





**Chief Judge J.D. Smith** was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Georgia Court of Appeals, effective May 10, 1993. Chief Judge Smith formerly was Chief Judge of the Superior Courts of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, which includes Dawson and Hall counties. He won election to the superior court bench in 1984, took office on January 1, 1985, and was re-elected without opposition in 1988 and 1992.

Chief Judge Smith is a native of Hall County, born on July 16, 1946. He is the son of the late Jessie D. Smith, who was also a native of Hall County, and Louise Elliot Smith, a native of Dawson County. He was educated in the Hall County school system.

Chief Judge Smith practiced law in Gainesville for over twelve years before becoming a judge. He is a member and past president of the Gainesville-Northeastern Circuit Bar Association. He is also a member of the Atlanta Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia, and the American Bar Association.

Before entering private practice, Chief Judge Smith served as law assistant to Justice William B. Gunter of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Chief Judge Smith obtained his legal education at the University of Georgia School of Law, where he received a Juris Doctor degree in 1972. He was on the Dean's List and he served as Associate Editor of *The Georgia Law Review*. He is also a graduate of the University of Florida, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree, with honors, in economics in 1968, and where he was on the Dean's List and a member of the President's Honor Roll. In 1977, Chief Judge Smith was awarded a Master of Laws in Taxation degree from the Emory University School of Law. Chief Judge Smith earned that degree while maintaining a full-time law practice in Gainesville. He earned an LL.M. degree in Judicial Process from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1998. Judge Smith is also a graduate of the New York University School of Law Appellate Judges Seminar, and he has been an instructor at the National Judicial College.

Chief Judge Smith is a former Chair of the Chestatee Regional Library Board. He is a member and former director of the Gainesville Kiwanis Club, which bestowed upon him its "Workhorse Award" in 1978. He was a founding director of the Lanier Education Foundation, as well as one of the organizers of Contact-Hall County, a twenty-four hour telephone crisis intervention service. He is a former Chair of the Troop Committee of Boy Scout Troop 16 in Gainesville.

He and his wife, Flo, and two children, Brian and Joanna, are members of the First United Methodist Church of Gainesville.