



William H. Yohn, Jr.

Born: November 20, 1935, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania

Died: January 3, 2026, in Pottstown, Pennsylvania

**Federal Judicial Service:**

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

Nominated by George H.W. Bush on June 14, 1991, to a seat vacated by John P. Fullam.

Confirmed by the Senate on September 12, 1991, and received commission on September 16, 1991. Assumed senior status on November 20, 2003.

**Education:**

National Judicial College

Princeton University, B.A., 1957

Yale Law School, J.D., 1960

**Professional Career:**

U.S. Marine Corps Reserve: 1960-1965; Active Duty: 1960-1961

Private Practice, Pottstown, Pennsylvania: 1961-1981

Assistant District Attorney, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania: 1962-1965

State Representative, Pennsylvania: 1968-1980

Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania: 1981-1991

Board Member, Federal Judicial Center: 1999-2003

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Judicial Biography

Judge Yohn graduated from Pottstown High School, where he was class president and valedictorian.

He graduated from Yale Law School after earning Phi Beta Kappa distinction at Princeton University.

He practiced law as a partner in two western Montgomery County law firms – Wells, Campbell, Reynier & Yohn and Binder, Yohn and Kalis.

Before becoming a federal judge in 1991, Yohn had a long career in public service. Starting in 1969, he represented the Pottstown area in the State House for about 10 years, covering the 146<sup>th</sup> District.

As Chairman of the House Insurance Committee, he helped draft the state's no-fault auto insurance laws. And as Chairman of the House Ethics Committee, helped write the state's financial disclosure laws requiring public officials to report potential conflicts of interest.

In 1981, he was appointed, then elected, to a county judgeship, where he served for a decade. There, he helped streamline the case management process by recommending that the civil and family divisions be combined. That ensured that all phases of a case were handled by the same judge.

In 1990, then-President Bush nominated Yohn to a federal judgeship. In a questionnaire submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Yohn said that about 155 of his cases were appealed during his time as a county judge. His decisions were reversed only four times.

After he became a federal judge, he presided in a case that led to a multibillion-dollar settlement of a national class-action lawsuit. The case involved allegations that General Motors pickup trucks had unsafe fuel tanks.

He also ordered former Nazi death camp guard Johann Breyer of Philadelphia stripped of his naturalized U.S. Citizenship.

Judge Yohn assumed senior status on November 20, 2003 and continued to serve in that capacity until his death on January 3, 2026 in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, at the age of 90.