

SAM TAYLOR

Court of Criminal Appeals - 1983-1997

BORN: August 8, 1935; Mobile, Alabama

Sam Taylor, a native of Mobile, Alabama, graduated from Murphy High School and earned his B.A. in Business Administration in 1956 and his LL.B./J.D. in 1958, both at the University of Alabama. In 1959, he earned a Master of Laws degree at New York University.

Judge Taylor served as a law clerk in state and federal courts, as an assistant district attorney in Mobile, and as an officer in the U. S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He practiced law in Birmingham and Montgomery and was elected in 1970 to represent Montgomery County in the state legislature.

In 1975 Taylor was appointed judge of the Montgomery County Court and the following year was elected to the District Court where he served as presiding judge. Appointed circuit judge for the fifteenth judicial circuit, he was elected to a six year term in 1978. In 1983 Governor George C. Wallace appointed him to the Court of Criminal Appeals, and he was elected to a full term the following year. Judge Taylor served as presiding judge of that court 1988-1990 and 1995-1997. He retired on January 20, 1997, at the end of his second full term on the court.

Instrumental as a legislator in revamping the judicial system, Taylor was the first elected president of the Alabama District Judges. He taught evening courses at Jones School of Law for seven years.

Sam Taylor is married to the former Emily Allen Thrasher of Montgomery. They have three children, Dr. S. Wayne Taylor, Jr., George S. Taylor II, and Emily Taylor Greer.

Portrait by Lindy Bruggink, 1950
Oil on canvas, 1996