



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Robert P. Patterson, Jr.

Born:

1923
New York, NY

Received Commission:

October 6, 1988

Judge Patterson was born in 1923 in New York, New York. He graduated from Harvard College (B.A., 1947) and Columbia Law School (LL.B., 1950) and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps (1942-46) as a Lead Navigator in Liberators and Flying Fortresses where he received the Distinguished Flying Cross with Cluster and Air Medal. Prior to his appointment to the District Court by President Reagan in 1988, Judge Patterson held several positions in the state and federal government including Assistant Counsel, New York State Crime Commission (1952-53), Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District where he served as attorney-in-charge of the narcotics and special investigation unit (1953-56), Assistant Counsel to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee (1954), Special Committee on H.R. 1, U.S. House of Representatives (Powell investigation) Washington, D.C. (1967). He served as a Special Hearing Officer for Conscientious Objectors for the Department of Justice (1961-68). He practiced in the private sector with Patterson, Belknap & Webb (1956-1988), where he became partner in 1960. He was Vice President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (1974-75), President of the New York State Bar Association (1978-79) and the Legal Aid Society (1967-71), Direction and Member of Executive Committee, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (since 1968). He was on the Board of the New York County Lawyers Association (1971-77), Trustee, Vera Institute of Justice (since 1981), Member of the Executive Committee, New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission (1982-88) and Manager of the Havens Relief Fund Society (1995-2009). Judge Patterson assumed senior status in 1998.

Judge Patterson's father, Robert P. Patterson, Sr., served as a judge of the S.D.N.Y. and of the Second Circuit.