

Legrome D. Davis

Born: 1952, in Columbus, Ohio

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Nominated by George W. Bush on January 23, 2002, to a seat vacated by Edmund V. Ludwig.
Confirmed by the Senate on April 18, 2002, and received commission on April 23, 2002.
Assumed senior status on September 28, 2017.

Education:

Princeton University, B.A., 1973
Rutgers School of Law-Camden, J.D., 1976

Professional Career:

Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1977-1980
Attorney, Pennsylvania Crime Commission: 1980-1981
Assistant Deputy District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1981-1987
Attorney, General Counsel Office, University of Pennsylvania: 1987
Private Practice, Pennsylvania: 1987
Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania: 1987-2002

Other Nominations/Recess Appointments:

Nominated to U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, July 30, 1998; no Senate vote.
Nominated to U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, January 26, 1999; no Senate vote.

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Judicial Biography

Judge Davis received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University in 1973 and a Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School in 1976. Davis was an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia from 1977 to 1980. After leaving the District Attorney's office, Davis spent a year as an attorney for the Pennsylvania Crime Commission. He returned to the District Attorney's office from 1981 to 1987, before spending a year in the general counsel's office at the University of Pennsylvania. He was briefly in private practice in Pennsylvania in 1987. He was elected a judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, as one of the "Casey Five", to replace judges removed from that court for corruption, where he served from 1987 to 2002 in that court's criminal division.

On January 23, 2002, Davis was nominated by President George W. Bush to a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania vacated by Edmund V. Ludwig. Davis was confirmed by the United States Senate on April 18, 2002 and received his commission on April 23, 2002.

Judge Davis presided over *Langbord v. United States*, a protracted legal battle over the ownership of ten 1933 Double Eagle \$20 gold coins. The Langbords purportedly found the coins in their father's safe deposit box. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order in 1933 removing gold coins from circulation. A dispute arose over the ownership of the coins, and whether they were the property of the Government. The Government's claim for forfeiture of the coins was sustained in the trial and appellate courts.

He also presided over the multidistrict litigation involving the Amtrak derailment accident. The accident occurred on May 12, 2015 when an Amtrak train derailed in Philadelphia resulting in eight fatalities and over 200 injuries. He was responsible for coordinating the flow of a case that involved thousands of documents and plaintiffs from multiple states. He approved the \$265 million settlement in the case in 2016, which was deemed to then reflect the present value of the federally capped \$295 million damages limit for which Amtrak could be held liable.

He assumed senior status on September 28, 2017.