroads of law and public policy, and involve constitutional questions or hotly debated public-policy concerns. Many cases are headed to the U.S. Supreme Court—or are already there. Our office’s recent cases illustrate the kind of opportunities that a Karas Fellow can expect:

- Ohio has a busy practice in the U.S. Supreme Court covering a wide variety of cases. Most recently, in *Ohio v. Clark*, we drafted the petition for certiorari and merits brief in an important Confrontation Clause case concerning a child’s out-of-court statements to his teachers. Also last term, in *Husted v. NAACP*, we successfully obtained a stay in the U.S. Supreme Court of a district court’s injunction concerning Ohio’s early-voting calendar. In *Tibbals v. Carter*, we successfully argued that a prisoner’s incompetence did not require the indefinite suspension of his federal habeas proceedings. We have also filed amicus briefs in many cases, such as *Walker v. Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans* (First Amendment challenge to state specialty-license-plate programs); *Plumhoff v. Rickard* (qualified immunity for state actors); and *Williams v. Illinois* (admissibility of expert testimony about the results of DNA testing in criminal trials).

- Over the years, Fellows have worked on other U.S. Supreme Court cases involving standing, double jeopardy, school vouchers, free exercise of religion, free speech, federalism, state immunity, interstate commerce, and more.
- The Karas Fellow also assists with cases in the Ohio Supreme Court, where we appear often, both as a party and as an amicus. Examples of our recent cases include constitutional challenges to the casino and lottery statutes; constitutional challenges to the statute authorizing the sale of state prisons; the lawfulness, under Ohio law, of the State's decision to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act; the requirement of standing with respect to entities challenging the JobsOhio legislation; ESPN's requests for records from the Ohio State University; the constitutionality of Ohio's Smoke Free Work Place Act; the eligibility requirements for seeking recovery for wrongful imprisonment; and the constitutionality of Ohio's bifurcation statute in civil trials involving punitive damages. We also regularly assist local county prosecutors in their criminal appeals in the Ohio Supreme Court. Recently, for example, we handled a case for the Lawrence County prosecutor concerning a First Amendment challenge to Ohio's criminal-threats statute.
- We also brief and argue many cases in the Sixth Circuit, and the Karas Fellow assists with those appeals as well.
- A significant component of the Karas Fellow's duties will be to evaluate the Ohio Supreme Court's docket to help formulate recommendations to the Attorney General on whether he should appear as an amicus in a particular case.

In short, our appellate practice in the Ohio Attorney General's office touches almost every area of State law.

During their term, previous Fellows have had the opportunity to argue cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the Ohio Supreme Court, and Ohio's intermediate appellate courts.

Learn from nationally recognized appellate advocates

The Karas Fellow works directly with the State Solicitor, along with the Deputy Solicitors in the Appeals Section. These lawyers know the importance of one-on-one training and mentoring, and we work hard to make

sure that each year's Karas Fellow hones the research and writing skills that are critical for future success in the legal profession.

Moreover, we work on cases that attract other excellent attorneys from around the country. Our allies and adversaries often include the U.S. Solicitor General and top-notch law firms in Washington, New York, Chicago, and elsewhere. This experience gives the Fellow the chance to meet, work with, and learn from some of the most accomplished lawyers in the nation.

Qualifications

Applicants should be new to the practice of law, and may include recent law school graduates (including the Class of 2015), current or recent judicial law clerks, and attorneys with limited experience in private or public sector practice. Candidates with judicial clerkship experience in the Ohio Supreme Court or the federal appellate courts are given preference. In evaluating applications, we look for excellent academic records, and particularly for strong writing and analytic aptitude.

Previous Karas Fellows have graduated from schools including Columbia Law School, Harvard Law School, Notre Dame Law School, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, Stanford Law School, the University of Michigan Law School, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Likewise, Karas Fellows have worked at large private sector firms and have held a variety of clerkships including at the Ohio Supreme Court, and the Sixth, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals.

Previous Karas Fellows have gone on to work for the Department of Justice and the Office of Legal Counsel, and to clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Application Date and Fellowship Term

Interested candidates should apply by **Friday, November 13, 2015**. Earlier applications are encouraged, as we will review applications on a rolling basis and will interview promising candidates as their applications are received. One Karas Fellow will be chosen, and he or she will serve full-time in the Ohio Attorney General's Columbus office from roughly October 2016 through September 2017.

The Fellowship pays a salary of \$65,000, along with the same benefits given to other State of Ohio employees. The salary includes a significant supplement above the usual starting salary for new graduates joining our office. That supplement is included to recognize the importance of this

Fellowship to our office, and to enable talented law school graduates to consider public service despite the burdens of student loans.

Application Process and Materials Required

Please send or email applications for the 2016-2017 Simon Karas Fellowship, **emailed no later than Friday, November 13, 2015**, to:

Tamra Meister
HR Senior Analyst—Human Resources
Tamra.Meister@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

The application should consist of a cover letter, resume, transcript, writing sample, and two letters of recommendation, emailed directly by the writers of those letters. Items should be in PDF format.

After reviewing the applications, our office will select candidates for interviews. We hope to announce this year's Fellowship award in January 2016.

If you have any questions about the Karas Fellowship, please contact the Appeals Section at 614-466-8980.

About Simon Karas

The Simon Karas Fellowship was established as a living memorial to a person who embodied the values of advocacy, professionalism, and public service—values that Si spent his life imparting to new lawyers, and that we hope to instill in the Fellows. Si Karas was a model of integrity, excellence, and commitment. He joined the office straight from law school, and in a quarter-century here, he became an exceptionally dedicated and accomplished appellate advocate, as well as a respected and beloved mentor to many junior lawyers. By training new lawyers in this way, we carry on his work.