

**Ash Institute Summer Fellowship in Urban Policy
Project Description | 2009**

**Cleveland, Ohio
Office of Government Affairs**

Where:

Mayor's Office of Government Affairs, City of Cleveland

Who:

Valarie J. McCall, Chief of Government Affairs, City of Cleveland.

Project:

Fellow would help staff the Chief of Government Affairs on a daily basis as the Mayor's Office continues to sculpt its international trade and relations policy. Tasks would not only include international trade and finance but other key areas that Government Affairs oversees; including but not limited to: developing, and maintaining amicable relationships with all international, federal, state, county and local government, and other external agencies, including business and non-profit entities in order to achieve the goal of ensuring that Cleveland's positions are well advocated and understood.

The Fellow would collaborate with other elected officials, representatives of the non-profit, business sectors as well as international dignitaries.

Designating a Fellow for assignment in Cleveland presents the Kennedy School of Government a unique opportunity. Cleveland in 2009 will be one of the few big cities around the US that is not facing a large budget deficit. Through stellar fiscal management policy the City of Cleveland will not be facing a reduction in services, citywide layoffs and the same level of uncertainty of our counterparts around the Country and World. Furthermore, 2009 also serves as a reelection year for Mayor Jackson and all of Cleveland City Council's 21 member body.

End Product: During the Summer of 2009 a Fellow would be expected to evaluate all Government processes and help the staff develop a plan that optimizes their ability to serve the residents of the City of Cleveland and the region. Recommendations would include new public policy ideas and overall organizational evaluation in the form of a white paper report.