

ORMOND SOMERVILLE

Associate Justice - 1911-1928

BORN: November 26, 1868; Tuscaloosa, Alabama
DIED: September 11, 1928; Montgomery, Alabama

Ormond Somerville, son of Associate Justice H. M. Somerville, earned both his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Alabama. He was admitted to the bar in 1890, began practicing law in partnership with William C. Fitts. Shortly afterwards, he was appointed county solicitor.

In 1895 Somerville joined C. B. Verner in the practice of law. The two partners also published the ***Tuscaloosa Gazette***, one of the first daily newspapers of the area. In addition, following in his father's footsteps, Somerville taught in the law school at the University of Alabama from 1896 to 1909. His area of expertise was the law of evidence.

In 1910, Somerville resigned his professorship to run for a position on the Supreme Court and won handily. He was unopposed in subsequent terms, and remained on the court until his death.

A Phi Beta Kappa, Somerville enjoyed poetry and music and was adept at playing the flute.

Ormond Somerville married Kate Walter in 1892. They had a daughter before Kate died in 1895. In 1898 he married Bessie Randolph. They had two children.