

R. Barclay Surrick

Born: 1937, in Media, 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 Lowell A. Reed, Jr.

Confirmed by the Senate on May 24, 2000, and received commission on June 5, 2000. Assumed senior status on February 1, 2011.

**Education:**

Dickinson College, B.A., 1960

Dickinson School of Law (now Penn State Dickinson Law), J.D., 1965

University of Virginia School of Law, LL.M., 1982

**Professional Career:**

Private Practice, Pennsylvania: 1965-1977

Chief, Appellate Division, Office of the Public Defender, Delaware County, Pennsylvania: 1965-1974

Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County, Pennsylvania: 1978-2000

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Judicial Biography

Judge Surrick received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dickinson College in 1960, and a Juris Doctor from Penn State Dickinson Law in 1965. He was in private practice in Pennsylvania from 1965 to 1977. He was Chief of the appellate division in the Office of the Public Defender of Delaware County from 1965 to 1974. He was a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County from 1978 to 2000.

He received a Master of Laws from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1982.

One of the notable cases Judge Surrick presided over was *United States v. Kaboni Savage*.

Kaboni Savage led a regional drug trafficking operation in North Philadelphia referred to at trial as the Kaboni Savage Organization (KSO). The KSO distributed large quantities of controlled substances and, not surprisingly, fiercely protected its network and territory through the use of guns and violence. Threats to the organization, whether perceived or real, were quickly tamped down or extinguished. Early in the KSO's operation, Savage took care of such threats himself, but as his power grew, his enforcers did his bidding without question.

Even while detained on criminal charges, Savage continued to manage the affairs of the KSO from his prison cell. He led by retaliating against those who dared to cooperate with government agents and prosecutors. What makes this case stand out is that Savage not only arranged for the murder of the prosecution's main witness in a murder case; in a later case, he orchestrated the firebombing of the family home of another cooperating witness in a fashion that ensured no one would survive. Eventually, Savage was charged with *inter alia*, a dozen counts of murder in aid of racketeering, among other serious offenses. The Government sought the death penalty.

The jury's verdict was guilty on all charges and the imposition of a sentence of death. The verdict was upheld by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

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