



Louis H. Pollak

Born: December 7, 1922, in New York, New York  
Died: May 8, 2012, in West Mount Airy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**Federal Judicial Service:**

Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
Nominated by Jimmy Carter on June 7, 1978, to a seat vacated by A. Leon Higginbotham.  
Confirmed by the Senate on July 10, 1978, and received commission on July 12, 1978. Assumed senior status on January 1, 1991.  
Service terminated on May 8, 2012, due to death.

**Education:**

Harvard University, B.A., 1943  
Yale Law School, LL.B., 1948

**Professional Career:**

U.S. Army: 1943-1946  
Law Clerk, Hon. Wiley B. Rutledge, Supreme Court of the United States: 1948-1949  
Private Practice, New York City: 1949-1951  
Attorney and Special Assistant to Ambassador-at-Large Philip C. Jessup, U.S. Department of State: 1951-1953  
Assistant Counsel, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, New York City: 1954-1955  
Faculty, Yale Law School: 1955-1974; Dean: 1965-1970  
Faculty, University of Pennsylvania Law School: 1974-1978; Dean: 1975-1978  
Member, U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation: 1983-1992

## Manuscript Collections:

Yale University  
New Haven, Connecticut  
Louis H. Pollak Papers: 1948-2012

## Oral History:

Pollak, Louis H. "The Honorable Louis Heilprin Pollak." Interview by Liana Perez conducted on April 24 and May 10, 2001. Legal Oral History Project, University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2001. 2 videocassettes; 1 computer disk; transcript.

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## Judicial Biography

President Jimmy Carter nominated Louis H. Pollak to the bench in 1978, with the endorsement of Pennsylvania's two Republican Senators, Richard S. Schweiker and H. John Heinz, III.

\* Judge Pollak was an academician and a fervent advocate for civil rights. After completing his undergraduate studies, he entered the Army during World War II. Upon completing law school, he was hired by Supreme Court Justice Wiley Rutledge as his law clerk. During his time in private practice as a young lawyer, he helped the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in writing a Supreme Court brief in support of school desegregation in the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Beginning in 1951, he served two years in the State Department as a special assistant to Ambassador-at-Large Philip C. Jessup. He then was employed as assistant counsel to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Teaching followed. After serving on the faculty and as Dean of Yale Law School, he moved to Philadelphia in 1975 to become Dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. With the support of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and a number of influential lawyers such as William T. Coleman, he was seated as a federal judge in 1978. Chief Justice Warren Burger later appointed him to the Multidistrict Litigation Panel.

Judge Pollak assumed senior status on January 1, 1991 and continued to serve in that status until he died on May 8, 2012 in the West Mount Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia at the age of 89.

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\* 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.