

Theodore M. Williams

Theodore Martin Williams, the son of a waiter, paid for his education at the University of Michigan with jobs at the post office and playing banjo in a dance band. While studying at John Marshall Law School, he worked as a messenger and docket clerk in Newton D. Baker's law firm, graduating in 1932. His pay not only made school possible, but supported his wife, their two oldest children, and his father as well.



In addition to his private practice, he worked for various public assistance agencies. In 1941 his public service career began when he took a position as an Assistant Police Prosecutor in the City of Cleveland Prosecutor's Office. He moved to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office as an Assistant Prosecutor in 1948. In 1952, he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Ward 12 City Council seat.

After eight years as a councilman, Williams was appointed to the municipal court bench in 1960 by Governor Michael V. DiSalle. Successfully elected in 1963 and 1969, he was forced to retire in 1975 after serving a year as the first Administrative Judge of municipal court. After his retirement, he continued working at municipal court as Judge Emeritus, functioning as a Visiting Judge. He would also serve the East Cleveland Municipal Court in that same capacity in 1987. He retired permanently in 1988.

He passed away in 1989 at the age of 84.

Theodore M. Williams served Cleveland Municipal Court as an elected judge from January 7, 1960 to December 31, 1975.