

Edward L. Smith

Chief Edward L. Smith's law enforcement career spans more than five decades. He began his law enforcement career in 1973 as a police management intern for the Oklahoma City Police Department assigned to the Chief's Office.

Since that time Chief Smith has served as an assistant Director of a State Law Enforcement Agency and as Chief of Police in several Oklahoma municipalities. He led the Bethany and Blackwell Oklahoma police agencies to become the first and second law enforcement agencies in Oklahoma to be nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). In addition, he has served as an assessor and team leader for CALEA.

As Chief in Bethany, he orchestrated a public/private partnership between the City of Bethany and a private 4-year university to provide ancillary security services utilizing uncommitted patrol time in exchange for tuition free education for police and fire personnel for the City of Bethany.

In addition to Chief Smith's municipal career, he served as a Division Commander (Captain) for the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville ensuring that the UAPD was reaccredited by CALEA. He also received a commendation for his role as commander of an active shooting situation on campus that resulted in the death of a faculty member and the shooter. Chief Smith subsequently served as Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police for the University of Arkansas Little Rock.

Chief Smith's law enforcement expertise extends beyond communities and into the higher education arena where he began as an adjunct instructor of criminal justice at Oklahoma State University's Oklahoma City campus. In addition, he served as Director of the Collegiate Officer Program/Criminal Justice at Redlands Community College, Murray State College, and East Central University.

Chief Smith has had two gubernatorial appointments: to serve on the Board of Commissioners for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs. While serving on the faculty at East Central University, he was selected by the Chancellor of Higher Education to serve as his appointee to CLEET, the state governing board for law enforcement certification.

Chief Smith has received commendations for Law Enforcement Excellence and for Law Enforcement Accreditation from two Oklahoma governors, was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials for excellence in law enforcement and into the Seminole State College Alumni Hall of Fame. He served as president of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, is past president of ILEA's Alumni Association and has served on numerous state and local boards and organizations.

Chief Smith is a graduate of ILEA's Advanced Management College as well as the 182nd Session of the FBI National Academy, the 4th Session of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP). He holds a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice Administration, a Bachelors Degree in Professional Law Enforcement, both from Oklahoma City University and an Associates Degree in Police Science from Seminole State College.