

## **TTAB CHIEF JUDGE DAVID SAMS ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION**

**By: Alex Butterman**

J. David Sams, after 34 years of service to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and 28 years as an administrative law judge on the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB), has announced his resignation. Judge Sams has been the Chief Administrative Trademark Judge of the TTAB since 1986. As Chief Judge of the TTAB, he was responsible for administration and management of TTAB operations, in addition to his judgeship duties. The TTAB is a final adjudicator within the USPTO of the registrability of trademark and service mark applications, deciding trademark examination appeals and opposition and cancellation actions.

Judge Sams joined the USPTO as a trademark examining attorney in 1975. He worked as chief legal assistant to the Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks from 1979 to 1981. As Chairman / Chief Judge of the TTAB, he was considered a member of the Senior Executive Service of U.S. government employees.

Judge Sams was well-known within trademark legal circles and has been a frequent speaker on trademark law and procedure. Judge Sams is a graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School and Davidson College.