

A Lawyer....Successful attorney began journey at Glen Oaks

Mark Lee Smith, PA, a 1973 graduate with an Associate of Arts degree, said he treasures his Glen Oaks experience. This very successful attorney and real estate property investor earned degrees at Albion College, the University of Michigan, and the University of Detroit. Other graduate work was completed through Hope College, Northeastern Illinois University and William Rainey Harper College. The Constantine native attended GOCC on an academic scholarship and worked at a grocery store while attending classes.

Smith later worked part-time, and sometimes full-time, while attending the University of Detroit Mercy Law School. He completed both a masters degree at Michigan and the law degree in 1980. His legal career included being an attorney with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, then in a private law practice in Chicago until 1988 where he litigated cases with some of the largest law firms in America. Smith was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1987 and worked until 1991 as supervising attorney for a local legal aid office before re-entering private practice in Pensacola. In recently years, Smith has reduced the size of his practice to handle representation in civil matters, family law, and tort and contract claims litigation. He is also co-investor in real property projects and owns and operates residential and small commercial properties. Smith serves on the University of Detroit Mercy's Law School Dean's Advisory Board.

"I want to dispel any notion that anyone might harbor that Glen Oaks Community College offers anything but a top flight education...Glen Oaks is one of the best things that has ever happened to St. Joseph County, Michigan and I will support the college and its Foundation program until the end of my time in this world," said Smith.