



225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1789-2014



## Robert Lee Carter

**Born:**

March 11, 1917  
Careyville, FL

**Received Commission:**

July 25, 1972

**Died:**

January 3, 2012

Judge Carter was appointed United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York on July 25, 1972 and entered on duty September 28, 1972. He received an A.B. degree from Lincoln University in 1937, an LL.B. degree from Howard University Law School in 1940, an LL.M. degree from Columbia University Law School in 1942, and honorary degrees from Lincoln University, Northeastern University, College of the Holy Cross, Howard University, New School University, Harvard University, Columbia University, Fordham University and Georgetown University.

Judge Carter was assistant special counsel to the NAACP, from 1945 to 1956 and general counsel from 1956 to 1968. He argued and won twenty-one of twenty-two cases in the U.S. Supreme Court. He was Special Assistant United States Attorney in 1962; partner, Poletti, Freidin, Prashker, Feldman & Gartner, 1969 until appointment to the bench. In 1965, he was a member of the American Delegation to the U.N. Conference on Crime and Treatment of Offenders in Stockholm, Sweden, and in 1971 a member of the American Delegation to the U.N. Conference of African Jurists on African Legal Process and Individual Rights in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Judge Carter was a member of the Mayor's Judiciary Committee in 1968; a member of The Department Committee on Court Administration of the First and Second Judicial Departments, Supreme Court of New York; a member of the New York State Special Commission on Attica. He was a fellow of the Urban Center, Columbia University, 1968–1969; an adjunct professor of law at Yale and the New York University and University of Michigan Schools of Law; Distinguished Jurist in Residence, Indiana University School of Law in 1990; Shikes Fellow, Harvard Law School in 1991 and Meiklejohn Lecturer, Brown University in 1994.

In 1995, he received the Federal Bar Council's Emory Buckner Award for Outstanding Public Service. Future S.D.N.Y. Magistrate Judges James C. Francis IV and Theodore Katz served as his law clerks.