

Chief Justice James P. Sterrett

1822-1901

Term

February 26, 1877-January 7, 1878; January 6, 1879-January 1, 1900; Chief Justice, January 20, 1893-January 1, 1900

Education

- Jefferson College, B.A. 1845
- Studied law at Carlisle and finished at the University of Virginia, LL.B., 1848

Professional Experience

- Principal of Preparatory Department, Tuscarora Academy, 1845-1846
- Admitted to Virginia bar, May 1848; Allegheny County bar, June 9, 1849
- Private practice with Thomas H. Baird, 1845-1850
- Private practice with John P. Penney, 1850-1862
- Governor Andrew Curtin appointed Sterrett, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, 1862; elected in October 1862, re-elected in October 1872
- President Judge, Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, January 4, 1862-February 27, 1877
- Governor John Hartranft appointed Sterrett, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, February 26, 1877-January 7, 1878
- Private Practice, Sterrett, Kennely & Doty, January 8, 1878-January 1879
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, November 1878

Honors and Awards

- Honorary M.A. degree: Jefferson College, 1847
- Honorary LL.D. degree: Lafayette College, 1882; Jefferson Medical College, 1895

Memberships and Associations

- Commission to Revise the Revenue Laws, 1861
- Trustee, Jefferson College, 1855

Sources

2 Twentieth Century Bench and Bar 866 (1903); Joel Fishman, Judges of Allegheny County, Fifth Judicial District, Pennsylvania (1788-2008) 149 (2009); 13 Nat. Cyc. of Am. Biog. 551 (1906); 13 Enc. of Pa. Biog. 153 (1921); Ex-Chief Justice Sterrett, 5 Forum 101 (1901); A Farewell Banquet, Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette 2 (November 7, 1899).