

John G. Roberts, Jr. Biography

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Judge John G. Roberts, Jr., was born in Buffalo, New York , on January 27, 1955. He grew up in Indiana, where he captained his high school football team and worked summers in a steel mill to help pay his way through college.

In 1976, he received his bachelor's degree from Harvard, summa cum laude, after only three years. He then attended Harvard Law School, where he was managing editor of the Harvard Law Review and graduated magna cum laude in 1979.

The year after he graduated from law school, Judge Roberts clerked for Judge Henry J. Friendly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. In 1980-81, Judge Roberts clerked for then-Associate Justice William H. Rehnquist on the United States Supreme Court. Judge Roberts then served as Special Assistant to Attorney General William French Smith during 1981-82. From 1982 until 1986, Judge Roberts served in the White House as Associate Counsel to President Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, Judge Roberts left the White House to enter private practice as an associate at the law firm of Hogan & Hartson. He was elected a partner a year later. His practice focused on appellate litigation. From 1989 until 1993, Judge Roberts served as Principal Deputy Solicitor General, the second-in-command in the Office of the Solicitor General.

In 1992, when he was 37, President George H.W. Bush nominated Judge Roberts to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The nomination languished without action by the Senate. In January 1993, Judge Roberts returned to Hogan & Hartson and resumed his appellate practice.

Including his tenure as a government lawyer, Judge Roberts argued 39 cases before the United States Supreme Court, placing him among the country's most experienced Supreme Court litigators. Judge Roberts was also widely involved in bar activities.

In May 2001, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Roberts for a seat on the D.C. Circuit. The Senate confirmed Judge Roberts' nomination by unanimous consent on May 8, 2003.

Judge Roberts lives in Bethesda, Maryland , with his wife, Jane, and their two children, Jack and Josie. Jane Sullivan Roberts is a partner at Shaw Pittman in Washington, D.C. She has a background in technology law and currently heads the firm's professional development program. She has practiced in the private sector as a litigator and transactional lawyer throughout her legal career, including a year in Australia.