



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Julius Marshuetz Mayer

Born:

September 5, 1865
New York, NY

Received Commission:

February 26, 1912

Service terminated due to appointment in 1921 to the United States Circuit Court for the Second Circuit.

Died:

October 28, 1925
New York, NY

Julius M. Mayer was born, raised, and educated in New York, and worked his whole professional life there. He attended the Hebrew Grammar School, No. 58, and then the City College of New York, from which he graduated in 1884. Columbia Law School awarded him an LL.B. in 1886, and in 1921 an honorary Doctor of Laws. He was admitted to the bar in 1886.

Except for his years on the bench, Judge Mayer maintained a private practice in New York City. At the same time, he was very involved in local politics, and often became involved in controversies. This kept him in the public eye more than other judges. He served as Counsel to both the New York State Excise Board (1895-1896) and the New York City Building Department (1897-1898). Mayer's political contacts enabled his appointment as Justice of the New York Court of Special Sessions from 1902 to 1903. This was followed by a term as New York State Attorney General from 1903 to 1907.

As a District Court judge, Judge Mayer handled a wide variety of cases, including the admiralty, bankruptcy, and patent matters. However, his service on the court during World War I brought many draft cases before him, and even once threatened his life. The case involving the sinking of the Lusitania also came before him and he held the sinking an act of piracy. Judge Mayer was always held in high regard by the lawyers practicing before him.

President Harding elevated Julius Mayer to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, but he only served there for less than three years. He resigned in 1924 and returned to private practice where he could have greater freedom of action and expression than as a federal judge.

Sources:

"Judge Mayer Dies of Heart Attack", New York Times, December 1, 1925, pg. 1

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