



## Chesterfield Harvey "Chet" Smith Jr.

August 24, 1952 - September 25, 2021

It is with heavy hearts that we announce Chesterfield Harvey Smith, Jr. (Chet), 69, died suddenly on September 25, 2021. Chet was born in Bartow, FL, on August 24, 1952, to Vivian Parker and Chesterfield H. Smith. He attended the Bolles School (class of 1971) and later received a degree in Asian Studies from the University of Oregon. Chet received his law degree from the University of Miami Law School in 1987 while working at the Citizen Dispute Settlement Center in Miami, FL.

Chet met his loving wife, Patricia, while living in Coral Gables, FL, and the couple married in 1984. He began his legal career at Rasco Reininger, later joining Baker McKenzie. Chet's 31-year tenure at Florida's Office of the Attorney General (OAG) began in Hollywood, FL. It continued in Tallahassee in 1994, when Chet and Patricia moved there with their two children, Chesterfield H. Smith, III and Taylor Vivian Smith. At the OAG, Chet served under five attorneys general and seven governors. He spent the majority of his tenure in the Office's largest division, serving as a Bureau Chief of the Civil Division for nearly 18 years, where he led and supervised significant class actions seeking to change the way the state did business. The cases were cumbersome and often spanned decades -- a task many felt was impossible, but Chet saw as an opportunity and a welcome challenge. He was admitted to practice law in all state and federal courts in Florida, the United States Appeals Court for the Eleventh Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chet did not seek notoriety or fame, nor did he seek honor for himself. Instead, he sought to elevate each person he had the opportunity to work with. Chet's lasting legacy is seen in the many attorneys he hired and mentored who have gone on to become leaders in their field -- including some following in Chet's footsteps with a career in public service. Many in Tallahassee's legal community will feel our loss. Those who worked alongside Chet will continue to honor his legacy by practicing law the way he did, with an unwavering commitment to defend the law while holding oneself to the highest ethical standards.

While he held many professional titles at the OAG, from Assistant Attorney General to the Associate Deputy Attorney General, his favorite titles were husband, Dad, and "Papadam." Whether he was making his Dad's famous recipe -- "The Dish," touring the winding roads outside of Blue Moon cabin on a tandem road bike with his wife, or enjoying his first grandchild, Chet was happiest when he was surrounded by his family and was filled with pride and immense love and devotion for his wife and children.

Chet knew how to keep his family and friends on their toes. From barefoot water skiing and diving at Bolles to dirt bike riding in the Red Hills of Tallahassee to distance running the buttes of Oregon, Chet was always active. His passion was cycling, and he enjoyed many happy memories on the roads and trails of Tallahassee riding with his wife, son, and friends. Chet's other two-wheeled passion was BMW motorcycles and he was always ready for a trip with friends to zip around the Blue Ridge mountains.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Patricia Gudis Smith; son, Chesterfield Harvey Smith, III (Elizabeth) of Tallahassee, FL; daughter, Taylor Vivian Smith of Atlanta, GA; beloved grandson, Chesterfield Harvey Smith, IV of Tallahassee, FL; sister, Rhoda Kibler (Sandy) of Tallahassee, FL; and nephew,

Parker Smith Cannon of Sarasota, FL.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Chet's memory to Apalachicola Riverkeeper or WFSU. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at 11 am at The Space at Feather Oaks, 6500 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32309

Rocky Bevis of Bevis Funeral Home of Tallahassee([www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the Smith family with their arrangements

# Previous Events

## **A Celebration of Chet's Life**

OCT 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Space at Feather Oaks  
6500 Miccosukee Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ Patricia, Chet Jr. and Chet IV, Taylor and Sandy and family,  
What a blessing to the Hughes family the Chesterfield family is!  
You loved our brother John Bill soooo unconditionally as well as  
mentoring us and we are so grateful for that. Thank you for your  
unconditional love for this family!  
May the peace of the Lord Jesus that surpasses all understanding  
be with you, knowing your beloved husband, father and friend,  
advocate for soooo many is resting peacefully with Jesus!  
WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! Well done!!❤️  
Theresa Jo Hughes, Cyndy Hoffman, Pat and Kelly Smith and John  
Bill Jones. 🙏🙏🙏

---

**Cynthia Hoffman & Theresa Jo Hughes** - October 04, 2021 at 07:54 AM

LR

“ I worked for Chet for several years at the Attorney General's Office.  
He was a good boss and a fine person. I want to offer my  
condolences to his family - I feel like I knew you all, he talked about  
you so often.

---

**Lisa Raleigh** - October 02, 2021 at 01:19 PM

JP

“ *A life worth living is about the journey not the destination.*



*Bartow ... Miami ...Oregon... Gainesville...  
"Mayberry"... mountain "cabins"....law  
school.....private practice.....decades surviving the intoxicating  
issues/people /politics at the office Florida Attorney  
General....leotard clad bicycle rides....armor clad motorcycle trips  
.....friends and co workers respect and admiration...1st Tuesday  
geezer lunches.*

*Trish, Chet, Taylor.*

*A life worth living!*

*We are honored that Chet's journey and ours intersected.*

*Jim and Cathy Peters*

---

**jim peters** - October 01, 2021 at 10:25 AM



“ I was totally shocked to learn of Chet's passing. I had the privilege of serving as a Senior Paralegal/Research Associate under Chet in the State Programs Bureau (1994-2007), until I retired to move to Knoxville, TN with my husband. In the summer of 2008, during one of his many trips to Knoxville to visit his in-laws, Chet visited us and made it possible for me to work for him again, this time remotely to assist the OAG in preparing for a trial in South Florida. That project lasted until Spring, 2010. I can truly say that Chet was one of the best "bosses" a paralegal could ever have. I will always be grateful to Chet for giving me the opportunity to learn so much about the "law" from him, and the other attorneys in State Programs. My thoughts and prayers are with Tricia and his family now, and in the days and weeks to come. May God wrap his arms around you, and give you his peace!



---

**Barbara Paulson** - September 30, 2021 at 04:55 PM

RK

“ Best "Boss" ever. One of the good guys. Loved his bikes & yoyo.

---

**Roberta Kaelin** - September 30, 2021 at 09:19 AM

EW

“ Chet was a true gentleman and a lawyer's lawyer in every aspect of his legal career. I had the privilege of working under his supervision from 2007 through 2013 in the Civil Division of the Florida Office of the Attorney General, where I witnessed his incredible attention to details in every legal matter and case we handled. He had the same character traits and tenacity as his dad, Chesterfield Smith, who was known as America's lawyer when he was president of the American Bar Association in 1974, and who founded Florida's first premier law firm, Holland and Knight. During the time I served as an assistant attorney general, Chet was always available to consult and offer guidance for sucessfully handling cases. He left us many blessed memories, and Diane and offer our deep condolence to Patricia and his family.

---

**Enoch J. Whitney** - September 27, 2021 at 05:44 PM

CG

“ We send our thoughts and prayers to his family. He was a remarkable man who made a real difference in the world.  
Cathi and Michael Graham

---

**Cathi graham** - September 27, 2021 at 04:12 PM