



Hon. Don Wayne Davis

February 7, 1943 - September 19, 2025

Don Wayne Davis is dead at the age of 82. Feb 7th, 1943 – Sept. 19th, 2025.

A native of Madison County, Florida, he attended the public schools there graduating from Madison High School in 1961.

He graduated from the University of Florida in 1965. Subsequently, he joined the US Peace Corps and served for two years in India, following which he entered the Florida State University College of Law, receiving his Juris Doctor degree in 1969.

He served as Staff Director to the Education Committee of the Florida House of Representatives during which time he was admitted to the Florida Bar in May 1970. He was admitted to the Washington D.C. Bar and practiced before the United States Supreme Court in 1979.

In a legal career of public service spanning more than 50 years, Don served as County and acting Circuit Judge from 1971 until 1977 in Madison County, Florida. He later was General Counsel of the Florida Department of Commerce and then General Counsel to the Florida Game and Fish Commission.

Judge Davis retired in 2008, following 21 years of service as a Florida

Administrative Law Judge.

He loved the mountains of western North Carolina where he enjoyed writing, painting, hiking, playing golf, and growing vegetables in the church garden near his recreational home at Springdale Golf and Country Club.

He once described his service as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in India from 1965-67 as the greatest adventure of his life. While stationed there, he enjoyed mountain climbing in the Himalayan mountains, teaching school in Ludhiana, Punjab, and touring other parts of what he called his “second home country” surpassed only by the United States.

He is survived by his loyal wife, Beth, their son, Will (Kate), their daughter McRae (Mehmet) Kaplan, his daughter, Donna (Mike) Ebaugh and his granddaughters, Elliot, Grady, and Cannon Davis and Madison, Annabelle, and Kaitlyn Ebaugh. Don is also survived by his brothers, Earl (Pegeen) and Gary (Trish), devoted brother-in-law Bill (Barbara) Watkins, and numerous beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church at 11:00am Monday September 29th, with a reception to follow in Moor Hall.

The family extends their sincere gratitude to Dr. David Powers, Dr. Ruby Williams, Dr. Pareshkumar Patel, Ms. Tempie Miles, and the staff at First Commerce Center for Compassionate Care.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made in Don’s memory to Big Bend Hospice.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **29**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity United Methodist Church
120 W Park Ave
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 222-1120

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Hon. Don Wayne Davis.

September 28, 2025 at 05:31 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Hon. Don Wayne Davis.



September 28, 2025 at 05:31 PM



“ Kaki Pope planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hon. Don Wayne Davis.

Kaki Pope - September 24, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ Kaki Pope purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Hon. Don Wayne Davis.



Kaki Pope - September 24, 2025 at 02:18 PM

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“ Don and I worked together at the Division of Administrative Hearings from late 2003, when I started here, until his retirement in 2008. I had also appeared before him many times as a private attorney prior to 2003. I have only fond memories of Don as a great storyteller, a fair minded, kind, and empathetic judge who knew the law and played a strong role in carrying out the mission of DOAH, to afford people and companies, whether represented by counsel or representing themselves, to get a fair shake from a judge who cared about making the right decision in every case. Don helped DOAH move from the age of paper, where everything arrived by mail, and personal delivery, and all hearings were held in person to a time when electronic filing of documents, in person, and video teleconferencing hearings became more widespread.

Don was always a gentleman who treated people with respect and warmth. He handled most any type of dispute between the people and Florida's agencies without complaint and, accordingly, became an expert in many areas of the law. He always acted with professionalism and in an ethical manner. He was devoted to his family and proud of their accomplishments. He loved his hometown of Madison and referred to himself as a country lawyer or judge. To me, this meant he was a judge of the people and for the people who devoted his professional life to giving all who appeared before him a fair shake even when he had to rule against them.

he will be missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him, appearing before him, and calling him "friend." May you rest in peace, Judge Davis.

Bob Cohen - September 22, 2025 at 01:36 PM