



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Henry Warren Goddard

Born:

May 4, 1876
New York, NY

Received Commission:

January 4, 1923

Died:

August 26, 1955
Madison, CT

Henry Warren Goddard graduated from New York Law School in 1901. He maintained a private practice in New York City (1901–1923), when President Harding appointed him to one of two newly created judgeships for the SDNY. Prior to his appointment, Judge Goddard had been active in politics as a member of the New York County Republican Committee and President of the Young Republican Club. His years in private practice were interrupted by military service during World War I. He had also served in the New York National Guard for twelve years.

During his lengthy time on the court, Judge Goddard handled a wide variety of matters, including some prominent cases that reflected important events of the time. Many of his early cases were prosecutions resulting from Prohibition. In 1929, the early days of the film industry, he dismissed a copyright infringement suit by Anne Nichols against Universal Pictures and its president for allegedly stealing the plot for a screenplay from one of her Broadway stage plays. During the World War II era, Judge Goddard managed the prosecution of a former German Army major and 5 German-Americans on espionage charges. And as World War II closed and the Cold War began, Judge Goddard presided at the second perjury trial of Alger Hiss in 1949.

Judge Goddard was active in philanthropic work. He served as chairman of the board of the New York Association for the Blind and made many appeals for support for The Lighthouse and other institutions serving the blind.

Sources:

Biographical Directory of Federal Judges, available at <http://www.fjc.gov/>

"3 New York Judges are Named by Harding", New York Times, December 29, 1922, pg. 6

"Trial Judge Long on Federal Bench", New York Times, January 22, 1950, pg. 50

"Henry Goddard, Ex-Jurist, Dead", New York Times, August 27, 1955, pg. 15