



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Murray Irwin Gurfein

Born:

November 17, 1907
New York, NY

Received Commission:

May 20, 1971

Died:

December 16, 1979

Judge Gurfein served as a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York from 1971 to 1974. He was appointed United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit September 11, 1974. He received an A.B. degree from Columbia in 1926 and an LL.B. degree from Harvard Law School in 1930. He

Judge Gurfein was a member of the New York State Temporary Commission on the Courts from 1953 to 1958. He was Assistant District Attorney, New York County from 1938 to 1942; and chief assistant to Thomas E. Dewey in investigations of organized crime from 1935 to 1938. He was Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 1931 to 1933, and was law secretary to United States Circuit Judge Julian W. Mack from 1930 to 1931. He was a partner in the firm Judd and Gurfein, from 1946 to 1954; Goldstein, Judd, and Gurfein 1955 to 1968; and Goldstein, Gurfein, Shames, and Hyde 1968 to 1971.

Judge Gurfein served as a lieutenant colonel in intelligence in the United States Army and the Office of Strategic Services from 1942 to 1945. He was an assistant to the Honorable Robert H. Jackson, United States Chief Counsel at the Nuremburg Trials.

In his first week on the District Court, Judge Gurfein presided over the Pentagon Papers case, the effort by the government to enjoin publication in the New York Times of a classified report on the history of American involvement in Vietnam. He declined the government's application to stop publication, was reversed by the Court of Appeals, but his ruling was reinstated by the Supreme Court.