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***A Consummate Lawyer: William Reece Smith, Jr* by Michael I.
Swygert**

T. Terrell Sessums

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Capitalizing on the fear that gay and lesbian teachers might “pervert” their students or recruit them into acts still deemed as “crimes against nature” by the larger culture, the FLIC’s probes believed that they had a right to regulate private and consensual adult behaviors for the public benefit. As Graves later reveals in her narrative, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) and Florida Education Association (FEA) often assisted the Johns Committee’s investigations and ultimately embraced the FLIC’s tactics by codifying elements of them into practices that have long outlived Charley Johns and his committee. Indeed, during the early 1960s, the DOE and FEA even viewed the FLIC as a partner that could help local districts sniff out suspicious characters, such as single men of “marriageable age” in elementary schools and others who matched certain stereotypes.

In her valuable study, Graves correctly views the FLIC investigations as part of a larger attempt by Florida’s political and educational leaders to confront the changing social landscape as newcomers swarmed to the Sunshine State. She understands the peculiar nature of Florida’s Pork Chop Gang politics under one-party rule. As Florida recruited elsewhere in order to meet an unprecedented demand for educators, teachers recruited from outside the state aroused suspicions, and this in part helped to explain how they could become a target for the FLIC. Graves’s discussion of Thomas Bailey, the state superintendent of public instruction from 1949 through 1965, enhances an understanding of this era by revealing the complex nature of state-sponsored investigations of educators and affirming that complicity went beyond the Johns Committee.

JAMES A. SCHNUR

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

A Consummate Lawyer: William Reece Smith, Jr. By Michael I. Swygert (Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2010. xvi, 237 pp. Foreword, acknowledgments, photographs, selected list of awards, countries visited, bibliography, index of names. \$25.00, cloth)

A recent biography entitled *A Consummate Lawyer* portrays the life and work of William Reece Smith Jr., one of Florida’s and the nation’s most prominent lawyers and citizens. Its author, Michael I. Swygert, is a professor of law emeritus at Stetson University College of Law and the author or coauthor of several other books. In this biography, he reviews Smith’s life and work in an orderly, chronological sequence that provides valuable insight into the character and achievements of a remarkable individual. Anyone interested in the practice of law and the administration of justice will find this biography to be of great interest.

Raised in Plant City, then a small town in central Florida, Smith enjoyed

the benefits of relatively well-educated and successful parents and grandparents, especially a talented grandmother who was perhaps the most important person in his upbringing. His early life was well rounded, and he enjoyed participation in high school athletics and other activities. Others with a positive influence in Smith's life during this period included some outstanding teachers and an exceptional coach. Upon graduation he attended the University of South Carolina. There he became the starting quarterback on a Gator Bowl-bound football team.

After graduation he served as an officer in the United States Navy, with the majority of his service on a light cruiser. A combination of circumstances then encouraged Smith to study law, and he enrolled at the University of Florida College of Law, where he compiled an outstanding record. He graduated in 1947 at the top of his class with high honors. Like other returning veterans and fellow students – members of the “greatest generation” – Smith became increasingly interested in the advancement of civil rights. His early study, thoughtful analysis, and concern for high ethical standards and equal rights became the common themes of his career as a lawyer.

Upon graduation he was selected for a prestigious Rhodes scholarship at Oxford University in England. There he honed his personal and scholarly interests and adopted a more global perspective. Following his final year at Oxford, Smith accepted an invitation to return to the Florida College of Law as a member of the faculty for one year. He then joined a major law firm, Mabry, Reaves, Carlton, Anderson, Fields and Ward, in Tampa, Florida.

This biography reveals how his early life in Plant City, at the University of South Carolina, in the United States Navy, at the University of Florida, and as a Rhodes Scholar provided a strong foundation for what would become a most successful law career. As a lawyer, Smith made his mark in a number of important legal cases before the United States and Florida Supreme Courts involving public policy issues such as reapportionment, federalism, the Bill of Rights, interstate commerce, and antitrust matters.

Subsequent chapters detail a variety of his activities as Tampa city attorney, including his work to better race relations. Also reviewed are his outstanding leadership and achievements as president of the Hillsborough County Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association, and other professional organizations.

Then, except for a year apart from the practice of law to serve with distinction as the interim president of the University of South Florida, Smith advanced to a national stage when he was elected president of the American Bar Association. Nonlawyers may be especially interested in the role of law associations and Smith's leadership at each successive level in securing greater access to legal aid, a stronger commitment to legal ethics, equal rights, and a strengthened judiciary.

In September 1988, Smith was elected president of the International Bar Association and thereby reached the pinnacle of his profession – the first American lawyer to serve as president of his local, state, national, and the international bar

associations. These positions are far from just honorary. The author describes how Smith exercised leadership as head of the global bar successfully to advance the rule of law and liberty in many parts of the world during and after his two-year term.

The final chapter focuses on Smith's continued dedication to and teaching of the professional responsibilities of a lawyer. The qualities of character, competence, and commitment that Smith has consistently modeled and taught typify his life and career.

This biography will help the reader understand the many ways in which this remarkable individual, now chair emeritus of the Carlton Fields law firm in Tampa, has worked to make our world a significantly better place.

T. TERRELL SESSUMS, ESQ.
Tampa, Florida

A Small but Spartan Band: The Florida Brigade in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. By Zack C. Waters and James C. Edmonds (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2010. xii, 254 pp. List of illustrations, foreword by Robert K. Krick, introduction, B&W photographs, maps, illustrations, acknowledgments, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95, cloth)

On July 22, 1863, Council A. Bryan, a Confederate captain from Florida, explained to his wife, "When the Secret history of the war is Known – then we will get justice I hope" (3). In their book, Zack C. Waters and James C. Edmonds chronicle the relatively unknown military experiences of the fifteen thousand Floridians in gray in General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

The authors note correctly that historians tend to remember Florida's Confederate troops as "being harbingers of bad fortune" and "for an embarrassing spate of desertions that plagued the unit during the siege of Petersburg." About the most authoritative conclusion Waters and Edmonds can offer about them is that Florida's contingent in Lee's army "fought well in some battles and poorly in others" (3). "Perhaps the oddity is not that so many deserted," they argue, "but that so many remained in the ranks" (167). "They [*sic*] Floridians were certainly not the best brigade in Lee's fabled army, but they generally fought bravely and don't deserve neglect" (194). Few readers will consider such analysis satisfying or worthy of publication by a university press.

That said, with limited source materials at their disposal, the authors nonetheless do their best to narrate the service of Florida's Confederate units from mobilization in 1861 to demobilization in 1865. These troops served with mixed results in the Peninsula campaign, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg,