

## **The Robert G. Palmer Public Interest Law Fellowship**

Robert Palmer received his law degree from Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri, served as a Captain, JAG, U.S.A.F. from 1970 to 1975 and has been in private practice based in Columbus, Ohio since 1976. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, listed in Martindale-Hubbell's Bar of Preeminent Lawyers and named by the Best Lawyers of America as its 2011 and 2012 Lawyer of the Year for Personal Injury Litigation in Columbus, Ohio.

Robert's 47 years of experience as a litigator has included a broad spectrum of personal injury, bad faith, commercial, civil rights, sex abuse and employment cases. He is also a Charter Member of the Ohio Chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals having served many years as a mediator both privately and for the courts. Robert served as trial and appellate counsel in *Dardinger v. Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield*, 98 Ohio St. 3d 77, 2002-Ohio-7113, where the jury awarded \$2,500,00 compensatory and \$49,000,000 punitive damages for bad faith denial and processing of a managed care benefit. Part of the award was used to establish the Esther L. Dardinger Neuro-Oncology Center. Robert's pro bono work has included volunteering as a neutral in the United States District Court, defending foreclosure actions during the banking crisis, representing individuals on health insurance coverage issues, and mediating cases on judicial request.

Robert has also served as president and on the Board of Trustees for the Columbus Bar Foundation which provides grants to promote access to justice for the poor, including Legal Aid. For the Ohio State Bar Foundation he helped write and publish a brochure for *pro se* litigants distributed to clerk's offices in all 88 Ohio Counties. Robert chaired the Columbus Bar Association Military Assistance Committee, served on the Supreme Court Commission on the Rules of Superintendence of Ohio Courts. For six years he served as a commissioner on the City of Columbus Historic Resources Commission.

Robert has authored numerous published legal articles, served as a national lecturer on multiple legal issues, and appeared periodically as a spokesperson, on-air legal expert, and actor in local T.V. productions. He has a son who is a nationally recognized sculptor, a son who is an internationally acclaimed professional drummer and musical choreographer, a son who is a nationally recognized professional skateboarder and a daughter who works with outdoor programs for troubled youth in the mountains of Colorado. He is married to Susan Simms, a recently retired law school professor.

The Robert G. Palmer Public Interest Law Fellowship is awarded in hopes that the recipient will be inspired by what successful lawyers like Robert G. Palmer do in the public's interest as an essential part of their career, and will make a similar commitment.

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