

John R. Padova

Born: 1935, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Federal Judicial Service:

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

Nominated by George H.W. Bush on November 5, 1991, to a new seat authorized by 104 Stat. 5089.

Confirmed by the Senate on March 13, 1992, and received commission on March 18, 1992.

Assumed senior status on February 11, 2008.

Education:

Villanova University, A.B., 1956

Temple University School of Law (now James E. Beasley School of Law), J.D. , 1959

Professional Career:

Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1960-1992

New Jersey Army National Guard: 1959-1964

U.S. Army Reserve, JAG Corps: 1964-1968

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Judicial Biography

Judge Padova rose to the bench after a career as a trial lawyer practicing in the state and federal courts near Philadelphia.

The judge was the first in his family to attend college, graduating from Villanova University with a degree in English. He graduated from Villanova with the Outstanding Senior Merit award and went on to attend Temple University Law School.

While at Temple, he worked as an adjuster with Allstate Insurance Company.

After graduating from law school, Judge Padova went on to active duty in the military. At that time in Pennsylvania, an attorney needed a preceptor to become licensed. After his military obligation was fulfilled, he clerked at a general practice firm, Marcu & Marcu, where he worked with his preceptor, Ed Marcu, a blind transactional attorney, whom the judge recalls with reverence.

After his clerkship, he joined Solo, Bergman & Trommer, a general practice firm concentrating in real estate, commercial, and personal injury litigation.

With his own unique litigation skills - as well as a growing client base - he found the law firm growing by “leaps and bounds,” and he was eventually named a managing partner. During the administration of Mayor Rizzo, Judge Padova represented the mayor and received referrals from the city solicitor’s office that primarily involved civil rights and employment matters. The judge also served as trial counsel to the Philadelphia Gas Works, for which he handled catastrophic personal injury losses, as well as special counsel to the City of Philadelphia. Even though he accepted tort defense work for which he could bill insurance companies, he nonetheless continued to accept personal injury cases from nonconflicting plaintiffs on a contingency fee basis, allowing him to remain as counsel for his original client base.

In the 1970’s, Judge Padova’s firm merged with a firm that concentrated on labor law. His firm grew to 15 lawyers. That said, as managing partner, he chose not to expand the firm further - even when it appeared that his firm could grow much larger.

The law firm of Solo, Bergman & Trommer became Solo Padova & Lisi when Bergman became disabled, and Trommer became a judge.

A practicing attorney for more than 32 years, Judge Padova had been working full-time as a family man and litigator when an opportunity accidentally presented itself to apply for the bench. At a high-profile holiday party, Judge Padova bumped into a Pennsylvania Superior Court judge whom he advised, tongue in cheek, that it was that jurist’s time to rise to the federal bench. In response, that judge turned the tables, telling Judge Padova that the Biden Bill presented an opportunity for three new judges within the Eastern District and suggested that he apply. Supported by both sides of the aisle, Judge Padova was nominated by President George H.W. Bush and confirmed to a seat on the court in 1992.

Judge Padova assumed senior status on the court on February 11, 2008.