



John Morgan Davis

Born: August 9, 1906, in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania
Died: March 8, 1984

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Received a recess appointment from Lyndon B. Johnson on January 7, 1964, to a seat vacated by Thomas C. Egan; nominated to the same position by Lyndon B. Johnson on February 3, 1964.

Confirmed by the Senate on March 14, 1964, and received commission on March 17, 1964.

Assumed senior status due to certified disability on May 6, 1974.

Service terminated on March 8, 1984, due to death.

Education:

University of Pennsylvania, B.S., 1929

University of Pennsylvania Law School (now Carey Law School), LL.B., 1932

Professional Career:

Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1933-1952

Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County [Pennsylvania]: 1952-1958

Lieutenant Governor, Pennsylvania: 1959-1963

Other Nominations/Recess Appointments:

Nominated to U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, September 3, 1963; no Senate vote.

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Judicial Biography

*In 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson chose John Morgan Davis to fill a vacancy. He was born in Shenandoah in Schuylkill County in 1906, spent his formative years in Berks County, and lived most of his adult life in Philadelphia. His undergraduate and law degrees were awarded from the University of Pennsylvania. During his college and law school days, he was a radio announcer, a job for which he was extremely well-suited with his melodious baritone voice. In the 1940's, the National Association of Broadcasters retained him as its General Counsel.

Davis won election as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County in 1951 and as Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania in 1958. He held the latter office from 1959 to 1963. Thereafter, having failed in his quest to obtain support for the Democratic Party's nomination for Governor or for Mayor of Philadelphia, party leaders, including Congressman Green and former Governor David Lawrence under whom he had served, persuaded President Kennedy to select him for the Eastern District bench. President Kennedy's death intervened before Davis could be confirmed, but President Johnson followed through in early 1964 with what his predecessor had initiated.

Judge Davis assumed senior status due to a certified disability on May 6, 1974. His service on the court terminated due to his death at the age of 77 on March 8, 1984.

* The following material is excerpted from JUDGE HARVEY BARTLE, III, MORTALS WITH TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITIES, A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, 3-12 (Saint Joseph's University Press, 2011). Reproduced with the permission of the author, Judge Harvey Bartle, III, and the publisher, Saint Joseph's University Press.