

WILLIAM M. BOWEN, JR.
Court of Criminal Appeals - 1977-1995
BORN: December 11, 1947; Birmingham, Alabama

Judge William M. Bowen, Jr., attended John Carroll High School in Birmingham, St. Bernard College in Cullman, and received his baccalaureate degree (cum laude) in history and political science from Samford University in 1969. He earned his law degree from Cumberland School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1973.

Judge Bowen's legal career began at the Office of the Attorney General where he worked from 1973 to 1976, when he was elected to the Court of Criminal Appeals. At that time he was the youngest appellate judge in the nation. Over the next eighteen years he earned a reputation as a hard-working, scholarly jurist. He served as presiding judge from 1983 to 1988 and 1993 to 1995. During his career on the court, he wrote more than two thousand majority opinions, five of which were selected as lead cases for A.L.R. annotations. At the time of his retirement, he had written more published opinions than any other judge in the history of this state. Judge Bowen also served as chairman of the Judicial Inquiry Commission from 1989 to 1995. In addition, he was an instructor at the Alabama State Trooper's Academy and the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Center in Selma from 1982-1985. Throughout his judicial career Judge Bowen taught numerous continuing education courses for clerks, magistrates, lawyers, and judges. In 1989, he was made a Knight of St. Gregory, a papal honor extended by Pope John Paul II. After leaving the court, Judge Bowen pursued his love of criminal law in private practice.

William M. Bowen, Jr., is married to the former Joan Trader of Birmingham. They have three children.

Portrait by Michael del Priore, b. 1954
Oil on canvas, 1996