

JUDGE LESLIE H. SOUTHWICK
COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT FOUR

Judge Leslie H. Southwick is a Texas native who has resided in Mississippi since 1976. He graduated cum laude with a B.A. degree from Rice University in 1972, and earned a J.D. from the University of Texas in 1975.

Following his law school graduation, Judge Southwick clerked for the Presiding Judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and then for Judge Charles Clark of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He was an associate in the Jackson law firm of Brunini, Grantham, Grower and Hewes from 1977 to 1983, and a partner from 1983 to 1989. From 1985-86, he was a member of the Governor's Constitution Study Commission.

Judge Southwick entered government service in 1989 when he became a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice (Civil Division). In this capacity, he supervised the one hundred and twenty-five lawyers of the Federal Programs Branch, which defends suits brought against the United States. He also supervised the Office of Consumer Litigation, a twenty-five lawyer division charged with civil and criminal enforcement of federal consumer laws.

In 1994, Judge Southwick was elected one of the first ten judges on the Court of Appeals. He has remained on the court except for a military leave of absence from August 2004 until January 2006. In 2005 he served as the Deputy and then as the Staff Judge Advocate for the 155th Brigade Combat team in Iraq.

He is an adjunct professor of law at Mississippi College. He is a member of the Charles Clark Chapter, American Inns of Court.

Judge Southwick has written several legal and historical articles which have been published in the Mississippi Law Journal, the Mississippi College Law Review, the Wall Street Journal, and various historical journals. He is the author of Presidential Also-Rans and Running Mates which won an American Library Association "Best Reference Work of the Year" award in 1985. A second edition was published in 1998.

Judge Southwick is married to the former Sharon Polasek, and they have two children, Philip and Cathy. The Southwicks are members of St. Richards's Catholic Church in Jackson.