

JAMES LAWRENCE KING

James Lawrence King was born on December 20, 1927 in Miami, Florida, the only child of James Lawrence and Viola Ethel King. He grew up in the rural farming area of South Dade County known as the Redland. His home, like all of those in that time and place, was without electricity, running water, or any modern conveniences. After graduation from Redland High School in 1945, he enrolled at the University of Florida where he was employed in the University library and in the school cafeteria.

While at the University of Florida, he was chairman of a campus political party, a member of the Honor Court, Executive Council, President's Cabinet, Hall of Fame and President of Florida Blue Key. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1949, he commenced law school at the same institution.

Upon graduation from law school in January of 1953, he served on active duty as a first lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General's Department of the United States Air Force, returning in May 1955 to practice law in Miami Beach, Florida with the law firm of Sibley & Davis.

During the years 1962 to 1964, he was elected to the presidency of the State Junior Bar Section of The Florida Bar and appointed by the Governor of Florida to the Board of Regents governing the six state universities of Florida. On December 31, 1964, he was appointed circuit judge for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, where he continued to serve until his appointment to the federal bench. While serving in this capacity, he was temporarily assigned as a justice of the Supreme Court of Florida and the Second, Third and Fourth District Courts of Appeal of Florida.

After his appointment as a United States District judge for the Southern District of Florida on October 30, 1970, he served on the Advisory Committee on Judicial Activities, 1973-1976; was appointed by Chief Justice Burger in 1974 to study the Magistrate System and English Civil Judicial Procedures in London; the Committee on Standards for Admission of Attorneys to Federal Practice, 1976-1979; and the Ad Hoc advisor committee on the Administrative Office, 1985. He was appointed temporary Chief Judge for Administration of the United States District Court of the Canal Zone 1977-1978. He was Chairman of the Implementation Committee on Admission of Attorneys to Federal Practice from 1979-1985.

He was a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States from 1984 through 1987 and a member of the Judicial Council of the Eleventh Circuit, 1989-1992. Judge King was a member of the Committee on Long Range Planning, 1990-1996.

Judge King served as Chief Judge for the Southern District from September 1, 1984 until September 1, 1991. During this period of time, the Court expanded greatly and the increased demand for facilities resulted in the construction of an eleven-story courthouse addition in Miami, a second twelve-story courthouse addition in Miami, an eighteen-story Bureau of Prisons detention facility, and a total of twenty-three new additional courtrooms and chambers throughout the district. He became Senior Judge December 20, 1992, but continues to carry a full caseload.

Judge King is the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from St. Thomas University, and has been the commencement speaker at law schools at the University of Florida and St. Thomas University.

Judge and Mrs. Mary Kapa King have four children, Lawrence Daniel King, Kathryn Ann Wright, Karen Ann Colbert and Mary Virginia King. They have ten grandchildren, David Jack Wright, Brett, Ryan, Corrine and Peter Colbert, Jordan, Richard and Samantha Getchel and James and Kyle King.