

ORMOND SOMERVILLE

Associate Justice: 1911-1928

BORN: November 26, 1868; Tuscaloosa, Alabama

DIED: September 11, 1928; Montgomery, Alabama



**Portrait by MARGUERITE EDWARDS,
American, 1943-
Oil on Canvas, 1976**

A native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Ormond Somerville, son of Justice H. M. Somerville, earned both his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Alabama. He was admitted to the Alabama State bar in 1890 and 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 of Alabama. He ran unopposed in subsequent terms, and remained on the Court until his death in 1928.

Somerville married Kate Walter in 1892, and they had a daughter. Kate died in 1895. He then married Bessie Randolph, and they had two children.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

Location: Judicial College, Lobby Floor, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building