



Lowell A. Reed, Jr.

Born: June 21, 1930, in West Chester, Pennsylvania

Died: April 11, 2020, in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

Federal Judicial Service:

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

Nominated by Ronald Reagan on December 18, 1987, to a seat vacated by Anthony J. Scirica.

Confirmed by the Senate on April 19, 1988, and received commission on April 20, 1988.

Assumed senior status on June 21, 1999.

Service terminated on April 11, 2020, due to death.

Education:

University of Wisconsin, B.B.A., 1952

University of Wisconsin Law School (one year of study)

Temple University School of Law (now James E. Beasley School of Law), J.D., 1958

Professional Career:

U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander, Naval Intelligence: 1953-1957

Law Clerk, Hon. Ethan Allen Doty, Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County,
Pennsylvania: 1958

Corporation Trial Counsel, PMA Insurance Group, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1958-1962

Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1963-1988

Lecturer in Law, Temple University School of Law: 1966-1981

Faculty Advisory Board, The Academy of Advocacy, Temple University: 1989-2020

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Judicial Biography

Judge Reed attended a one-room school in Kenosha, Wisconsin until eighth grade. He had fond memories of that school, which “never closed for weather”. He graduated from Mary D. Bradford High School in 1947. He earned a B.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and also finished one year of law school at the University of Wisconsin. He was drafted during the Korean War and became a Seaman Recruit in the U.S. Navy. He applied to Officers’ Candidate School and became an Ensign. In 1953, he was sent to Washington, D.C. to Naval Intelligence School. He was posted as a naval intelligence officer during the day, and was a law student at night. Eventually he left the U.S. Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant Commander.

Judge Reed moved to Abington, Pennsylvania and graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1958 followed by a clerkship for the Honorable Ethan Allen Doty of the Philadelphia Common Pleas Court. He went on to be Trial Counsel for Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association. He joined the law firm of Rawle & Henderson, founded in 1783, where he served for almost 25 years and eventually became a senior partner. He focused his practice on the fields of medical malpractice, toxic tort, occupational injury, products liability and complex litigation.

In May of 1988, after being sponsored by Senators Arlen Specter and H.J. Heinz, III, Reed was appointed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by President Ronald Reagan. On the Court, he issued over one thousand opinions, and presided over naturalization ceremonies granting citizenship to hundreds of people from all over the world.

Judge Reed served in many professional positions, including with the Philadelphia Bar Association, as President of the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel, and as a Lecturer in Law at Temple University School of Law. He received a number of awards and honors among which was the A. Sherman Christiansen Award given to him at the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. as co-founder and first president of the first Inn of Court in Pennsylvania, the Temple American Inn of Court. It was for “those who had provided distinguished, exceptional leadership for the American Inn of Court movement.” He was the moving force behind many other Inns of Court. His work with the Inns of Court focused on mentoring law students and young lawyers in ethical civil behavior.

In the Abington community, Reed was a long-standing member of Abington Presbyterian Church where he was a trustee and elder. He was President of the Rydal-Meadowbrook Civic Association, trustee of the Abington Memorial Hospital Foundation, and served on the Abington School Board.

Judge Reed assumed senior status on June 21, 1999 and continued in that capacity until he passed away on April 11, 2020 in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, at the age of 89.