

Gerald A. McHugh, Jr.

Born: 1954, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Federal Judicial Service:

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

Nominated by Barack Obama on January 6, 2014, to a seat vacated by Harvey Bartle, III.

Confirmed by the Senate on March 26, 2014, and received commission on March 28, 2014.

Education:

St. Joseph's University, A.B., 1976

University of Pennsylvania Law School (now Carey Law School), J.D., 1979

Professional Career:

Law Clerk, Hon. Alfred L. Luongo, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania: 1979-1981

Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1981-2014

Other Nominations/Recess Appointments:

Nominated to U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, August 1, 2013; no Senate vote.

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Judicial Biography

Judge McHugh is a life-long resident of West Philadelphia, where his family has lived through five generations. He commuted to St. Joseph's College, majoring in theology, where he was named a College Scholar and graduated summa cum laude. The research he did, growing out of teaching in the Philadelphia prisons, became the basis for his first book, Christian Faith & Criminal Justice, which continues to be cited today in works on restorative justice.

He attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, graduating cum laude, where he served on the Law Review, followed by clerkships with the Honorable Edmund Spaeth of the Pennsylvania Superior Court, and the Honorable Alfred L. Luongo in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

He was a senior attorney at Raynes McCarty (now Raynes & Lawn), until President Obama appointed him to serve as a judge of the court in 2014. He began his career at Litvin Blumberg, Matusow and Young, where he regularly had the opportunity to co-counsel with attorneys from Raynes, which he joined for the culmination of his career in private practice.

While at Raynes, he had the opportunity to represent clients in complex personal injury cases, oftentimes involving complicated issues of international law.

He is an elected Fellow of both the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. While in practice, he was consistently listed in Best Lawyers in America, and on three occasions was named its Philadelphia Lawyer of the Year.

He was known for legislative advocacy as well: on six occasions the Governor of Pennsylvania presented him with a ceremonial pen used to sign legislation he was instrumental in drafting. He co-authored Pennsylvania Torts: Law and Advocacy, a two-volume treatise considered a standard reference. He is a member of the American Law Institute and served on an advisory committee to the Third Restatement of Torts. He has written and lectured widely, and taught evidence and appellate advocacy at Penn Law School.

Judge McHugh served three terms as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Program (IOLTA) by appointment of the Supreme Court, generating funds to support civil legal services for the poor. In 1998 he served as President of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association. He also served as President of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, and President of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, the largest source of funds for indigent legal services in the state. Working with the Philadelphia Bar's Civil Gideon Task Force, he was instrumental in starting the Landlord-Tenant Help Center in Municipal Court. The Fellowship he established at the University of Pennsylvania Law School in honor of Gerald Litvin and Dennis Suplee has launched five young lawyers into public interest careers.

He co-founded Hospitality House of Philadelphia, a residential program for ex-offenders, and has been active in neighborhood improvement, leading anti-drug efforts, designing and building a community garden, and working to establish the Firehouse Farmers Market, an economic development project. Included among the awards he has received are the Philadelphia Bar's Fidelity Award, the Justice Michael Musmanno Award, the Distinguished Child Advocate Award from the Support Center for Child Advocates, the Friends of Farmworkers Service Award, the Equal Justice Award from Community Legal Services, and Penn Law's Lesnick Award for pro bono service.