



Edward G. Smith

Born: September 17, 1961, in Fort Knox, Kentucky

Died: November 27, 2023, in Plainfield Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Nominated by Barack Obama on January 6, 2014, to a seat vacated by Berle M. Schiller.

Confirmed by the Senate on March 26, 2014, and received commission on March 31, 2014.

Service terminated on November 27, 2023, due to death.

Education:

Franklin and Marshall College, B.A., 1983

Dickinson School of Law (now Penn State Dickinson Law), J.D., 1986

Naval Justice School, 1987

Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, 2004

Professional Career:

U.S. Navy, JAG Corps: 1984-1990

U.S. Naval Reserve, JAG Corps: 1990-2014

Private Practice, Easton, Pennsylvania: 1990-2001

Solicitor, Upper Nazareth Township, Pennsylvania: 1990-2001

Special Deputy Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: 1991-1999

Assistant Solicitor, Northampton County, Pennsylvania: 1996-1998

Solicitor, Northampton County, Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority: 1997-2001

Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County, Pennsylvania: 2002-2014

Other Nominations/Recess Appointments:

Nominated to U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, August 1, 2013; no Senate vote.

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Judicial Biography

In 2014, Judge Smith was appointed to serve as a district court judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania with courtroom chambers in both Easton and Philadelphia. Judge Smith was nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by a Republican majority Senate. Prior to his federal judicial service, he served for twelve years as a Pennsylvania state trial judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Before that, and after leaving active duty with the U.S. Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps, he was a partner in private practice with the firm of DeRaymond & Smith in Easton.

In 1984, while still completing his studies at the Dickinson School of Law, Judge Smith was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps. That commission would begin a 30-year military career combining military service and judicial responsibility. He rose through the ranks to Navy Captain, took command of two separate reserve units, presided as a military judge over Navy and Marine Corps courts-martial at home and abroad, and served as an appellate judge on the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. Of particular note, in 2007, he took a temporary leave of absence from the Northampton County bench and forward-deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he served as the Rule of Law Advisor to Joint Task Force 134, Multi-National Force-Iraq.

His military awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, USCG Special Operations Ribbon, Expert Rifleman Medal, and Expert Pistol Medal.

Judge Smith was a graduate of Easton Area High School. He studied at Franklin and Marshall College and the Dickinson School of Law where he graduated with honors. From there, he went to Naval Justice School where he graduated first in his class.

He passed away on November 27, 2023, in Plainfield Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, at the age of 62.

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Biographical Materials

1. Obituary, The Honorable Edward G. Smith (1961-2023).
2. Remarks delivered on December 1, 2023, by Dr. Mark S. Smith at Memorial Service concerning the late Honorable Edward G. Smith.

3. Remarks delivered on December 1, 2023, by Joseph A. Corpora, III, Esq. at Memorial Service concerning the late Honorable Edward G. Smith.
4. Remarks delivered on December 1, 2023, by the Honorable Bernard E. DeLury, Judge, Superior Court of New Jersey at Memorial Service concerning the late Honorable Edward G. Smith.
5. Remarks delivered on December 1, 2023, by the Honorable Evan A. Young, Justice, Supreme Court of Texas at Memorial Service concerning the late Honorable Edward G. Smith.
6. Remarks delivered on December 1, 2023, by the Honorable Juan R. Sanchez, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania at Memorial Service concerning the late Honorable Edward G. Smith.