

Tom “Smitty” Smith - Director, Public Citizen’s Texas Office

Smitty has been Director of Public Citizen’s Texas Office since 1985. He directs a multi-issue consumer and environmental advocacy organization. He has testified over 1,000 times on regulatory and legislative issues and communicates with officeholders, policy makers and the press. He works with grassroots groups to help them organize to achieve their goals. He has mentored over 30 local groups. His proudest accomplishment have been his work on developing Texas’ ethics laws; Texas’ renewable energy programs; Texas’ energy efficiency programs and the Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP). He and Public Citizen have won over a dozen awards for this advocacy work.

In former lives, Smitty served as the food bank development coordinator for Second Harvest Food, helping to develop new food banks across a 15-state region in the southern United States. Prior to that, he was first Director of the Houston Food Bank; served as Director of the SW Regional Office of the Community Nutrition Institute; and was a legal assistant with Prairie State Legal Services and Texas Rural Legal Aid. He became addicted to Texas politics when served as a Legislative Aide to a State Representative Al Price from 1982 to 1985.

Smitty received a Bachelor of Arts from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana in 1974 and became a Texan by choice shortly thereafter.