

SAMEUL DAVIES WEAKLEY, JR.

Eighteenth Chief Justice: 1906

BORN: July 16, 1860; Somerville, Alabama

DIED: February 14, 1921; Birmingham, Alabama



*Portrait by DAVID ROBERTSON
American
Painted Photograph*

A native of Morgan County, Samuel Davies Weakley, Jr. attended a prep school in Florence and graduated from Florence State Normal School in 1879. After teaching school in Lauderdale County for a few months, he read law and was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 1880.

That same year Weakley moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he practiced law and served a four-year term as assistant attorney general for Shelby County. He returned to Alabama in 1887 and practiced law in Birmingham. From 1889 to 1906, he was associated with E.H. Cabaniss in the firm of Cabaniss & Weakley.

In 1889, while serving as city attorney of Birmingham, Weakley compiled a code of city ordinances.

Upon the death of Chief Justice McClellan in February 1906, Governor William D. Jelks appointed Weakley to finish McClellan's term. Weakley served until November of that year, after he was defeated in the Democratic primary by Associate Justice John R. Tyson. Weakley returned to Birmingham to practice law in partnership with his brother, John B. Weakley.

Samuel Davies Weakley, Jr., married Ellen Newton, of Birmingham in 1884. They had two daughters.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

Location: Antebellum Gallery, 3rd Floor, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building