



THE SIMON KARAS FELLOWSHIP 2013-2014

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 Solicitor General, 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. Our U.S. Supreme Court practice covers a wide variety of cases. In *Bobby v. Dixon*, for example, we successfully defended the constitutionality of a criminal interrogation under *Miranda*. In *Levin v. Commerce Energy*, the Court agreed with us that, under principles of comity and federalism, challenges to state tax laws must be filed in the state courts. We have also filed amicus briefs in a number of high-profile cases: *Williams v. Illinois* (admissibility of expert testimony about the results of DNA testing in criminal trials); *Merck v. Reynolds* (fraud claims under federal securities laws); and *Doe v. Reed* (First Amendment challenge to state law requiring public disclosure of ballot petitions).
- In recent years, the Fellows have worked on other U.S. Supreme Court cases involving double jeopardy, school vouchers, free exercise of religion, federalism and state immunity, interstate commerce, and more.



Mike DeWine

Ohio Attorney General

- The Karas Fellow also assists with cases in the Ohio Supreme Court, where we appear often, both as a party and as an amicus. To name only a few, our recent cases have involved the standard for imposing civil penalties under Ohio's environmental enforcement laws, the constitutionality of Ohio's Smoke Free Work Place Act, the eligibility requirements for seeking recovery for wrongful-imprisonment, the constitutionality of Ohio's bifurcation statute in civil trials involving punitive damages, the liability of mortgage servicers for fraudulent acts connected with the nationwide mortgage crisis, and the admissibility of physician apologies in medical malpractice cases. We are also defending the State against multi-million dollar lawsuits that allege state constitutional challenges to certain state taxes.
- We also brief and argue many cases in the Sixth Circuit, and the Karas Fellow assists with those appeals as well. This past year, our Karas Fellow presented oral argument in the Sixth Circuit in a case concerning the constitutionality of a juvenile criminal sentence.
- 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 law. Our full range of civil appellate work includes civil rights, education, employment, consumer protection, environmental, and health care law, while our criminal law practice includes search-and-seizure, right-to-counsel, sentencing, and federal habeas issues.

Learn from nationally recognized appellate advocates

The Karas Fellow works directly with the Solicitor General, 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.



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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 2012), 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 and the federal appellate courts are given preference. In evaluating applications, we look for excellent academic records, and particularly for strong writing and analytic aptitude.

Current and recent Karas Fellows have graduated from schools including Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, Stanford Law School, University of Michigan Law School, and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. 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.

Application Date and Fellowship Term

Interested candidates must apply by **Friday, October 19, 2012**. Earlier applications are strongly 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 September 2013 through August 2014.

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 2013-2014 Simon Karas Fellowship, **postmarked or emailed no later than Friday, October 19, 2012**, to:

Karas Fellow Selection Committee
Ohio Attorney General, Appeals Section
30 East Broad Street, 17th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
karas.applications@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

The application should consist of a cover letter, resume, transcript, writing sample, and two letters of recommendation, mailed directly by the writers of those letters. Items submitted by email should be in PDF format. **We strongly encourage candidates and recommenders to submit their materials by email.**

After reviewing the applications, our office will select candidates for interviews. We hope to announce this year's Fellowship award in December 2012.

If you have any questions about the Karas Fellowship, please contact the Appeals Section at karas.applications@ohioattorneygeneral.gov or 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.