

OSCAR W. ADAMS, JR.
Associate Justice - 1980-1993

BORN: February 7, 1925; Birmingham, Alabama
DIED: February 15, 1997; Birmingham, Alabama

Son of a Birmingham newspaper publisher and great-grandson of a member of the Alabama Legislature, Oscar William Adams, Jr., earned his bachelor's degree from Talladega College in 1944. Upon receiving his law degree from Howard University in 1947, he was admitted to the Alabama bar and launched what would become a distinguished legal career that spanned more than three decades. Beginning in the early 1960's, Justice Adams' law firm, Adams, Baker and Clemon, became one of the nation's leading firms handling complex civil rights litigation.

In 1980, Adams was appointed to the Alabama Supreme Court by Governor Fob James. In 1982, and again in 1988, he successfully ran for the position and became the first African American in the history of Alabama to be appointed and elected to a statewide constitutional office.

Justice Adams had three children (Oscar III, Gail, and Frank) by his first wife, Willa, who died in 1982. He had two stepsons (Kynath and Kevin) by his second wife, Anne-Marie, whom he married in 1984.

Portrait by Jerry Whitworth, b. 1952
Oil on canvas, 1993