



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



## William Bernard Herlands

**Born:**

July 19, 1905  
New York, NY

**Received Commission:**

June 27, 1956

**Died:**

August 28, 1969  
New York, NY

William B. Herlands, born in Brooklyn, NY, attended Erasmus Hall High School. In 1925, he graduated from City College, winning the Pell Medal for the highest four-year scholastic average. In 1928, he graduated from Columbia Law School, where he was an editor of the Columbia Law Review.

Herlands, after beginning law practice as an apprentice to George Z. Medalie, became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the S.D.N.Y. when Medalie became the U.S. Attorney. Herlands next became a New York City assistant corporation counsel. In 1935, when Governor Herbert Lehman named a special New York State Supreme Court Term to prosecute organized crime and Thomas E. Dewey was named special prosecutor to replace the Tammany Hall-dominated office of the New York County District Attorney, Herlands became Dewey's principal trial assistant. In 1938, Herlands became New York City's Commissioner of Investigations under Mayor LaGuardia. In the 1950s, Herlands was special prosecutor of waterfront crime in Staten Island. He also served as New York State's first Commissioner of Investigation, and briefly as a New York City Domestic Relations court judge. Between government stints, he practiced law solo and with his brother.

Judge Herlands served as a judge of the District Court from 1955 until his death in 1969.

Judge Herlands was active in cultivating and training students to become enthusiastic civil servants, and in civic and philanthropic organizations, such as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, the Jewish Welfare Board, the Boy Scouts of America and Yeshiva University.

Source:

William B. Herlands Dies at 64; U.S. District Court Judge Here, N.Y. TIMES, Aug. 29, 1969, at 29.