



Berle M. Schiller

Born: 1944, in Brooklyn, New York
Died: July 22, 2025, in Lower Merion Township, Pennsylvania

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Nominated by William J. Clinton on April 11, 2000, to a seat vacated by Robert S. Gawthrop.
Confirmed by the Senate on May 24, 2000, and received commission on June 2, 2000. Assumed senior status on June 18, 2012.

Education:

Bowdoin College, B.A., 1965
New York University School of Law, J.D., 1968

Professional Career:

Private Practice, Pennsylvania: 1968-1969; 1972-1993
Deputy Attorney General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: 1971
Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration: 1994-1996
Judge, Superior Court of Pennsylvania: 1996-2000

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Judicial Biography

In 1996, Judge Schiller was appointed to the State Superior Court by Gov. Tom Ridge and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. He later was reappointed by Ridge.

He unsuccessfully ran for State Supreme Court in 1997.

As a state court appellate judge, he participated in more than 2,000 decisions by the Superior Court, and authored majority opinions in about a third of those cases.

He also filed dissenting opinions when he didn't agree with the majority's rulings. In one dissent, Schiller said it should be up to common pleas court judges to decide whether DNA tests should be ordered when paternity is contested, after considering what is in the child's best interest.

Judge Schiller spent 25 years as a lawyer, handling, among other things, corporate and family law cases, and two years as Chief Counsel for the Federal Transit Administration. He served in the Army, was trained in military intelligence and patrolled flood-ravaged areas of Pennsylvania in 1972 while on active duty in the National Guard in the aftermath of Hurricane Agnes.

As a Deputy Attorney General in the early 1970's, he established the first narcotics strike force in the state. He previously was Chairman of the Board of a Philadelphia mental health center and is a Past President of the parents association for Lower Merion High School.

Schiller also served on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Disciplinary Board, which investigates complaints against lawyers and recommends discipline.

He is well known for his passion for hunting using a bow and arrow and has travelled around the world doing so. His chambers were filled with many trophies from his hunting activities.

He is a member of the United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania and other sportsmen's clubs.

Judge Schiller assumed senior status on June 18, 2012. He passed away on July 22, 2025 at the age of 81.