

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Jock Smith

PERSON

Smith, Jock M., 1948-

Alternative Names: The Honorable Jock Smith;

Life Dates: June 10, 1948-January 8, 2012

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Residence: Montgomery, Alabama

Work: Tuskegee, Alabama

Occupations: Law Professor; Attorney; Municipal Court Judge

Biographical Note

Attorney, law professor, municipal court judge, and trial lawyer Jock Michael Smith was born on June 10, 1948, in New York City to Betty Lou Nance Bowers and Jacob Smith. Despite the untimely death of his father in 1956, Smith still excelled academically, receiving his B.S. degree from Tuskegee University in 1970 and his J.D. degree from the University of Notre

Dame's Law School on May 20, 1973.

After receiving his law degree, Smith then became a legal advisor to the NAACP's Civil Rights Project in Broome County, New York. A year later, Smith moved to Alabama, and in 1977, he became the assistant attorney general for Montgomery, Alabama. That same year, Smith opened his own law firm in Tuskegee, Alabama where he represented plaintiffs and defendants in both criminal and civil suits until 1998. In 1987, Smith became a city municipal judge in Camp Hill, Alabama, and spent two years on the bench. In 1990, he became County Attorney in Macon County, Alabama. He represented the county in all legal matters for fifteen years. In 1993, Smith worked as an administrative law judge for Alabama's Department of Environmental Management. The following year, he founded Scoring For Life, Inc., a non-profit organization that encourages teens, children and adults with motivational messages. In 1997, Smith became a principal stockholder and sports agent for Cochran Sports Management while working alongside Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. A year later, Smith joined Cochran at the firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens & Smith, P.C. in Tuskegee, Alabama as a senior partner. In 1999, he also became a play-by-play announcer for Tuskegee University's Tiger Football and the Tuskegee Community Network. In addition to his legal career, Smith also taught at State University of New York at Binghamton and Tuskegee Institute.

Smith has received numerous awards, including honorary doctorates of Divinity Degrees from the Pentecostal Bible College, Tuskegee, Alabama and the Montgomery Bible Institute and Theological Center, Montgomery, Alabama, and keys to the cities of New Orleans, Louisiana, Memphis, Tennessee and Flint, Michigan. He has been recognized by the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association for tireless dedication and unwavering commitment, inducted into the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and received the Inaugural Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Journey to Justice Award in

2005 at the National Bar Association Convention. "The Martindale-Hubbell" legal publication has given Smith its highest rating, the AV Rating, and "Lawdragon" Legal Magazine in Los Angeles, California selected him as one of America's Top 500 Trial Litigators in 2006 and 2007. Smith was inducted onto the President's Advisory Council of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), making him the first African American to serve on that board. In 2002, he published his autobiography entitled, "Climbing Jacob's ladder: a Trial Lawyer's Journey in Behalf of the 'Least of These'."

Jock Smith passed away on January 8, 2012.

Jock Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 5, 2007.

Related Entries

P.S. 15 Jackie Robinson School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

I.S. 59 Springfield Gardens [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Andrew Jackson High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

High school diploma

Tuskegee University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bachlors

Norte Dame Law School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Law Degree

United States Customs Court [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to 1970]

Clerk

Police Youth Involvement Program [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1972 to 1972]

Instructor

Urban League of South Bend and St. Joseph County

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1972 to 1973]

Legal Assistant

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored
People (NAACP) Civil Rights Project** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1973 to 1974]

Legal Adviser

State University of New York at Binghamton

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1973 to 1974]

Professor

Tuskegee University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1974 to 1977]

Professor

State of Alabama [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1974 to 1977]

Assistant Attorney General

Law offices of Jock M. Smith [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to 1998]

Attorney

Camphill Communities of North America [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1987 to 1989]

City Municipal Judge

Macon County [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990 to 2005]

County Attorney

Alabama Department of Environmental Management

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1993 to 1994]

Administrative Law Judge

Scoring for Life, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1995 to ?]

CEO (Founder)

Cochran Sports Management [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1997 to ?]

Sports Agent

National Law firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens &

Smith, P.C. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to ?]

Attorney/Senior Partner

Tuskegee Community Network [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1999 to ?]

Sports Commentator

Alabama Trial Lawyers Association [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Sustaining Member

Christian Life Church [MEMBEROF]

[from 1986 to ?]

Member

Alabama Trial Lawyers Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 1991 to ?]

Member

Scoring for Life, Inc. [MEMBEROF]

[from 1995 to ?]

Founder

Association of Trial Lawyers of America [MEMBEROF]

[from 1996 to ?]

Member

Bar Association of the District of Columbia [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to ?]

Member

Tennessee Bar Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 2001 to ?]

Member

New York City Bar Association [MEMBEROF]

[from 2002 to ?]

Member

Envision Montgomery [MEMBEROF]

[from 2002 to ?]

Member