

EDUCATION:

Undergraduate Degree from the University of Mississippi. Graduated with honors and distinction, 1975. Member of Phi Kappa Phi Scholastic Honor Society. Juris Doctor, University of Mississippi, 1977. Graduate of National Judicial College, General Jurisdiction, University of Nevada, Reno, 1984. Completed American Arbitration Association Mediation Training Program, 1995. Yearly continuing education for judges and attorneys.

EXPERIENCE:

The general practice of law, including criminal, personal injury, and complex litigation. Serve as an arbitrator, mediator, and Medicaid Hearing Officer.

Served as a County Judge in Hinds County Court and as a Circuit Judge in Hinds County Circuit Court from 1983-1989. Appointed to serve as a Special Circuit Judge, Chancellor, and County Judge in hundreds of cases in 40 counties.

Now serving as a Senior Status Judge in County Court, Youth Court, Chancery Court and Circuit Court in multiple counties.

PUBLICATIONS:

Habeas Corpus: The "Great Writ" in Mississippi State Courts, 58 Mississippi Law Journal 25 (1989).

Circuit Judges Benchbook, Mississippi Judicial College, (1991).

Vampire Defense, an award-winning novel published by Sartoris Literary Group, 2012.

(Feathered Quill, Best Fiction Award, Silver Medal, 2014, Readers Favorite, Best Fiction, Silver Medal, 2014)

Maximilian's Treasure, an award-winning novel published by Sartoris Literary Group, 2019.

(2020 Reader Views, Best Fiction, Honorable Mention)

Senior Status Judge Benchbook, Member of the Committee that assembled the 2022 Senior Status Judge Benchbook

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Past Secretary of Mississippi Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules.

Former Member of Mississippi Judicial Performance Commission. Served on the Mississippi Constitutional Commission which drafted a proposed new constitution for Mississippi.

Volunteer mediator/adjudicator for the Attorney Fee Dispute Resolution Committee. Speaker at seminars concerning rules of evidence, trial tactics and proof that Jesus is the Christ. Former President, Jackson Rugby Club.

HONORS:

2023 Appointed by Chief Justice to serve as Hinds County Judge during the illness of Judge Loretta Cooper-Stokes, served from March through November of 2023.

2022 Received Chief Justice Award, highest honor given by Mississippi Courts

2021 – 2022 Appointed to assist with the backlog of civil cases in Hinds County Court, dismissed or closed over 120,000 cases.

2019 Chair of the Mississippi Conference of Senior Status Judges

2018 Deacon, Pinelake Baptist Church

2017 Top 100 Lawyers in North America designation

2014 Top 100 Lawyers in Mississippi designation

2004 Designated as a Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation

2004 Listed in Best's Directory of Lawyers

2003 Listed in Outstanding Lawyers of America

1998 - Present Listed in Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers

1991 - Present AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell

1987 - 2010 Secretary of Mississippi Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules

1986 Endorsed for re-election as County Judge by 96.5% of attorneys voting in the Judicial Preference Poll

1984 Nominated by the Mississippi Judicial Nominating Committee for appointment to the Mississippi Circuit Court Bench

1976 Received National Retail Idea of the Year Award from the National Floor Covering Association.