

RÉSUMÉ OF

ANTHONY ISIDORE SMART

Education:

- May 1968** Graduated from University of Toronto, Canada with a B.A. (General) majoring in Economics
- January 1958 to June 1964** Attended Fatima College, Trinidad and Tobago

Professional Experience:

- January 1992 to present** Resumed practice as an Attorney-at-Law and Senior Partner in the law firm of Gittens, Smart & Co.
- March 1989 to November 1991** Attorney General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- July 1987 to February 1989** Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Chief Whip in the House of Representatives in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
- January 1987 to June 1987** Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
- December 1986 to November 1991** Elected member of the House of Representatives in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
- July 1985** Founder member and first Elections Officer on the National Executive of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) a national political party in Trinidad and Tobago
- November 1980 to February 1982** Founder member and first General Secretary of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) a national political party in Trinidad and Tobago
- September 1973 to June 1987** Continued practice as a Solicitor and Conveyancer as a partner in the firm of Gittens, Smart & Co., Solicitors and Conveyancers, Trinidad and Tobago

June 1972 to August 1973

Practised as a Solicitor and Conveyancer of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago as an Associate in the firm of Fitzwilliam, Stone & Alcazar

June 1972

Admitted to practice as a Solicitor and Conveyancer of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago

January 1969 to June 1972

Articled Clerk to Peter Fitzwilliam at Fitzwilliam, Stone & Alcazar, Solicitors and Conveyancers, Trinidad and Tobago

September 1964 to September 1965

Non-graduate teacher at Fatima College, Trinidad and Tobago

Highlights of Legal Career:

1. Was Instructing Solicitor to Selby Wooding Q.C. and Allan Alexander, S.C. in the landmark constitutional law case of Terrence Thornhill v The Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago (1976) 31 WIR 498 where it was held that the right of a person detained by the police to have prompt access to a legal adviser is a common law right that existed before it gained express protection in the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Stepped in to serve for a short period in the 1970's as a tutor in family law at the Hugh Wooding Law School, St. Augustine under then Director, Justice Aubrey Fraser, deceased when the school underwent a crisis with some of its teaching staff.
3. Has led the law firm of Gittens, Smart and Company for over thirty years when not serving in the Parliament between 1986 and 1991. Gittens, Smart and Company has been one of the leading conveyancing firms in Port of Spain and possesses continuous records from the 1930's to date in bound volumes of copies of all its conveyancing transactions with title.
4. Has provided in-service training to several students of the High Wooding Law School.
5. Was part of the NAR Government between 1986 and 1991 as Minister in the Office of the Attorney General, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and as Attorney General that introduced the following measures that improved the administration of justice at the time:
 - (a) the NAR amended the Constitution to allow for Judges who have reached the age of retirement to be recalled on contract for periods of two years at a time;
 - (b) the Government went to Parliament to amend the law to increase the complement of permanent Judges from 15 to 16;
 - (c) it increased the number of Masters of the High Court from 2 to 3;

- (d) it built a brand new Magistrates' Court in Princes Town, repaired the Chaguanas Magistrates' Court and commenced extensive renovations to the San Fernando High Court;
- (e) it made Judges' salaries tax free and increased their subsistence allowance thus making the terms of employment for a Judge very attractive to lawyers in private practice;
- (f) it provided for proper and comfortable accommodation for lawyers in the Solicitor General's Department and Chief Parliamentary Counsel's Department, all under one roof at the former WINSURE Building at Richmond Street, Port of Spain;
- (g) it sought to have the Judicial and Legal Services Commission accelerate the rate of promotions of lawyers in the Solicitor General's Chief Parliamentary Counsel's and the Director of Public Prosecution's Departments;
- (h) it agreed to pay lawyers in the Government Service a professional allowance of \$1,000.00 per month;
- (i) housed a temporary Magistrates' Court in 1990 at the Basketball Gymnasium at Chaguaramas to hold the preliminary inquiries into the charges of treason and murder against the 114 insurgents responsible for the attempted coup to avoid having to bus them in to the Port of Spain Magistrates' Court from Chaguaramas where they were held, thus avoiding the disruption their appearance in Port of Spain would have caused.

6. **Was personally responsible for drafting the Code of Ethics for Ministers and Members of Parliament** which was laid in the House of Representatives in 1988.

7. Was responsible for the legislation that did away with the practice of allowing accused persons to make **unsworn statements from the Dock**.

8. Managed the introduction of **computer aided transcriptions** to the Courts and set up a training programme for some 29 stenographers in the Government Service so that Judges would no longer have to take down evidence in "long hand" writing.

9. Took a leading role in July 1990 to resolve the **hostage taking crisis** at the **Red House** and **Trinidad and Tobago Television House** and to ensure that there was no further loss of life after the initial attack on the afternoon of the 27th July 1990.

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10. After the **attempted coup in July 1990** managed the measures taken:

- (a) to lawfully introduce the **State of Emergency**;
- (b) to convene the House of Representatives at its temporary location in the Auditorium of the Central Bank, the Chamber at the Red House having been totally devastated, within 15 days of the declaration of the State of Emergency to extend same as is required by the provisions of the Constitution;
- (c) piloted the resolution to extend the State of Emergency, thus ensuring that the rule of law was observed, all while the Cabinet was temporarily considerably weakened by the effects of the hostage taking at the Red House.

11. Drafted and successfully piloted the landmark **Dangerous Drugs Bill 1990** through both Houses of Parliament. Mr. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj S.C. was appointed a temporary Senator by the Opposition Leader, Mr. Basdeo Panday, specifically to oppose the passage of the Bill. The Opposition supported the passage of the Bill.

12. Assembled a committee of stakeholders, including representatives of the Attorneys, Accountants, Trade Unions, Business Owners and Bankers to draft proposals for a new **Companies Act**, the then current Companies Act 1929 having outlived its usefulness. The Committee reported and he engaged Sir Denys Williams, a draftsman and a retired Chief Justice of Barbados to draft a Companies Bill based on the recommendations of the Committee. The Bill was completed shortly before the NAR demitted office in 1991. The Bill together with amendments made by the succeeding administration was passed in the Parliament in 1995 thereby introducing a whole new regime of Company Law in Trinidad and Tobago.

13. Recommended the first former Solicitor and Conveyancer for silk after fusion – Mr. Gerald Furness-Smith S.C.

14. The first former Solicitor and Conveyancer to have been appointed Attorney General.

Political Career:

**April 1996 to
July 1997**

Chairman of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR)

**April 2000 to
November 2001**

Political Leader of the NAR

Memberships

- (1) Past board member of the YMCA and the Child Welfare League of Trinidad and Tobago
- (2) Member of the President's International Alumni Council of the University of Toronto, Canada (2004 – 2006)
- (3) Member of the Commonwealth Observer Group appointed by the Secretary General of the Commonwealth in 1992 to observe and report on the first multi party general election that was held in Kenya in over twenty years

Awards

Arbor Award in 2004 for outstanding voluntary service to the University of Toronto, Canada