



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Samuel Hamilton Kaufman

Born:

October 26, 1893
New York, NY

Received Commission:

February 2, 1949

Died:

May 5, 1960
New York, NY

Samuel H. Kaufman attended New York University School of Law in 1910-1911 and 1915-1917, earning a LL.B. degree. He served in the United States Army during the First World War, and later in the National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Before becoming a judge, Kaufman had a long, diverse and increasingly prominent career in private law practice and public service. As a New York City lawyer, he attracted notice in 1929 when he defended members of the Greater New York Live Poultry Chamber of Commerce who were charged with Sherman Act violations. From 1935-1936, he was a special prosecutor under the U.S. Attorney General, investigating and prosecuting racketeers who extorted money from immigrants entering New York illegally. In 1937-1938, he was special counsel to the Federal Communications Commission. In 1946, he served as co-counsel to the Congressional Pearl Harbor Investigating Committee. At the time of his judicial appointment, Kaufman was senior partner in the Kaufman, Gallop, Climenko, Gould & Lynton law firm in downtown Manhattan. He had extensive experience in federal court practice, was a member of the NYU Law faculty, and was an active member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the New York County Lawyers Association, and the Normandy Democratic Club.

In 1949, Judge Kaufman presided at the first trial of accused Soviet spy and perjurer Alger Hiss, in which the jury was unable to reach a verdict. In the 1950s, Judge Kaufman supervised trustees who operated the lines of the bankrupt Third Avenue Transit Corporation. His guidance there produced the labor-management settlement that saved New York City's largest bus system from liquidation.

In 1955, after suffering a crippling stroke, Judge Kaufman assumed senior status on certified disability.