



NARAL

Reproductive Freedom & Choice

Lavenski Smith

Nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Career

- Commissioner, Arkansas Public Service Commission, 2000-present.
- Associate Justice, Arkansas Supreme Court, 1999-2000
- Chairman, Arkansas Public Service Commission, 1997-1999.
- Regulatory Liaison, Office of the Governor, 1996-1997.
- Assistant Professor, John Brown University, 1994-1996.
- Private Law Practice, 1991-1994.
- Staff Attorney, Ozark Legal Services, 1987-1991.

Hostility to Reproductive Rights

- Smith represented the “Unborn Child Amendment Committee” in its suit against the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to bar all abortions, except those to save the life of the woman, from being performed by the hospital staff or in the hospital facilities. He argued that Amendment 68 to the Arkansas Constitution prohibited all abortion-related reproductive health care services at the state hospital. The Arkansas Supreme Court disagreed, finding that the amendment was not a *per se* bar to the use of any public facility or public employee to perform an abortion.¹
- In his failed race for the Arkansas Court of Appeals, Smith accepted a campaign contribution from a political action committee run by anti-choice Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who stated that the purpose of the Conservative Leadership for Arkansas PAC is to promote “candidates who oppose abortion”²

¹ *Unborn Child Amendment Committee v. Ward*, 943 S.W.2d 591 (Ark. 1997).

² “Huckabee’s PAC Gives More Than \$70,000 to Conservative Candidates,” *The Associated Press States & Local Wire Service*, Oct. 17, 2000; Conservative Leadership for Arkansas (CLAPAC), Political Action Committee Quarterly Reporting Form, October 15 Quarterly, Oct. 16, 2001.