Judge James R. Wolf Announces His Retirement from the First District Court of Appeal

TALLAHASSEE – After a distinguished thirty-year career on the First District Court of Appeal, Judge James R. Wolf plans to retire from his position on June 30, 2020.

Judge Wolf has been a judge on the First District Court of Appeal since 1990, serving as chief judge from July 2003 to June 2005. Among his many professional activities, he served on the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission from 1999 to 2011, serving as chair from 2002 to 2004 and 2005 to 2006. Immediately prior to becoming a judge, he was general counsel for the Florida League of Cities. Judge Wolf chaired the local government section of the Florida Bar in 1990 and served on the executive council for the local government section from 1985 to 1991 and as executive secretary of the Florida Municipal Attorneys’ Association from 1983 to 1991. Judge Wolf has taught courses as an adjunct professor in Florida constitutional law and local government at Florida State University College of Law, and as a guest lecturer at several Eastern European universities. Judge Wolf received his J.D. in 1975 from the University of Miami, his LLM in 2001 from the University of Virginia, and his A.B. from Rutgers University in 1972.

In his letter to Governor DeSantis announcing his retirement, Judge Wolf said: “It has been my great privilege and pleasure to serve as a judge on Florida’s First District Court of Appeal since June 18, 1990.” He added that “[d]uring my thirty years on the court, I have strived to help maintain a strong and independent judiciary and to faithfully follow the law.”