

## THE INTERVIEW

- Prepare carefully for your interview. The Career Services Office puts together a *Professional Development Guidebook* which includes important details on how to prepare for an interview.
- The Career Services Office will also arrange a “mock interview” to help you further refine your interviewing skills.
- In preparing for an interview, it is a good idea to become familiar with the judge's rulings. You should also check for law review articles written by the judge as well as newspaper articles written about the judge or court.
- The *Almanac of the Federal Judiciary* should be consulted, if applicable, to become familiar with the judge's background.
- Re-read your writing sample before the interview to brush up on the important points.
- Former clerks can give insight into the judge's interviewing practices.
- Be careful about letting your guard down, as the judge may use your informal discussions with the clerks and the secretaries as another component of her evaluation process. Be courteous and respectful with the judge's staff.

## ACCEPTING AN OFFER

- The traditional rule is that you should never say “no” when a judge offers a clerkship.
- If you apply for more than one judicial clerkship remember that the first offer may not be from your first choice. Judges respond randomly, so the first response you receive may be from your tenth choice.
- **In no case should you accept an offer and later rescind your acceptance.** Remember, your treatment of the judge will affect efforts of future BYU applicants.
- If you accept an offer from a judge, call the other judges you interviewed with and withdraw your name.

## QUESTIONS A JUDGE MIGHT ASK

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 and 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.
13. Tell me about the courses/grades/professors you had in 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, 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 a problem drafting an opinion incorporating my viewpoint?
19. What interests do you have outside of law school?
20. What questions do you have for me?

### **QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK THE CURRENT 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 contact do you have with the other clerks or practicing attorneys in the area?
6. Tell me about this city/state/region as a place to live.
7. How has this clerkship affected your job search?
8. How has this clerkship affected your career goals?
9. What percentage of time do you spend in court, conducting research, drafting opinions, interacting with the judge?
10. What criteria seem to affect the judge's selection of a clerk?

### **QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK A JUDGE**

1. What criteria do you use in selecting a clerk?
2. What will be the scope of my responsibilities?
3. What is the nature of your docket?
4. Could we discuss the issues you had to reconcile in your recent decision of *Doe v. Smith*? (Do not pick a controversial case where the judge has been criticized for the opinion)
5. What is your timetable for making a decision?
6. Do your clerks have contact with local attorneys?
7. Describe your legal philosophy.
8. What do you see as the primary role of this court?
9. What percentage of my time would I spend in court, conducting research, drafting opinions?
10. When do you prefer your clerks to look for jobs?
11. Do you allow your clerks to accept with a firm before the clerkship period is completed?

*Received from Gonzaga University*