

Nitza I. Quiñones Alejandro

Born: Puerto Rico

**Federal Judicial Service:**

Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
Nominated by President Barack Obama on January 4, 2013, to a seat vacated by the Honorable Richard B. Surrick. Confirmed by the United States Senate on June 13, 2013, and received her commission on June 19, 2013.

**Education:**

University of Puerto Rico, School of Business Administration, B.B.A., 1972  
University of Puerto Rico School of Law, J.D., 1975

**Professional Career:**

Staff Attorney, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1975-1977  
Attorney Advisor, United States Department of Health and Human Services, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1977-1979  
Staff Attorney, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1979-1991  
Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1991  
Judge, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, Pennsylvania: 1991-2013

**Other Nominations/Recess Appointments:**

Nominated to United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, November 27, 2012; no Senate vote.

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Judicial Biography

Judge Quiñones Alejandro was born in Puerto Rico, grew up in a military family and attended the University of Puerto Rico, where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, cum laude, in 1972, and her Juris Doctor from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law in 1975. She began her career as a staff attorney for Community Legal Services, Inc. in Philadelphia in 1975 until 1977, after which she became an attorney advisor for the Department of Health and Human Services, Social Security Administration. In 1979, she joined the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a staff attorney – a position she held until 1991.

In 1990, the Honorable Robert P. Casey, Sr., Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania nominated her to a vacancy in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. She was elected as a judge on the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas in 1991 and remained in that position until 2013, presiding over civil and criminal matters. She was the first Hispanic woman to serve on that court and retained her seat in the elections in 2001 and 2011. President Barack Obama nominated her to be a federal judge; she resigned her state judicial position when her federal nomination was confirmed in 2013.