Kara Simard is an Assistant Clinical Professor and the Director of Legal Residencies at UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law (UNH Law), where she counsels and supervises law student externs, teaches clinical externship courses, and assists students in the development of their practical skills, values, and knowledge to be successful lawyers upon graduation. She joined UNH Law in December 2022 as a Visiting Assistant Professor and the Interim Director of Legal Residencies.

Prior to joining UNH Law, Simard was a staff attorney at the New Hampshire Public Defender, representing indigent defendants in misdemeanor and felony cases. She started her legal career in private practice at a law firm practicing primarily in civil litigation, eventually expanding to criminal defense. She has appeared in New Hampshire and Massachusetts state and federal courts and has represented clients before administrative agencies, including the Social Security Administration, the Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents, and the Department of Safety. Simard has extensive experience trying cases before judges and juries. She is admitted to the New Hampshire State Bar, the Massachusetts State Bar (currently inactive), the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, and the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Simard is a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association's Gender Equality Committee, Ethics Committee, and Attorney Wellness Committee and served on the ad hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. She also serves on the American Constitution Society Path to the Bench Initiative for New Hampshire. She recently served on the Legal Education Subcommittee of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Standing Committee on Lawyer Well-Being (2024-2026), completed a long tenure serving on the National Board of Directors of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) as the New Hampshire Affiliate Representative (2016-2024), and served on the Board of the ACLU of New Hampshire in different leadership roles (2010-2024). Simard served for many years on the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Women’s Bar Association, serving as President from 2016-2018, and is an active and sustaining member. She served on the Executive Committee of the Manchester Bar Association and served as its President from 2015-2016.

Simard received her JD from Suffolk University Law School and her BA from Stonehill College, majoring in political science and fine arts. She is committed to serving the public, the legal profession, and giving back to her community.