

James Donald Smith, BPAI Chief Administrative Patent Judge

Judge James Donald Smith was appointed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences as the Chief Administrative Patent Judge effective May 8, 2011.

Judge Smith has had a long career in the law and in intellectual property, including a brief time as an examiner at the USPTO. A former Assistant Dean of the law school at Emory University in Atlanta, Smith also served as a clerk at the Federal Circuit, as a patent litigator and patent prosecutor, and led international licensing and day-to-day management of in-house IP teams for three multi-national corporations, Lexmark, Nokia, and most recently Baxter International, where he served as Associate General Counsel and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel.

Judge Smith clerked for now retired Chief Judge Paul Michel at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In addition to his work at Baxter International and Emory University, Smith practiced with Arnold White & Durkee and, later, Dewey Ballantine (now Dewey Le Boeuf), serving as the office managing partner of Dewey's Texas office, before leaving to serve as the Global Licensing Director for Nokia Corporation.

Judge Smith received a Juris Doctor degree from the School of Law at Duke University and a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park.