

A Portrait History:

District Judges of the Western District of New York



PREPARED FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONY
OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
MAY 3, 2012

PREPARED BY:
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

HON. WILLIAM M. SKRETNY, CHIEF JUDGE
MICHAEL J. ROEMER, CLERK OF COURT
(April 2012)





Judge Matthias Burnett Tallmadge
1805 - 1814

Artist: Herman Linding
Born: March 1, 1774 - Stamford, NY
Died: October 1, 1819 - Poughkeepsie, NY

Received a recess appointment from Thomas Jefferson on June 12, 1805, to a seat vacated by John Sloss Hobart; nominated to the same position by Thomas Jefferson on December 20, 1805. Confirmed by the Senate on December 23, 1805, and received commission on January 17, 1806. Service terminated on April 9, 1814, due to assignment to another court.

Reassigned April 9, 1814, to a new seat authorized by 3 Stat. 120. Service terminated on July 1, 1819, due to resignation.

Education:
Read law
Yale University, 1795

Professional Career:
Private practice, Herkimer, New York, -1805
Member, New York Assembly
Member, New York State Senate

Kenneth B. Keating
U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building
Rochester, NY

Second Floor, Courtroom 1
Judge Harold P. Burke
Judge Michael Anthony Telesca

Portrait Locations

United States Courthouse Buffalo, NY

Sixth Floor - Genesee Courtroom
(Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott)

Judge Matthias Burnett Tallmadge
Judge William Peter Van Ness
Judge Alfred Conklin

Sixth Floor - Allegany Courtroom
(Magistrate Judge Jeremiah J. McCarthy)

Judge Nathan Kelsey Hall
Judge William James Wallace
Judge Alfred Conkling Coxe, Sr.

Fifth Floor - Orleans Courtroom
(Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder)

Judge Simon Louis Adler
Judge John Knight
Judge Harlan Watson Rippey

Fifth Floor - Wyoming Courtroom
(Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio)

Judge John Raymond Hazel
Judge Justin Colfax Morgan

Tenth Floor - Conference Room

Judge John Oliver Henderson
Judge John Thomas Curtin
Judge John Thomas Elfvin



Judge William Peter Van Ness
1812 - 1814

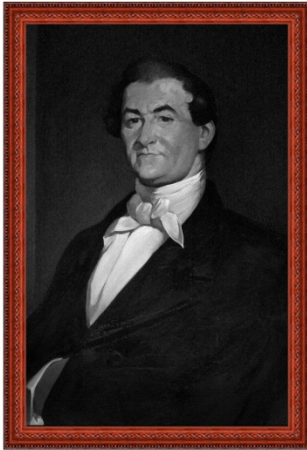
Artist: Unknown - Federal Art Project
Born February 13, 1778, in Claverack, NY
Died September 6, 1826, in New York, NY

Federal Judicial Service:
Judge, U.S. District Court, District of New York
Nominated by James Madison on May 25, 1812, to a new seat authorized by 2 Stat. 719. Confirmed by the Senate on May 26, 1812, and received commission on May 27, 1812. Service terminated on April 9, 1814, due to assignment to another court.

Judge, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
Reassigned April 9, 1814, to a new seat authorized by 3 Stat. 120. Service terminated on September 6, 1826, due to death.

Education:
Columbia College, 1797, Read Law, 1800

Professional Career:
Private practice, New York City, 1800-1801
Private practice, Albany, New York, 1801-
Private practice, Hudson, New York
Private practice, New York City, -1812



Judge Alfred Conklin
1825 - 1852

Artist: Unknown - Federal Art Project
Born February 13, 1778, in Claverack, NY
Died September 6, 1826, in New York, NY

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court, District of New York
Nominated by James Madison on May 25, 1812, to a new seat authorized by 2 Stat. 719. Confirmed by the Senate on May 26, 1812, and received commission on May 27, 1812. Service terminated on April 9, 1814, due to assignment to another court.

Judge, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
Reassigned April 9, 1814, to a new seat authorized by 3 Stat. 120. Service terminated on September 6, 1826, due to death.

Education:

Columbia College, 1797, Read Law, 1800

Professional Career:

Private practice, New York City, 1800-1801
Private practice, Albany, New York, 1801-
Private practice, Hudson, New York
Private practice, New York City, -1812



Judge Michael Anthony Telesca
1982 - Present

Artist: George Palmer
Born 1929 in Rochester, NY

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Nominated by Ronald Reagan on March 11, 1982, to a seat vacated by Harold P. Burke. Confirmed by the Senate on April 20, 1982, and received commission on April 21, 1982. Served as chief judge, 1989-1995. Assumed senior status on May 3, 1996.

Education:

University of Rochester, B.A., 1952
University of Buffalo Law School, LL.B., 1955

Professional Career:

U.S. Marine Corps First Lieutenant, 1955-1957
Private practice, Rochester, New York, 1957-1972
Judge, Surrogate Court, Monroe County, New York, 1973-1982



Judge Harold P. Burke
1937 - 1981

Artist: Unknown

Born June 6, 1895, in Rochester, NY
Died July 17, 1981, in Rochester, NY

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Nominated by Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 27, 1937, to a seat vacated by Harlan W. Rippey. Confirmed by the Senate on June 15, 1937, and received commission on June 18, 1937. Served as chief judge, 1955-1967. Assumed senior status on June 15, 1981. Service terminated on July 17, 1981, due to death.

Education:

Notre Dame Law School, LL.B., 1916

Professional Career:

U.S. Army
Private practice, Rochester, New York, 1920-1931
Assistant attorney general, New York, 1931-1934
Corporate counsel for Rochester, New York, 1934-1937



Judge Nathan Kelsey Hall
1852 - 1874

Artist: Unknown

Born March 28, 1810, in Marcellus, NY
Died March 2, 1874, in Buffalo, NY

Federal Judicial Service:

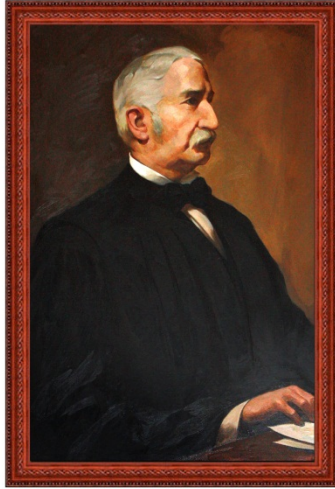
Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
Nominated by Millard Fillmore on August 13, 1852, to a seat vacated by Alfred Conkling. Confirmed by the Senate on August 31, 1852, and received commission on August 31, 1852. Service terminated on March 2, 1874, due to death.

Education:

Read law, 1832

Professional Career:

Private practice, Buffalo, New York, 1832-1850
Clerk, Board of Supervisors, Erie County, New York, 1832-1838
City attorney, Buffalo, New York, 1833-1834
Alderman, Buffalo, New York, 1837
Master in chancery, Buffalo, 1839-1841
Judge, Court of Common Pleas for Erie County, New York, 1841-
U.S. Representative from New York, 1847-1849
Postmaster General of the United States, 1850-1852



Judge William James Wallace
1874 - 1882

Artist: Unknown

Born April 14, 1837, in Syracuse, NY
Died March 11, 1917, in Jacksonville, FL

Federal Judicial Service:

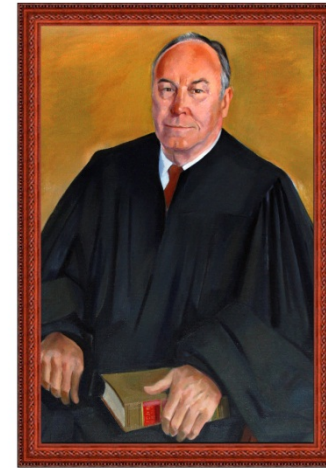
Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
Nominated by Ulysses Grant on April 2, 1874, to a seat vacated by Nathan Hall. Confirmed by the Senate on April 7, 1874, and received commission on April 7, 1874. Service terminated on April 25, 1882, due to appointment to another judicial position.

Judge, U.S. Circuit Courts for the Second Circuit
Nominated by Chester A. Arthur on March 28, 1882, to a seat vacated by Samuel M. Blatchford. Confirmed by the Senate on April 6, 1882, and received commission on April 6, 1882. Service terminated on May 8, 1907, due to retirement.

Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
Reassigned June 16, 1891, to a new seat authorized by 26 Stat. 826.
Service terminated on May 8, 1907, due to retirement.

Education:
Syracuse University
Hamilton College, LL.B.,
1857
Read law, 1858

Professional Career:
Private practice, Syracuse, New York, 1859-1874
Mayor, Syracuse, New York, 1873-1874
Private practice, Syracuse, New York, 1907-1917



Judge John Thomas Elfvin
1974 - 2009

Artist: Virginia Tillou

Born June 30, 1917, in Montour Falls, NY
Died January 6, 2009, in Lancaster, NY

Federal Judicial Service:

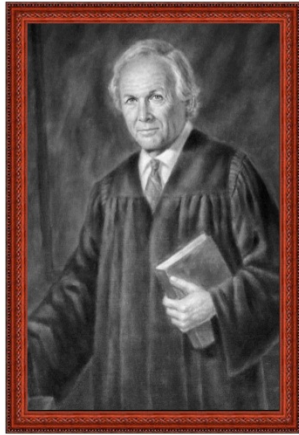
Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Nominated by Gerald Ford on December 9, 1974, to a seat vacated by John O. Henderson. Confirmed by the Senate on December 20, 1974, and received commission on December 21, 1974. Assumed senior status on July 1, 1987. Service terminated on October 5, 2007, due to retirement.

Education:

Cornell
University, B.E.E.,
1942
Georgetown
University Law
School, J.D., 1947

Professional Career:

Electrical engineer, Bureau of Ships, U.S. Navy, 1943-1946
Law clerk, Hon. E. Barrett Prettyman, U.S. Court of Appeals,
D.C. Circuit, 1947-1948
Private practice, New York City, 1948-1951
Private practice, Buffalo, New York, 1951-1955
Assistant U.S. attorney, Western District of New York, 1955-1958
Private practice, Buffalo, New York, 1958-1969
Member, Board of Supervisors, Erie County, New York, 1962-
1965
Member, Buffalo Common Council, Buffalo, New York, 1966-1969
Justice, Supreme Court of New York, 1969
Private practice, Buffalo, New York, 1970-1972
U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, 1972-1975



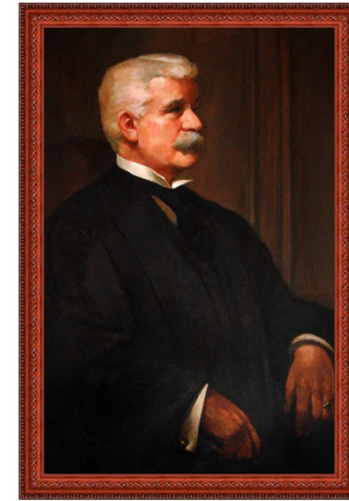
Judge John Thomas Curtin
1967 - Present

Artist: George Palmer
Born 1921 in Buffalo, NY

Federal Judicial Service:
Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Nominated by Lyndon B. Johnson on November 28, 1967, to a new seat authorized by 80 Stat. 75. Confirmed by the Senate on December 14, 1967, and received commission on December 14, 1967. Served as chief judge, 1974-1989. Assumed senior status on July 1, 1989.

Education:
Canisius College, B.S., 1946
University of Buffalo Law School, LL.B., 1949

Professional Career:
U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel, 1942-1945
U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, 1952-1954
Private practice, Buffalo, New York, 1949-1961
U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, 1961-1967



Judge Alfred Conkling Coxe, Sr.
1882 - 1902

Artist: Melvin Zipfel
Born May 20, 1847, in Auburn, NY
Died April 15, 1923, in Hartford, CT

Federal Judicial Service:
Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
Nominated by Chester A. Arthur on April 24, 1882, to a seat vacated by William J. Wallace. Confirmed by the Senate on May 4, 1882, and received commission on May 4, 1882. Service terminated on June 14, 1902, due to appointment to another judicial position.

Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
Nominated by Theodore Roosevelt on May 29, 1902, to a new seat authorized by 32 Stat. 106. Confirmed by the Senate on June 3, 1902, and received commission on June 3, 1902. Service terminated on July 31, 1917, due to retirement.

Judge, U.S. Circuit Courts for the Second Circuit
Nominated by Theodore Roosevelt on May 29, 1902, to a new seat authorized by 32 Stat. 106. Confirmed by the Senate on June 3, 1902, and received commission on June 3, 1902. Service terminated on December 31, 1911, due to abolition of the court.

Education:
Read law, 1868

Professional Career:
Private practice, Utica, New York, 1868-1882
Manager, Utica State Hospital, New York, 1880-1882



Judge John Raymond Hazel
1900 - 1931

Artist: Urquhart Wilcox
Born December 18, 1860, in Buffalo, NY
Died October 13, 1951

Federal Judicial Service:
Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Nominated by William McKinley on May 18, 1900, to a new seat authorized by 31 Stat. 175. Confirmed by the Senate on June 5, 1900, and received commission on June 5, 1900. Service terminated on March 5, 1931, due to retirement.

Education:
Read law, 1882

Professional Career:
Private practice, Buffalo, New York, 1882-1894
State commissioner of corporation taxes, New York, 1894-



Judge John Oliver Henderson
1959 - 1974

Artist: Unknown
Born September 8, 1874, in Griegsville, NY
Died March 11, 1946

Federal Judicial Service:
Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Nominated by Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 9, 1934, to a seat vacated by Simon L. Adler. Confirmed by the Senate on June 14, 1934, and received commission on June 18, 1934. Service terminated on December 31, 1936, due to resignation.

Education:
University of Rochester, A.B., 1898
University of Rochester, A.M., 1899

Professional Career:
Private practice, Rochester, New York, 1901-1913
New York state tax appraiser, 1913-1915
Inheritance tax attorney, Tax Commission of New York, 1922-1927
Justice, Supreme Court of New York, 1927-1928
Liquidation attorney, New York State Superintendent of Banks and U.S. Comptroller, 1930-1934
Associate judge, New York State Court of Appeals, 1937-1946



Judge Justin Colfax Morgan
1956 - 1959

Artist: Unknown

Born September 8, 1874, in Griegsville, NY
Died March 11, 1946

Federal Judicial Service:

Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Nominated by Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 9, 1934, to a seat vacated by
Simon L. Adler. Confirmed by the Senate on June 14, 1934, and received
commission on June 18, 1934. Service terminated on December 31, 1936,
due to resignation.

Education:

University of Rochester, A.B., 1898
University of Rochester, A.M., 1899

Professional Career:

Private practice, Rochester, New York, 1901-1913
New York state tax appraiser, 1913-1915
Inheritance tax attorney, Tax Commission of New York, 1922-1927
Justice, Supreme Court of New York, 1927-1928
Liquidation attorney, New York State Superintendent of Banks and U.S.
Comptroller, 1930-1934
Associate judge, New York State Court of Appeals, 1937-1946



Judge Simon Louis Adler
1927 - 1934

Artist: William M. Hekking - 11/12/1935
Born August 30, 1867, in Seneca Falls, NY
Died May 23, 1934

Federal Judicial Service:

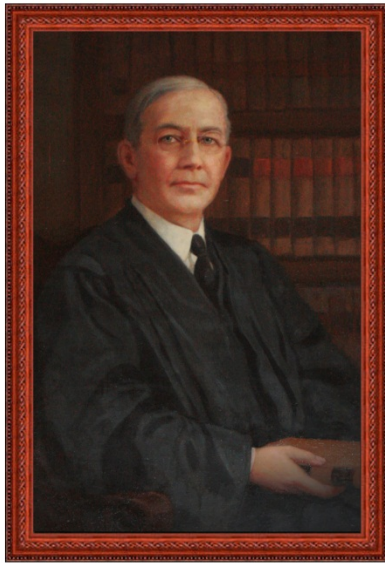
Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Received a recess appointment from Calvin Coolidge on May 19, 1927, to a
new seat authorized by 44 Stat. 1370; nominated to the same position by
Calvin Coolidge on December 6, 1927. Confirmed by the Senate on January
16, 1928, and received commission on January 16, 1928. Service
terminated on May 23, 1934, due to death.

Education:

Cornell University, B.L., 1889
Harvard Law School, 1892

Professional Career:

Private practice, Rochester, New York, 1892-
State representative, New York, 1911-1926; majority leader, 1916-1926



Judge John Knight
1931 - 1955

Artist: Edith Loop
Born April 29, 1871, in Arcade, NY
Died June 15, 1955

Federal Judicial Service:
Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Received a recess appointment from Herbert Hoover on March 18, 1931, to a seat vacated by John R. Hazel; nominated to the same position by Herbert Hoover on December 15, 1931. Confirmed by the Senate on January 6, 1932, and received commission on January 9, 1932. Served as chief judge, 1948-1955. Service terminated on June 15, 1955, due to death.

Education: University of Rochester, A.B., 1893
Read law, 1896

Professional Career:
Town clerk, Arcade, New York, 1892-1896
Private practice, Arcade, New York, 1896-1900
Referee in Bankruptcy, U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York, 1899-1904
District attorney, Wyoming County, New York, 1904-1913
Member, New York General Assembly, 1913-1917
Member, New York State Senate, 1917-1931
President pro tem, 1924-1931



Judge John Harlan Watson Rippey
1934 - 1936

Artist: Unknown
Born September 8, 1874, in Griegsville, NY
Died March 11, 1946

Federal Judicial Service:
Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
Nominated by Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 9, 1934, to a seat vacated by Simon L. Adler. Confirmed by the Senate on June 14, 1934, and received commission on June 18, 1934. Service terminated on December 31, 1936, due to resignation.

Education:
University of Rochester, A.B., 1898
University of Rochester, A.M., 1899

Professional Career:
Private practice, Rochester, New York, 1901-1913
New York state tax appraiser, 1913-1915
Inheritance tax attorney, Tax Commission of New York, 1922-1927
Justice, Supreme Court of New York, 1927-1928
Liquidation attorney, New York State Superintendent of Banks and U.S. Comptroller, 1930-1934
Associate judge, New York State Court of Appeals, 1937-1946