

JUDGE J. LAYNE **SMITH** CLASS OF 1983

Judge J. Layne Smith has built a distinguished career in law, public service, and civic education. He has served as a Circuit Judge in Florida's Second Judicial Circuit and previously as a Leon County Judge. His experience also includes service as General Counsel for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Florida Lottery, State Retirement Commissioner, Florida State University Adjunct Law Professor, and a 25-year private practice trial lawyer.

Recognized among Florida's Legal Elites by Florida Trend Magazine and A-V rated by Martindale-Hubbell, Judge Smith has also received honors including the 2022 Trial Jurist of the Year from the American Board of Trial Advocates, Tallahassee Chapter, and the 2022 Award for Judicial Courage from the American Judges Association. He is a syndicated "Ask Judge Smith" newspaper columnist and the author of *Civics, Law, and Justice: How We Became U.S.* and *Oswald on Trial: Making Sense of the Evidence*. A graduate of the Florida State University College of Law and College of Business, Judge Smith is committed to justice, public service, and helping citizens better understand the law.