



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Alvin K. Hellerstein

Born:
1933
New York, NY

Received Commission:
October 22, 1998

Alvin K. Hellerstein was appointed a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York by President Clinton on October 22, 1998, and has been serving on the court since November 30, 1998. He had practiced before then for 38 years with Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, and had been the co-founder and co-head of Stroock's Litigation Department.

Judge Hellerstein graduated from Columbia College and Columbia Law School, and received his LL.B. in 1956. He was an editor of the Law Review, a James Kent and Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and was awarded the Jerome Michael Cup for trial advocacy and the Charles Bathgate Beck prize for Property.

Following his graduation, Judge Hellerstein became a Law Clerk for Judge Edmund L. Palmieri in the Southern District of New York, and then served as a First Lieutenant in the Army's Judge Advocate General Corps, on the faculty of The Judge Advocate General School in Charlottesville, Virginia and in Korea. He joined Stroock & Stroock & Lavan following his honorable discharge from military service.

At Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, Judge Hellerstein had an extensive commercial and securities litigation practice and was co-head of the department. He also was active in professional and communal affairs and had leadership positions in the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Federal Bar Council and other professional and charitable organizations.

As a United States District Judge, Judge Hellerstein presided over a full range of civil and criminal cases, among them all the cases arising from the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001, and the clean-up work that followed. He presided also over the FOIA cases against the Department of Defense involving the interrogations and renditions of detainees and the photographs taken at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.