



BIO

Lee Fisher is Interim Dean and Visiting Professor of Law at Cleveland State University's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. His diverse career has spanned the private, public, nonprofit, and academic sectors.

In addition to serving as Interim Dean, Lee is Senior Advisor to CEOs for Cities, a nationwide innovation network for city success; Senior Fellow with the Center for Economic Development at the Cleveland State University Levin College of Urban Affairs; and Urban Scholar at the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and the Great Cities Institute, at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Lee has 18 years of public service, including Ohio Lt. Governor, Director of the Ohio Department of Development ("ODOD"), Chair of the Ohio Third Frontier Commission, Ohio Attorney General ("OAG"), State Senator, and State Representative. He has worked as a federal appellate law clerk, private attorney, public and private company board director, law school instructor, undergraduate teaching fellow, television and radio commentator, and President and CEO of the Center for Families and Children ("CFC").

He has extensive management, budgeting, strategic planning, fundraising, public speaking, and writing experience. He has managed budgets ranging from \$20 million to \$1 billion and teams ranging from 300 to 1200. He led a first-of-its-kind outside management review of the OAG and a comprehensive strategic planning process at CFC, ODOD, and CEOs for Cities. Under his leadership, CFC tripled its annual revenue generation, and he led the largest successful capital campaign in CFC history.

Lee is a graduate of Oberlin College (1973) and served on the Oberlin College Board of Trustees for 12 years. He earned his law degree from Case Western Reserve University ("CWRU") School of Law (1976). He was the first recipient of the School of Law's *Distinguished Recent Graduate Award* and was inducted in the School of Law's *Society of Benchers*. He earned his Master of Nonprofit Organization (MNO) from the CWRU Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations (2004).

After graduation from law school, he was offered three judicial clerkships- two on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, and one on the Ohio Supreme Court. He clerked for Judge Paul C. Weick of the 6th Circuit from 1976-77. He was an instructor at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1978, teaching legal research, writing, and advocacy. He practiced law at the Cleveland law firm, Hahn Loeser & Parks, from 1978-1990 in the areas of antitrust and trade regulation, business litigation, and government regulation. He returned to Hahn Loeser & Parks in 1995 as partner. Lee has spoken, lectured, and written extensively on a wide variety of legal and public policy topics.

He was elected Ohio Attorney General in 1990. As General Counsel for the State of Ohio, he managed the largest law firm in Ohio- a team of 1200 professionals including 350 lawyers, 23 legal divisions, a \$50 million budget, and an average daily caseload of 40,000 pending cases. He supervised the writing of over 300 formal legal opinions. Lee was the first Ohio Attorney General to personally argue cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit and the Ohio Supreme Court.

EDUCATION

- Case Western Reserve University (“CWRU”) Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations, MNO (Master of Nonprofit Organization) (2004)
- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D. (1976)
- Oberlin College, B.A. (1973)

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

- CWRU Presidential Fellow, teaching two undergraduate seminars on leadership, innovation, and collaboration (2005)
- Leadership at the Peak CEO program, Center for Creative Leadership (2001)
- Professional Fellows Program, CWRU Weatherhead School of Management (1996-1997)
- Program on Negotiation, Harvard University (1996)
- Leadership Cleveland (1984)
- Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government (Chase Public Leadership Fellow), Harvard University (1983)

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Chair, Ohio Economic Growth Council (2008-2010)
- Chair, Ohio Third Frontier Commission (2007-2009)
- Chair, Clean Ohio Council (2007-2009)
- Chair, Governor’s Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (2007-2009)
- Member, Ohio Venture Capital Authority (2007-2009)

Lee Fisher

- Chair, Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (1991-1995)
- Chair, Midwest Region, National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) (1992-1994)
- Chair, NAAG Antitrust Committee (1992-1994)
- Chair, NAAG Children and the Law Committee (1992-1994)
- Chair, Ohio Holocaust Commemoration (1981-1990)
- Chair, Ohio Senate Task Force on Children (1984-1986)

LEGAL COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Trustee, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (2016–present)
- Admitted to practice, U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 2nd and 6th Circuits, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- Life Member, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit Judicial Conference (1984-present)
- Life Member, Ohio Eighth Judicial District Judicial Conference
- Board, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland (1981-1987),
- Board of Overseers Visiting Committee, Case Western Reserve School of Law (1982-1984),
- Advisory Board, CWRU Center for Biomedical Ethics (1995-1996)
- Legal Advisory Board, Cleveland Works (1995-1996)
- Justice for All Cabinet, Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation (1996-1997)
- Board, Ohio CASA/GAL (Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem) Association (1996)
- U.S. Federal Court Alternative Dispute Mediation Panel (1995-2004)
- Co-Chair, Greater Cleveland Bar Association’s Education Initiative (1996-97)
- Member, ABA Litigation, Urban Law, and Tort and Insurance Practice Sections
- ABA Ohio Child Sexual Abuse Reform Task Force
- ABA Task Force on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children (1994-96)

SELECTED HONORS/AWARDS

- Inducted, Society of Benchers, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (2009)
- Only person in Ohio named as one of the “Power 100” Northeast Ohio Leaders by Cleveland Magazine Inside Business and one of the top 100 Central Ohio leaders by Smart Business Columbus magazine (2008, 2009)
- Presidential Teaching Fellow, Case Western Reserve University (2004)
- Nonprofit Executive of the Year, Smart Business Magazine (2004)
- Visionary in Business Award, Smart Business Magazine (2001)
- First recipient of Distinguished Recent Graduate Award, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (1984)
- Shaker Hts. High School Hall of Fame (1984)
- Chase Public Leadership Fellow, Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government, Harvard University (1983)
- Voted Outstanding Freshman Legislator by legislative colleagues and the Statehouse Press Corps, Columbus Monthly magazine (1982)
- Cleveland Bar Association Merit Service Award (1978, 1979)

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ohio's Chief Economic Development Officer

"Lt. Governor Fisher has come to intimately know the specific and general problems that businesses, workers (and laid-off workers) are confronting everywhere.... He has an incisive, organized, practical mind, on top of all that experience." Dayton Daily News (2010)

- Managed \$1 billion budget and team of 400, including 14 international offices
- Site Selection magazine awarded the Governor's Cup to Ohio 3 consecutive times (2007, 2008, 2009). Considered the most prestigious economic award in the nation, recognizing the state with the most new or expanded capital investment projects.
- Site Selection magazine recognized the Ohio Department of Development as the top economic agency in the country for business expansion (2008)
- Led creation of Ohio's first-ever Strategic Plan for Economic Development –Dean Ned Hill of the Cleveland State University Levin College of Urban Affairs noted, *"This is the first time any state department of development in the country is being held accountable for something outside of deal flow."* (2008)
- Chaired first-ever Ohio Economic Growth Council as part of the Strickland-Fisher administration's efforts to ensure that every state cabinet department had economic development as part of its mission.
- Chaired Ohio Third Frontier Commission, leading Ohio's efforts to provide funding for technology-based early-stage companies.
- Chaired Clean Ohio Council which provides funding for the cleanup of brownfields.
- Launched the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Program, the Ohio Film Office, the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Division, the Workforce and Talent Division, the Office of Insurance and Financial Development, and the first-ever Minority Business Advisory Council.
- Led Ohio's business and investment mission to Japan and travelled to Russia to persuade one of Russia's largest steel companies to build a plant in Ohio.

President & CEO, Center for Families and Children

"Lee Fisher is leading the Center for Families and Children to new heights."
Smart Business Magazine (2004)

- Managed \$20 million budget and team of over 300
- Only nonprofit organization to be named for 5 consecutive years as "One of the Best Places to Work in Northeast Ohio" by the Employers Resource Council
- Developed a comprehensive strategic plan and balanced scorecard process
- Led development of a \$4 million 3-year information technology plan
- Led most successful capital campaign in Center's history, raising over \$8 million
- Led the Center's annual fundraising efforts, tripling the Center's annual revenue generation
- Purchased and renovated new signature headquarters

Ohio's Chief Legal and Law Enforcement Officer

“Ohio is fortunate to have someone of Lee Fisher’s caliber as Attorney General. A seasoned lawyer and able legislator, he hit the ground running when he took office in 1991, and he hasn’t broken stride since.” Columbus Dispatch (1994)

- Managed team of 1,200, including 350 attorneys, 23 legal divisions, \$50 million budget, and average daily caseload of 40,000 pending cases.
- Supervised the writing of over 300 legal opinions.
- Worked with over 100 law firms in Ohio and throughout the country in their capacity as outside counsel.
- First Ohio Attorney General to personally argue cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit and Ohio Supreme Court. ¹
- Commissioned first-ever outside management review of the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, conducted by the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG).
- First Ohio Attorney General to craft prosecutorial guidelines for environmental matters.
- First Ohio Attorney General to establish an Ethics and Responsibility Advisory Council.
- Chair, NAAG Midwest Region
- Chair, NAAG Antitrust Committee
- Chair, NAAG Children & Law Committee
- National Innovation Award, Council of State and Local Governments for Operation Crackdown Program, which shut down more than 150 dangerous drug houses in Ohio.
- Established the first-ever statewide law enforcement and crime victim conferences, now annual traditions in Ohio’s law enforcement community.
- First state in the nation to require racial and cultural sensitivity training for new law enforcement officers.
- *National Solid Waste Management Association v. State of Ohio* (1992) – successfully defended the constitutionality of Ohio’s solid waste law before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. Ohio’s law imposed higher disposal fees on out-of-state waste than on in-state waste;
- *State of Ohio v. Wyant, May, Van Gundy* (1992) – successfully defended the constitutionality of Ohio’s Hate Crime law (the same law that Lee authored as State Senator in 1987) before the Ohio Supreme Court.

A Decade of Service in the Ohio Legislature

- Authored more than 10 Ohio laws, including the Close Corporation law, Missing Children law, Hate Crime law, Crime Victims Assistance law, Hospice Licensure law, and the Child Safety Seat law.
- Chair, Cuyahoga County Legislative Delegation (1986-1990)
- Led the effort to secure long term funding for Ohio legal aid services through passage of the IOLTA law
- Only legislator from 1980 to 1990 who served for 10 consecutive years on the House and Senate Judiciary Committees