

= Clifford Scott Green =

Clifford Scott Green (April 2 , 1923 ? May 31 , 2007) was a judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania . Green was the eighteenth African @-@ American Article III judge appointed in the United States , and the second African @-@ American judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania .

During his 36 years on the federal bench Judge Green presided over a number of notable cases , and was regarded as one of the most popular judges in the district .

= = Personal life = =

Judge Green was born on April 2 , 1923 in Philadelphia , Pennsylvania . His father , Robert Lewis Green , had come to the United States from St. Thomas island in the U.S. Virgin Islands . Green attended West Philadelphia High School , graduating in 1941 . He initially had " no thought of going to college , " intending instead to go immediately to work . From 1941 to 1942 he worked in a Philadelphia restaurant and at a drug manufacturing company . In 1942 he took a job with the United States Army Signal Corps .

In 1943 Judge Green enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps , the predecessor to the United States Air Force . At the time , the armed forces were still segregated . Green was initially " optimistic that the military was going to be a good life , " until his unit was shipped from Fort Lee , Virginia to Keesler Field (now Keesler Air Force Base) , in Mississippi . When the unit arrived at Keesler they were driven past the barracks to what Green would later describe as " a tent city . " It was then that Green " realized for real that I was really in a segregated army , and there was always , as long as I was in the service , two standards , one quite unacceptable and the other as acceptable as could be considering the fact that the country was at war . "

Green served from 1943 to 1946 , rising to the rank of Sergeant . He returned to Philadelphia in March 1946 , intending to use the benefits of the G.I. Bill to attend Drexel University . He planned to major in electrical engineering , which was the field he had worked in during his time in the Army . Drexel did not have classes starting until September , so Green began to look to work . While seeking employment at Temple University Green learned that Temple had classes beginning in two weeks , so he decided to enroll there .

Green entered the School of Business as an economics major , and planned to become a certified public accountant , until an adviser told him that there were no jobs available for African @-@ American accountants in Philadelphia . Green decided to pursue a career in law , something his father had dreamed of doing himself .

Green received a B.S. in economics in 1948 , finishing his undergraduate degree in just over two years and graduating with honors . He enrolled at Temple Law School as one of ten black students , of whom two would ultimately graduate (the other graduate , Larry Perkins , would also go on to become a judge) . While in law school Green was a member of the moot court team and the law review . He competed on a moot court team which won the Philadelphia regional of the American Bar Association competition . At the national competition , Green 's team faced the Yale moot court team , which included his future law partner and judicial colleague A. Leon Higginbotham , Jr .. In 1951 Green received his LL.B. with honors , graduating in the top three of his class . He was also awarded graduation prizes for receiving the highest grades in constitutional law and conflicts of law .

= = Legal career = =

Green passed the Pennsylvania bar exam in 1951 , achieving the highest score in the state . Green 's early mentors included Robert N.C. Nix , Sr. , who lived across the street from Green 's family . In January 1952 , after being admitted to the bar , Green took over the practice of Thomas Reed , a black Philadelphia lawyer who was joining the Philadelphia District Attorney 's Office under Richardson Dilworth (Green had also interviewed at the DA 's office , but decided that he " couldn 't

fit in as a prosecutor ") .

Green worked as a solo practitioner until March 1952 , when he entered into a partnership with Harvey Schmidt . The firm was known as Schmidt and Green until 1954 , when Doris M. Harris and A. Leon Higginbotham joined as partners . In 1955 J. Austin Norris , a prominent African @-@ American political figure , joined the firm , which was then known as Norris , Schmidt , Green , Harris , & Higginbotham . The firm was the first African @-@ American law firm in Philadelphia . The firm , which never numbered more than a dozen lawyers at a given time , produced four federal judges ; Higginbotham , Green , and Herbert Hutton all served on the District Court (Higginbotham was later elevated to the Third Circuit) , and William Hall was the first African American appointed as a federal magistrate judge . In addition , two members of the firm , Dorris Harris and Harvey Schmidt , were elected judges of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas , and William Brown was appointed by President Nixon to be chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission .

Green 's practice while at the firm was diverse . Initially , the firm 's practice was primarily criminal defense . As new partners were added , the firm expanded to include civil work , which eventually became the overwhelming majority of the work . Green eventually developed a specialized practice representing churches , including the National Baptist Convention , the African Methodist Episcopal Church , the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith , and Father Divine . Additionally , Green represented parties both before and after the Supreme Court 's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* in an attempt to integrate both the student and teacher populations in area school districts . He remained with the firm until his appointment to the bench .

Green first entered public service as a special deputy commonwealth attorney general from 1954 to 1955 . He was assigned as counsel for the Director of the Bureau of Workman 's Compensation . In addition to representing the Director , Green was also responsible for approving all claims for compensation under the occupational disease statute whenever the Commonwealth was involved . In 1954 Green unsuccessfully ran for the Republican nomination for Philadelphia City Council .

= = Judicial career = =

Green was initially hesitant about seeking a position on the bench because he enjoyed the practice of law . Nevertheless , he began to seek an appointment to the state court in the late 1950s .

Green was a lifelong member of the Republican party , serving as a ward leader from the 1952 to 1964 . Green 's first attempt to gain a seat on the bench was in 1959 , when he was unanimously endorsed by the Republican party for a seat on the Municipal Court , but lost in the general election .

In 1962 Green joined with a group of Republican ward leaders who broke off from the main party , which was led by Sheriff Austin Meehan , to support Governor William Scranton . All of the other ward leaders were voted out of office , and although Green retained his position Sheriff Meehan told him that he would no longer support his appointment to the bench .

Green , however , had the support of Bernard G. Segal , who was then Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association , his former law partner Austin Norris , and the Chancellor of Temple University Robert Johnson . Segal was appointed by Governor Scranton to head a merit commission to select nominees for the state court positions . In addition , Green was endorsed by newspapers across the state .

Scranton ultimately did appoint Green as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia in 1964 . He was elected to a full term in the next general election . Green served primarily as a juvenile court judge while in state court .

In 1971 a vacancy was created on the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania when Judge Harold K. Wood assumed senior status . Senator Hugh Scott supported Green to fill the position . Green also had the support of Billy Meehan , the son of Sheriff Austin Meehan , and at the time the head of the Philadelphia Republican Committee . President Nixon nominated Green on December 1 , 1971 , and he was confirmed by the United States Senate on December 4 , receiving his commission on December 9 . In 1984 Green declined a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit , citing " the joy his district court job provided him and [the] numerous

friendships he enjoyed there . " He assumed senior status on April 2 , 1988 , and continued serving in that capacity until his death .

Throughout his time on the bench , Green remained a popular judge ; a 1994 survey of Philadelphia lawyers concluded " Green is the most well @-@ liked judge on the bench , and attorneys could not praise him enough for his wonderful demeanor . "

= = = Notable cases = = =

Judge Green presided over a number of notable cases during his 35 @-@ year tenure on the Eastern District . In *Bolden v. Pennsylvania State Police* Judge Green ordered the Pennsylvania State Police to reinstate William Bolden , a minority trooper who had been dismissed . The case , which began in 1973 , resulted in a consent decree that required the State Police to hire one minority for every non @-@ minority hired , and set additional goals for promotion and retention of minority troopers . Judge Green presided over the consent decree for 25 years , dissolving it in 1999 . The case was credited with helping to abolish racism in the hiring of troopers , and integrate the State Police .

In 1981 Judge Green threw out the fraud conviction of Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Fumo , concluding that the government had failed to prove that Fumo and two others were involved in a single scheme to pad state payrolls with ghost workers as alleged in their indictment . The decision was upheld on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit .

= = Awards and honors = =

Judge Green was the first recipient of the NAACP 's William H. Hastie award in 1985 . He was awarded the Spirit of Excellence award by the American Bar Association in 2002 . The Philadelphia chapter of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association is named in Judge Green 's honor . The Criminal Law Committee of the Federal Bar Association 's Philadelphia Chapter gives a Clifford Scott Green Bill of Rights Award at its biennial dinner event . Judge Green was a lifetime trustee of Temple University , and a former member of the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia State Hospital , and Children 's Hospital of Philadelphia .

= = Death = =

Judge Green suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and died of pneumonia in Philadelphia on May 31 , 2007 . He was survived by his wife and daughter .