

## APPENDIX II

### SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR CLERKSHIP INTERVIEWS

#### **Questions Judicial Clerkship Applicants Want to Ask the Judge**

1. What will be the scope of my responsibilities?
2. How would you describe your relationship with your judicial clerk(s)?
3. I was particularly interested in your recent decision in \_\_\_\_\_. Was it difficult to reconcile the competing arguments and concerns in that case?
4. What is your timetable for making a hiring decision?
5. Do your clerks have any contact with local attorneys?
6. Do you feel there is a conflict if your clerks interview for post-clerkship jobs during their year(s) with you?
7. What percentage of my time would I spend in court, conducting research, drafting opinions?
8. What criteria do you use in selecting your clerk?
9. Will I be able to observe court proceeding?

#### **Questions to Ask the Current Judicial Clerk**

1. Describe a typical day as a clerk in this court.
2. What responsibilities do you have?
3. Describe your relationship with the judge.
4. What are the judge's greatest strengths (weaknesses)?
5. What is the judge's legal philosophy?
6. What contact do you have with the other clerks or with practicing attorneys in the area?
7. Tell me about this city (state, region) as a place to live.
8. How has this clerkship affected your job search?
9. How has this clerkship affected your career goals?
10. What percentage of time do you spend in court?
11. What criteria seem to affect the judge's selection of a clerk?

#### **Questions a Judge Might Ask a Judicial Clerkship Applicant**

1. Why do you want to clerk?
2. Why this particular court?
3. What do you hope to learn from a clerkship?
4. Why do you want to clerk for me?
5. Why do you want to clerk in this city (state, region)?
6. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths (weaknesses)?
7. What qualities do you have that might make you a valuable law clerk?
8. What are your short (or long) range legal career goals?
9. Where do you hope to practice after your clerkship?
10. What type of law interests you most?
11. Describe your work experience.
12. Describe the work you have completed for your law journal (or moot court).
13. What interests do you have outside of law school?
14. To which judges (courts) have you applied?
15. How would you approach this particular issue, case, problem?
16. Do you prefer to work with others or independently?
17. How do you view the long hours and low pay associated with a judicial clerkship?
18. If you and I disagree about a certain issue, would you have any problems drafting an opinion incorporating my viewpoint?
19. Tell me about the courses (grades, professors) you had in law school.
20. What questions do you have of me?