

# Biographical Statement

## **J. Garvan Murtha**

J. Garvan Murtha is a Federal District Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Vermont. At the time of his appointment as a District Judge in 1995, he was in private practice with the Brattleboro firm of Kristensen, Cummings & Murtha. He served as Chief Judge from the time of his appointment until 2002 when he was succeeded by Chief Judge William K. Sessions III.

Judge Murtha earned his B.A. degree in 1963 from Yale University; his L.L.B. degree in 1968 from the University of Connecticut Law School; and an LL.M. degree in 1972 from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was the recipient of an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship.

Prior to entering law school, Judge Murtha was a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia from 1963 to 1965.

From 1968 to 1970 as part of the Prettyman Fellowship, he served as a Public Defender in Washington, D.C. Upon moving to Vermont, he served as a Deputy State's Attorney in Windham County from 1970 to 1973; and was a private practitioner from 1973 until his judicial appointment in 1995.

Judge Murtha has been a member of the Second Circuit Judicial Council since his appointment and a member of the Standing Committee on the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Judicial Conference of the United States since 1999, chairing its Style Subcommittee. He was a member of the Vermont Judicial Nominating Board from 1980 to 1986; Chair of the Vermont Commission on Low-Level Nuclear Waste from 1987 to 1990; and a member of the Vermont Professional Conduct Board from 1993 to 1995. He is a bencher of the American Inns of Court, Southern Vermont Chapter.