



Marvin Katz

Born: November 22, 1930, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Died: October 12, 2010, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Federal Judicial Service:**

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

Nominated by Ronald Reagan on June 21, 1983, to a seat vacated by Joseph S. Lord, III.

Confirmed by the Senate on August 4, 1983, and received commission on August 6, 1983.

Assumed senior status on August 26, 1997.

Service terminated on October 12, 2010, due to death.

**Education:**

University of Pennsylvania, B.A., 1951

Yale Law School, LL.B., 1954

**Professional Career:**

Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1954-1977; 1981-1983

Law Clerk, Hon. Francis X. McClanaghan, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County,

Pennsylvania: 1959-1960

Assistant to the Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of Treasury: 1977-1981

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Judicial Biography

Marvin Katz was appointed to the bench by President Ronald Reagan in 1983.

Katz went to college at the University of Pennsylvania in the late 1940's, when he met Arlen Specter, who later was elected a United States Senator. The two became law school classmates at Yale Law School and later formed the law partnership of Specter and Katz.

In the late 1980's Judge Katz presided over the lengthy trial of Roofers Union leader Stephen Traitz, his two sons and others who were charged with paying cash bribes to state court judges, and other officials, from members of the Roofers Union. The defendants were found guilty of most of the racketeering, extortion, conspiracy and bribery charges against them.

Katz was well known for a ruling that led to a significant change in how patent cases were litigated. In *Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc.*, Katz ruled that issues of "claim construction" in patent cases were for the trial judge, and not the jury. The decision was unanimously affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, leading to the practice of holding "Markman" hearings in the early stages of patent litigation.

He was in private practice in Philadelphia from 1954 to 1977, serving as a law clerk for Judge Francis X. McClanaghan of Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas from 1959 to 1960. Katz was an assistant to the Commissioner of the United States Internal Revenue Service from 1977 to 1981, thereafter returning to private practice in Philadelphia until 1983.

Judge Katz assumed senior status on August 26, 1997, and served in that capacity until his death on October 12, 2010, at the age of 79.