

CORY T. WILSON

Cory T. Wilson has served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit since July 3, 2020. He was nominated by President Donald J. Trump on May 4, 2020, to a seat vacated by Judge E. Grady Jolly, and was confirmed by the Senate on June 24, 2020.

A native of Moss Point, Mississippi, Judge Wilson graduated summa cum laude in Economics from the Ole Miss School of Business in 1992. Three years later, he received his law degree from the Yale Law School, where he was a member of the Yale Law Journal. After law school, Judge Wilson clerked for Judge Emmett R. Cox on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Over most of the intervening 25 years, Judge Wilson was a litigator in private practice in the Jackson, Mississippi area.

Before he was appointed to the Fifth Circuit, Judge Wilson also served in a variety of capacities in both state and federal government. Most recently, he served as a judge on the Mississippi Court of Appeals from 2019-2020, after being appointed by Gov. Phil Bryant to serve an unexpired term on that court.

In 2005, Judge Wilson was selected as one of 12 White House Fellows, serving from 2005 to 2006 as a special assistant to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Judge Wilson served as Chief of Staff for Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann from 2008 to 2011. In October 2008, Wilson staffed five Secretaries of State from around the country on a trip to bases in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Germany to study military voting procedures. From 2014 to 2015, he served as Senior Advisor and Counsel to Mississippi Treasurer Lynn Fitch while maintaining his law practice on a part-time basis.

From 2016 until his appointment to the Mississippi Court of Appeals, Judge Wilson served in the Mississippi House of Representatives, representing House District 73 (Madison County). During his time in the House, he was the Vice-Chairman of the Judiciary A Committee and served on the Education, Elections, Transportation, and Accountability & Efficiency Committees.

Before joining the Court, Judge Wilson was active in a number of civic and bar organizations. He is a 2001 graduate of the Leadership Mississippi Program, where he met his wife Stephanie. The Wilsons have one son and remain active in their church, Highlands Presbyterian.