



The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Announces the

Michael Francis Lefkow Fellowship Program

at the

**Sandra Day O'Connor Project on the
State of the Judiciary
Georgetown University Law Center
600 New Jersey Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, January 26, 2009

Lefkow Fellowship Program History

The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has endowed the **Michael Francis Lefkow Public Interest Fellowships** to create a fitting tribute to an outstanding lawyer and to establish a sustainable program to recognize judges, like his wife, the Honorable Joan Humphrey Lefkow of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, who have faced intimidation with courage and integrity. On February 28, 2005, Judge Lefkow returned home to find her husband and her mother, Donna Humphrey, shot and killed. A few weeks later, a troubled litigant disfigured by cancer, committed suicide leaving a detailed written account of the murders. His target was Judge Lefkow herself because of her decision to dismiss his malpractice case. Just a few weeks after these events, a white supremacist was sentenced to forty years in prison for solicitation to murder Judge Lefkow in a different matter.

Both Mike and Joan Lefkow graduated from Northwestern Law School. The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has established this fellowship in Michael Lefkow's honor to permit law students at Northwestern to undertake paid, public interest summer internships. Michael Lefkow represented the poor and vulnerable for his entire legal career. He died because his wife is a judge. The Lefkow Fellows at Northwestern Law School will undertake the direct representation of the poor and vulnerable as well as specific projects to promote a fair, impartial and independent judiciary.

FBA LEFKOW INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY FELLOWSHIP

This Lefkow Fellowship will provide a Northwestern student an opportunity to undertake work in furtherance of an impartial and independent judiciary. The importance of an impartial, independent judiciary is particularly appropriate for the Lefkow Fellow. Underscoring the importance for Congressional leadership to protect the judiciary and to promote respect for the independence of the judicial branch, Judge Lefkow testified in Congress just a few months after the murders. "This is the reason American judges are invited by developing democracies throughout the world to help establish an independent judiciary. Our system is the role model for the world. Without fearless judges, where are we as a nation?" She asked the senators "to publicly and persistently repudiate gratuitous attacks on the judiciary," and to "help in tempering the tone of the debates that concern the independence of the judiciary," because "[i]n this age of mass communication, harsh rhetoric is truly dangerous." Finally, she said that "even though we cannot prove a cause and effect relationship between rhetorical attacks on judges and violent acts of vengeance by a particular litigant, fostering disrespect for judges can only encourage those that are on the edge, or the fringe, to exact revenge on a judge who ruled against them."

The Lefkow Independent Judiciary Fellowship will be held this year in Washington D.C. at the project established by retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at Georgetown University. To learn more about the project go to www.law.georgetown.edu/judiciary/ "I am very pleased that Georgetown Law will partner with me in educating the public about judicial independence," Justice O'Connor said at the opening of the project in 2006. "As a judge, it is critical to me that we help people understand the importance of a fair and independent judiciary in a constitutional framework."

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Strong research and writing skills.
2. Self-starter and ability to manage multiple projects
3. Demonstrated interest in public policy a plus.
4. Some experience in the corporate setting a plus.
5. Teaching experience a plus.
6. Open to 1st or 2nd year law students.

HOW TO APPLY

This Program is open to First and Second year law students. Submit the following materials to the Career Services Office by Monday January 26, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Resume.
2. Law school transcript.
3. Writing sample
4. Personal Statement: Explain the reason for your interest in the Lefkow Fellowship at the Sandra Day O'Connor Project on the State of the Judiciary at the Georgetown University Law Center. Describe the relevance of this position to your career goals. Feel free to include any additional information you think will assist the committee in evaluating your qualifications for this Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

During the course of the summer, the Lefkow Fellow will have opportunities to visit the Supreme Court, the Federal Judicial Center and the Library of Congress. The Lefkow Fellow will also meet Justice O'Connor.

The Lefkow Fellow will work for ten weeks and will be paid a \$5000.00 stipend and be given an allowance for air travel to Washington D.C.

The Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is grateful to the donors who have made the Lefkow Fellowships possible, including many lawyers, law firms, companies and judges. In particular we recognize our major donors including Kirkland & Ellis, Sidley & Austin, Latham & Watkins, Mayer Brown, McDermott, Will & Emery and Jenner & Block