

**Lee Fisher**  
**President and CEO of CEOs for Cities**

Lee Fisher is the President and CEO of CEOs for Cities, a global learning network of cross-sector, cross-generational urban leaders dedicated to building and sustaining the next generation of great American cities.

CEOs for Cities was founded in 2001 by then Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Paul Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation. It is headquartered in Chicago, with offices in Washington, D.C. and Cleveland. Lee is also a Senior Fellow with the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University.

Lee served as an Ohio State Representative; State Senator; Ohio Attorney General; and Ohio Governor. He also served as a senior advisor to the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education.

**Lee Fisher Commencement Address**  
**University of Toledo**  
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time as a Nazi prisoner; but one day, my mother-in-

*Furniture* in Norwalk, Ohio who refused to give up when their company shut down, and worked to find buyers in their home town to buy the company and put the town back to work.

Ernest Hemingway wrote, “*The world breaks everyone, and afterward, many are strong in the broken places.*”

The world isn't run by the smartest and strongest people. It's run by the people who show up. It's run by the people who never stop trying. It's run by the people who, in the words of Steve Jobs, “*build bridges, tear down walls, and light fires.*”