

PRESS RELEASE

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Lavenski R. Smith of Little Rock, Arkansas, will become Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit on March 11, 2017. He is the first African-American to serve as the Eighth Circuit's chief judge.

Judge Smith, following confirmation by the U.S. Senate, received a commission as a U.S. Circuit Judge from President George W. Bush on July 19, 2002.

Judge Smith graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1987. He and his wife Trendle have two children.

The Eighth Circuit includes the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. The court is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri and has a divisional clerk's office in St. Paul, Minnesota.