



**Curt Smith**

## Professional



President of the Indiana Family Institute, a nonprofit public education and research organization committed to advancing pro-family and religious liberty policies and programs throughout Indiana. IFI works among a network of 38 Family Policy Councils across America in association with Focus on the Family, the Alliance Defending Freedom, the Heritage Foundation and the Family Research Council. 2001 to present.



In addition, Director of Public Policy, Taft Law, a Midwestern law firm, as its Director of Public Policy, from January 2002 to March 2015.



April 2001 from February 1999—Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the internationally-recognized Hudson Institute, a think tank based in Indianapolis, with offices in Washington, D.C., and other locations. Oversaw the Institute's programs, both administrative and research, and directed major projects. In this role, led a United Nations-sanctioned observer team during Indonesia's elections in June 1999. Major responsibilities include fundraising, increasing the Institute's visibility with key constituencies, and developing major research and public policy initiatives.

February 1999 from August 1998— Vice President of External Affairs for Hudson. Directed all fundraising, public affairs, and government relations efforts as well as assisted the President, Dr. Herbert I. London, with the administrative duties of the 70-plus member Institute.



August 1998 from January 1994—Chief of Staff to U. S. Rep. John Hostettler, R-IN. Served as the primary political, policy and personnel adviser to the Congressman. Directed a staff of 17 employees working in three offices (Washington, D.C., Evansville and Bloomington) while administering a budget of nearly \$1 million. Integrally involved in the Congressman's re-election efforts.



January 1994 from December 1990–Communications Director and State Director for U.S. Sen. Dan Coats. Following his election in 1992, Sen. Coats asked me to re-locate to Indianapolis from Washington and serve in this dual role. Oversaw a staff of 25 in six offices (Washington and five Indiana offices). Directed and oversaw all media initiatives, projects, scheduling, constituent services while also serving on the campaign's Executive Committee as the link between the Senate Office and the campaign. Recruited the campaign manager.

December 1990 from January 1989–First employee on Senate staff for newly appointed U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, serving as his Press Secretary. Also served on Executive Committee of 1990 Senate campaign. Oversaw staff of three in Washington and traveled extensively throughout Indiana.

January 1989 from March 1988 –Managed House re-election campaign of then-Rep. Dan Coats, R-IN. Responsible for all fundraising, media, grassroots initiatives, volunteer efforts and consultant relationships. Campaign resulted in Coats best-ever vote plurality, even though he was opposed by Jill Long, who would later represent that District in Congress for three terms.

March 1988 from November 1983–Press Secretary to Rep. Coats, responsible for all media initiatives and writing op-eds., columns, speeches and essays for the Congressman. During this time, while Congressman Coats was the Ranking Minority Member of the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, I served as that Committee's communications director for major projects while working on the congressional staff.



November 1983 from March 1982– Stringer for The New York Times, which published four articles and several dispatches I submitted. Relationship ended when I accepted post with Coats, as The New York Times policy prohibits stringers to work for any office holder.

November 1983 from February 1980–Reporter and editor for The Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette in Fort Wayne, IN. I was offered the City Editor's job, and served as Acting City Editor for nearly two months, but declined job because of offer from Coats. Oversaw staff of 10 and attended daily meetings with top editors to plan each day's edition in this role. Also served as a general assignment, police and county government reporter while at the paper, winning various awards.

February 1980 from January 1979–General assignment and then police reporter for The Palladium-Item daily newspaper in Richmond, IN. This Gannett newspaper hired me directly from Indiana University

Summer employment during school included working as a Fuller Brush door-to-door salesman, as a laborer at a manufacturing company in Newport Beach, CA., and at a direct mail house in Indianapolis, Sales & Research Corp.

## Education



Masters of Arts in Christian Studies, *cum laude*, from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, of Deerfield, Illinois. 2011

January 1979 graduate of Indiana University, Bloomington, Bachelor of Arts degree, with a double major in Speech Communications and Journalism. I graduated from college in three-and-a-half years.

### In my Speech Communications studies:

- Offered a graduate teaching assistant's job by Department Chairman James Andrews.
- Grade point average in this concentration was 3.82/4.00.

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- In the Journalism School:
- Worked on student newspaper seven of my eight semesters at IU.
- Awarded Ernie Pyle Scholarship.
- Published article in Arbutus, IU's yearbook.

### June 1975 graduate of Pike High School, Indianapolis

- National Honor Society Member
- Senior Class President
- Editor of school newspaper
- Played on basketball team and ran for the track team

## Personal Information

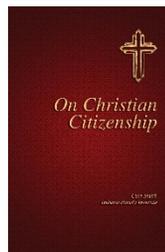
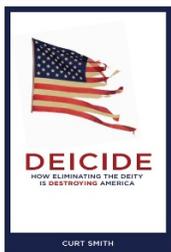
Born in Richmond, IN., to John R. Smith and Rena Carolyn (Curtis) Smith (deceased). Married Debra Diane (Sutter) Smith, of Marion, IN., in 1980. Four adult children: Stephen, Julie, Andrew (deceased from cancer in 2016), and Kimberly.

Seventh generation Hoosier.

## Selected Honors and Awards

- "Respect for Life" Award, Indianapolis Right To Life, 2016.
- 2010 Family Policy of the Year Award from Focus on the Family
- Listed in Who's Who in America, 2000 edition, as a distinguished public policy executive.
- Sagamore of the Wabash, awarded by former Gov. Robert D. Orr.
- Outstanding Environmental Reporting, Fort Wayne Chapter, Izaak Walton League, 1983.
- United Press International Certificate of Merit for a series of articles, with colleague Barb Morrow of The Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, on urban infrastructure needs, 1983. The same series of articles was later honored by the American Planning Association with its annual award and a cash prize, 1983.
- Winner of the Indiana Voice of Democracy contest, 1975, a top speech competition for Hoosier high school students. Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign War, and included cash prizes, a scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet the President of the United States and tour various monuments and buildings.
- American Newspaper Publishers' Association 'Most Valuable Staffer' Award, presented by The Indianapolis Star and News, for work as high school editor, 1975.

## Publications:



- Author of Deicide, CreateSpace, 2016.
- Author of On Christian Citizenship, published by The Indiana Family Institute . 2008.
- Co-author with Gene Harker, MD, Ph.D., of Pause Points: The Mindful Pursuit of Health and Well-Being, Westbow Press, 2011.

## Volunteer and Community Work

- Director (as well as President) of the Indiana Family Institute since 2001.

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- Past Chairman and elder of Traders Point Christian Church. Elected by the congregation in December of 1996 to serve as an elder. Set policy and seek to minister to a large (now 7,500 average weekly attendance) and diverse congregation with 11 other elders.
- Past President, Opportunity Project of Indiana, 1998. This public policy advocacy and development not-for-profit corporation was founded by George Witwer, the 1996 Republican Lt. Governor candidate in Indiana.
- Member, Vision Advisory Group to Congressman George Radanovich, R-CA, who served as the President of the freshman class in the 104th Congress following the historic 1994 elections. Worked extensively with the Congressman to prepare a Vision Statement that captured national and international legislative, media and academic interest.
- Past Board Member, Senior Services Foundation of Boone County, Indiana, during 2000 and 2001.
- Deacon, Traders Point Christian Church, January 1995 to January 1997. Oversaw evangelism and outreach ministry.
- United Way of Central Indiana, Allocation Committee, June of 1994. Worked with team to set budgets for various sheltered employment/subsidized employment enterprises for disadvantaged and handicapped Hoosiers. Two-day intensive effort that included site visits and deliberations with larger team to set United Way allocations for all social service agencies.
- IVIS—International Visitors Services Program, a U.S. State Department program in Washington, from 1984 through 1992. Program is designed to expose mid-career journalists, government officials and business leaders to the United States and to our form of government. Periodically gave a Capitol tour or met with visiting foreign dignitaries. Made perhaps 30 different presentations over the years, usually with the help of interpreter, to groups large and small. Good experience seeking to communicate with people from varied cultures and backgrounds.
- Frequent informal adviser to political candidates and campaigns. Asked by George Witwer, the Republican Lt. Governor candidate in Indiana in 1996, to run his transition had he been elected.

## Interviews, Articles and Addresses

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- I have given literally thousands of interviews and made hundreds of media appearances. This includes all major national newspapers, the O'Reilly news show on Fox News, other radio and television networks as an analyst, quotes by major wire services, frequent radio interviews with individual stations, and the like.
- At Hudson, published numerous articles and essays, with a chapter on reforming elite fields and professions in the context of overall social renewal in the Eerdman's book, *Building A Healthy Culture: Strategies for an American Renaissance*.
- Some limited work as a writer published under my name prior to joining Hudson, including several articles for Hudson's new magazine, *Outlook*, as well as CONTACT, a publication of the Christian Business Men's Committee of USA. One of those articles, "Hiring: Art, Science or Act of Faith?," was selected by publishers Broadman & Holman for its book of essays and articles for business leaders titled Jesus Works Here. Another article exploring the likely agenda of the newly elected Bush Administration was featured as the cover article in Eternity Magazine in December of 1988.
- Besides numerous addresses to groups as big as 1,300 and as small as half-a-dozen on specific topics, I have made hundreds of speeches to service clubs, at political and governmental gatherings, and in civic ceremonies. I was also one of three speakers at a conference organized by Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, Colorado, in December of 1993, focusing on the uses of social research to further public policy aims.

## Areas of Interest and Focus

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- Extensive reading in psychology, especially Jungian perspectives in psychology.
- Extensive reading, research and analysis in mass communication theory as it relates to politics, government and the impoverished discourse in American public life today.
- Student of the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testaments, with extensive supplemental reading to better understand the Bible's teachings regarding Scriptural views and disciplines.

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- Extensive knowledge of Congress, campaigns and elections at the state and local levels, and the role of faith in influencing public policy.

## Foreign Travel and Language

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- Foreign travel, beyond personal vacations in Canada and Jamaica, includes two trips to Indonesia and one trip to Japan in 1999, trips to Germany in 2000 and 2004, and a trip to Mexico in 2001. In addition, I spent eight days in Latvia in 1995 to help instruct the leadership of a Latvian national church affiliated with my church.
- Rudimentary understanding of basic Spanish.

## Security Clearance

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Top Secret security clearance at Hudson Institute as well as during work on Capitol Hill.