



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT**  
Robin Tabora: (203) 773-2140

## **SENIOR U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE DOMINIC J. SQUATRITO DIES AT AGE 82**

Judge Dominic J. Squatrito, a member of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, died at age 82 on January 20, 2021. He was nominated to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton on July 28, 1994, and received his commission on October 7, 1994. Judge Squatrito assumed senior status on November 1, 2004. He served the Court with honor and distinction for more than 25 years.

Judge Squatrito was born in Hartford, Connecticut on April 9, 1939. He met his wife Carla in the late 1960s. After a brief and largely long-distance relationship, the couple married in September 1968. Carla went on to become the successful owner of Carla's Pasta of South Windsor. They were married for 53 years and have two sons, Sandro Nicola Squatrito and Sergio Marco Squatrito, and four granddaughters.

Judge Squatrito graduated from Manchester High School, where he was a star athlete, winning letters in football, in track and field, and in swimming. In 1961, he received his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, where he continued to excel as an athlete, serving as fullback and co-captain of the football team and was named most valuable player in 1960. Judge Squatrito attended the University of Florence, Italy on a Fulbright scholarship from 1961-62. He received his law degree from Yale University in 1965.

While an undergraduate student at Wesleyan, Judge Squatrito was a vigorous and effective advocate for civil rights and equality. He was the chief organizer and chairman of the Wesleyan Committee on Civil Rights, an organization that collected funds in Connecticut to meet the needs of civil rights demonstrators in the South. He also attended civil rights meetings in Washington, D.C., working closely with allies of Dr. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

After graduating from Wesleyan, Judge Squatrito volunteered with Operation Crossroads to provide clean drinking water to rural villages in Africa. In the summer of 1964, between his second and third years of law school, Judge Squatrito worked in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice on cases involving disparities in voter registration, particularly in the South.

Judge Squatrito had strong ties to his hometown of Manchester, Connecticut. Upon graduating from law school, Judge Squatrito began practicing law at the firm of Bayer & Phelon in Manchester. He remained at this firm, which later became Phelon, Squatrito, FitzGerald, Dyer & Wood, P.C., for nearly 30 years.

“This is a very sad day for the federal court of Connecticut,” said Chief U.S. District Judge Stefan R. Underhill. “We have lost a colleague and dear friend. We will always remember Dom as a humble and compassionate jurist who was fearlessly devoted to ensuring fairness and equal justice to all who appeared before him.”

Judge José A. Cabranes, who serves on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, said Judge Squatrito was an “untiring guardian of equal justice for all.” United States District Judge Robert N. Chatigny said, Judge Squatrito had a “considerable passion for justice.” He was a “man with a great big heart who truly loved his fellow man and had tremendous empathy for him.”

Judge Squatrito was active in the public life of his community and of his state, serving in various capacities, including: First Chairman of Manchester’s Commission on Aging (1967-69); Counsel to the Housing Authority of the Town of Manchester (1972-79); Clerk of the State of Connecticut Legislative Committee on Executive Nominations (1974-78); Assistant Counsel to the Judiciary Committee of the State of Connecticut Legislature (1974); Chief Counsel to the State Senate (1976-80); and President of the Manchester Bar Association (1989-90). In addition, he was a member of the American Bar Association; the Connecticut State Bar Association; the Hartford County Bar Association; the Manchester Bar Association; and the Federal Judges Association.

In 2006, Judge Squatrito was inducted into the Manchester Historical Society’s Sports Hall of Fame Honor Roll for his contributions to football and diving. Additionally, in 2019, he was part of the alumni football players elected to Wesleyan’s 1960s All-Decade Team.

In addition to being remembered for the athleticism of his youth, Judge Squatrito is remembered for his commitment to protecting the civil rights of all litigants who appeared in his courtroom.

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