

## Comanche County District Judge Selected To Head Southwest Judicial District

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Judge Mark R. Smith was voted by his peers as the latest Presiding Judge of the Southwest Judicial Administrative District, replacing Judge Allen McCall, who served eight years (2005-2013) in the same position.

"The Southwest Administrative District has a history of outstanding judges," Judge Smith said. "It's just an honor to be selected by my colleagues. I know I have big shoes to fill, because Judge McCall did an outstanding job. It's an absolute honor, and I'm just proud to be here."

Responsibilities will not change much for Judge Smith. He has technically been in the position since October 2013, after being selected by the Chief Justice to fill the unexpired time in the term of Judge McCall. The judge will continue his oversight of the administrative duties of 24 judges in 11 counties — Comanche, Cotton, Stephens, Jefferson, Grady, Caddo, Kiowa, Greer, Harmon, Tillman and Jackson. He will also be responsible for representing the district, one of nine in the state, once a month in a meeting with the Chief Justice to be brought up on current events and practices within the state of Oklahoma.

Despite the increased responsibility, Judge Smith said he will continue to serve in the same capacity as a district judge in the county. "I will continue to handle all of my cases," he said. "Both carry equal docket responsibility."