



Office of the District Court Executive

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PRESS ADVISORY
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It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein. Judge Hellerstein passed away this morning surrounded by his family. He was 92 years old. His passing was announced by Chief Judge Laura Taylor Swain.

Speaking on behalf of the Court, Chief Judge Swain said, "Judge Hellerstein was an insightful and dedicated lawyer who, following a distinguished career in the private sector, served with distinction for over 25 years as a distinguished jurist of this court. He presided over the massive tort litigation arising from the September 11 attacks with sensitivity, fairness and efficiency, as well as many other high-profile matters. His energetic and dedicated service to this Court continued until his death. He is greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathies are with his family at this sad time."

Judge Hellerstein was born on December 28, 1933, in New York to Rose and Max Hellerstein. He attended the Bronx High School of Science, graduating in 1950. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College in 1954 and a Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School in 1956 and was editor for the Columbia Law Review. He was a law clerk for Judge Edmund Palmieri of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York from 1956 to 1957. He was in the United States Army, JAG Corps, as a first lieutenant from 1957 to 1960. Hellerstein was in the private practice of law, becoming a partner in 1969 and ultimately serving as co-head of the litigation department of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, in New York City from 1960 to 1998.

Judge Hellerstein was nominated by President Bill Clinton to be a United States district judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on May 15, 1998. He was confirmed by the United States Senate through unanimous consent on October 21, 1998, and received his commission on October 22, 1998. Judge Hellerstein took senior status on January 30, 2011.

Judge Hellerstein lived a life of commitment to public service and devotion to his community. Among other acts of service he has been President and Chairman of the Board of Jewish Education. His example and worth ethic will continue to be a model for this court. He will be greatly missed.