

L. Felipe Restrepo

Born: 1959, in Medellin, Colombia

Federal Judicial Service:

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

Nominated by Barack Obama on January 4, 2013, to a seat vacated by Anita B. Brody.

Confirmed by the Senate on June 17, 2013, and received commission on June 19, 2013.

Service terminated on January 13, 2016, due to appointment to another judicial position.

Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Nominated by Barack Obama on January 7, 2015, to a seat vacated by Anthony J. Scirica.

Confirmed by the Senate on January 11, 2016, and received commission on January 13, 2016.

Other Federal Judicial Service:

U.S. Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania: 2006-2013

Education:

University of Pennsylvania, B.A., 1981

Tulane University Law School, J.D., 1986

Professional Career:

Law Clerk, ACLU National Prison Project, Washington, D.C.: 1986-1987

Assistant Defender, Defender Association of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1987-1990

Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of Pennsylvania: 1990-1993

Private Practice, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: 1993-2006

Member, U.S. Sentencing Commission: 2022-Present

Other Nominations/Recess Appointments:

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

Nominated to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, November 12, 2014; no Senate vote.

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Judicial Biography

Judge Restrepo was born in Medellin, Columbia and moved with his parents to the United States when he was two years old. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his law degree from Tulane Law School. Following law school, he worked

within the ACLU's National Prison Project as a law clerk. In 1987, he joined the Defender Association of Philadelphia, as an Assistant Defender. Three years later, he became an Assistant Federal Defender in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. In 1993, he became a partner at Krasner & Restrepo.

His judicial career began in 2006, when he was appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He served in that role until 2013. President Barack Obama appointed him to the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 2012. While the original nomination was returned due to the adjournment of the Senate, President Obama renominated him in 2013, and he was confirmed later that year. In the following year, President Obama nominated him to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. That nomination was also returned because of the Senate's adjournment, but he was renominated in 2015 and confirmed in 2016. In 2018, President Donald Trump nominated him to the United States Sentencing Commission, but that nomination was returned in 2019. In August 2020, President Trump stated that he intended to renominate Restrepo to the Commission, and he was subsequently confirmed by the Senate.

As a Magistrate Judge and a District Judge, he helped create the Eastern District's reentry program, working with community partners, the Office of Probation, the Federal Defender's Office, and the U.S. Attorney's Office to assist those recently released from federal custody reenter communities and lead productive lives. He insisted on continuing his involvement with the STAR (Supervision to Aid Reentry) Program when he became a Third Circuit Judge. He is dedicated to the program's success, which began in 2007 with 12 participants and has since expanded. The participants meet every two weeks, as a group, to discuss all aspects of their supervised release. In 2019, he was awarded the Champion of Justice Judicial Recognition Award from the National Criminal Defense bar for his role in establishing and overseeing the program.

Judge Restrepo currently serves as a Third Circuit Judge.