



225th Anniversary
1789-2014



Lawrence Edward Walsh

Born:

January 8, 1912
Port Maitland, Nova Scotia

Received Commission:

April 28, 1954

Service terminated due to appointment in 1957 as Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

Died:

March 19, 2014
Oklahoma City, OK

Lawrence E. Walsh, born in Canada, emigrated at age two with his family to Flushing, New York. He became a U.S. citizen in 1922. Walsh attended Columbia College, working each summer on steamships that traveled the world and graduating in 1932. He graduated from Columbia Law School in 1935.

Although Walsh was unable to find a law firm job during the Great Depression, he was lucky to find work as a prosecutor. In late 1935, he joined a special state investigation of the Kings County (Brooklyn) District Attorney's office. In 1937, newly-elected New York County District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey hired him. During the next three years, Walsh prosecuted numerous felony cases.

From 1941-1943, Walsh was an associate with Davis Polk & Wardwell. He then became assistant counsel to now-governor Dewey. In 1949 Walsh became counsel to the New York State Public Service Commission and, in 1950, counsel to the governor, only to return briefly to the PSC in 1952 and then serve as executive director and counsel of the New York Waterfront Commission.

Judge Walsh was appointed to the bench in 1954. Only three-plus years later, he resigned to become Deputy Attorney General of the U.S. In 1961, he returned to New York and became a partner in Davis Polk, where he handled corporate matters and complex litigation. In 1969, President Nixon appointed Walsh to serve as deputy head of the U.S. delegation to the Paris peace talks on Vietnam. He also became chairman of the American Bar Association committee reviewing federal judicial nominees. In 1975, Walsh became ABA president. He retired from Davis Polk in 1981 and moved to Oklahoma City, his wife's hometown, where he became counsel to Crowe & Dunlevy.

In late 1986, Judge Walsh was appointed independent counsel (the special federal prosecutor) to investigate the so-called Iran/Contra Affair. He completed that assignment in 1994.