

Geri M. Smith served as the fourteenth, and first female, Clerk of Court/Chief Administrative Officer for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio from July 1, 1991 until March 31, 2017, having joined the Court in 1982. Ms. Smith received her B.A. degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and her law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. Ms. Smith is admitted to practice in the State of Ohio, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court.

In addition to her standing responsibilities as the Clerk of Court, Ms. Smith served as the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge, the combined roles of which included responsibility for maintaining the Court's records, all budgeting, finances, space and facilities management, property and procurement, and information technology. In the early 1990's, under Ms. Smith's leadership, the Court was designated as a Demonstration District for Differentiated Case Management under the Civil Justice Reform Act, and then, Ms. Smith worked with the Court in implementing the Court's Differentiated Case Management System and Alternative Dispute Resolution Program which included an overhaul of the Court's local rules and the adoption of new and lasting improvements in the Court's case management practices. Ms. Smith was the 1996 recipient of the Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership, a federal court management award presented by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, recognizing her contributions to increase managerial effectiveness and the development of improvements in the administration of the federal judiciary. Under Ms. Smith's leadership, the Northern District of Ohio became the first federal court in the country to offer and permit electronic filing of pleadings and electronic access to the Court's records. Beginning in 1998, under Ms. Smith's guidance, the Northern District of Ohio was also one of the first districts to implement an electronic courtroom which included modern technology for the presentation of electronic evidence; the Court was also designated as one of the locations of the cameras in the courtroom program. Ms. Smith also helped to develop a protocol and training program for Courtroom Deputies which enhanced case processing and case management, and, in addition, guided the Court to be a pioneer in using an electronic vouchering system. Ms. Smith was also integrally involved with the design and construction of the Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House in Cleveland, the Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Youngstown, and supported the Court's efforts to design and build a new federal courthouse annex in Toledo, Ohio.

Ms. Smith has chaired and served on many financial and budget committees of the federal judiciary; served as a board member of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board Policy Committee, and is a member of the Federal Court Clerks' Association (FCCA) where she served on the Clerk's Council Executive Board. Ms. Smith currently serves as a board member of the Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter, and is a Life Member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference.