

BIOGRAPHY

Judge James P. Jones

Judge Jones is a 1962 graduate of Duke University and a 1965 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law. Following law school, he was appointed an Assistant Attorney General of Virginia, primarily representing the state in criminal appeals. Thereafter, he was employed by Chief Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit as a law clerk at the Court's headquarters in Richmond assisting in prisoner pro se appeals.

In 1968, Judge Jones began private practice in Abingdon, Virginia, as an associate with the Penn Stuart law firm. In 1971 he became a partner in the firm and in 1976 became the senior attorney of the firm's Bristol, Virginia, office. While in private practice, he concentrated on business and employment litigation.

Judge Jones was elected to the Virginia State Senate in 1983 and reelected in 1984. While in the Senate, he served on the Committee for Courts of Justice and the Virginia Code Commission. He was vice-chairman of the Southwest Virginia Economic Development Commission. He also served as a member of the Democratic National Committee and of the Steering Committee of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

Judge Jones retired from the Senate in 1988 and was elected by the Senate as a member of the Senate Ethics Advisory Committee. He later served as the committee's chairman. In 1990, he was appointed to the Virginia State Board of Education and served as the Board's President from 1992 until 1996. During his tenure as President of the Board of Education, the Board adopted the revised Virginia Standards of Learning, a major educational landmark.

While practicing law, Judge Jones was active in civic matters, serving as an officer or board member of a number of non-profit organizations, including the Barter Theatre Foundation and the Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He was also active in bar organizations, including service as a member of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Bar Association. He was elected a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1987.

In 1996, President Clinton appointed Judge Jones as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia. He took office on August 30, 1996. From 2004 to 2010 he served as Chief Judge of the Court.

Judge Jones served as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Criminal Rules from 2003 to 2009, and as chairman of the subcommittee on victims' rights. From 2007 to 2011, he served as the district judge representative from the Fourth Circuit to the U.S. Judicial Conference, the federal judiciary's policy making body. He also served as a member of the Fourth Circuit's Judicial Council. He is president of the District Judges Association for the Fourth Circuit.