



SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS: CLERKSHIPS

- Why do you want a judicial clerkship? How will it fit into your career plans?
- Did you pursue a clerkship upon graduation from law school? Why did you not obtain one? Why are you leaving your firm to take a position as a clerk?
- How do you think your experience as an attorney will make you a good law clerk? Are you aware that you will make considerably less money?
- Why are you applying for a clerkship at this point in your career?
- Why are you interested in South Dakota (or Maine, Louisiana, Ohio)?
- Why do you want to work for me? Have you read my opinions? [Be prepared to discuss/debate them.]
- Why did you go to George Washington Law School (Duke, Northwestern, Boalt Hall, etc.)? Please discuss your Law Review note.
- How valuable do you think your Law Review membership experience will be in preparing you for a clerkship?
- Do you expect to practice litigation after your clerkship? Why/Why not? Have you been to court as an attorney?
- Are you married? [Be prepared for judges to ask inappropriate – and even unlawful – questions.] What judges have you particularly admired? Why?
- What do you think of the decision in the (recent famous case)? Why?
- How committed are you to public service? Have you done/plan to do any pro bono work? To what other courts are you applying?
- What is your timetable?
- Would you be available to start on (date)?