

HONORABLE JOSEPH H. RODRIGUEZ

Judge Rodriguez was appointed United States District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey in 1985 and is now serving as a Senior United States District Court Judge since 1998.

Judge Rodriguez graduated from La Salle University in 1955 and Rutgers University Law School in 1958. He went on to work in Private Practice as a Partner with Brown, Connery Law Firm in Camden, New Jersey till 1982. He was appointed a New Jersey Public Advocate and Public Defender (Cabinet Position) and served until 1985. He also served as Chairman on the State Board of Higher Education and Chairman on the State Commission of Investigation. He was elected President of the New Jersey State Bar Association in 1978.

He became an instructor at Rutgers University School of Law and was inducted into Rutgers University Hall of Distinguished Alumni in 1996. He served as Adjunct Professor on Trial Advocacy at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and lectured for the Professional Trial Lawyers Seminar for many years.

In October 1994 he was a participant in the American Bar Association Central & Eastern Law Initiative in Moscow, Russia, to help institutionalize judicial prestige and autonomy through the establishment of an adversarial process using juror-citizens.

He is a recipient of the 1985 Karen Ann Quinlan Center of Hope "Friend of Hospice Award", the 1992 National Hispanic Bar Association "Man of the Year" Award, the 1999 William J. Brennan, Jr. Award by the Association of Federal Bar of State of New Jersey, the 1999 Medal of Honor Award by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation Award, the 2007 Judge John F. Gerry Award by the Camden County Bar Association, the 2009 Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence, and the 2019 New Jersey State Bar President's Award.

His Honorary Doctor of Law Degrees bestowed are from:

St. Peter's College, 1972
Rutgers University, 1974
Seton Hall, 1974
Montclair State College, 1985
Kean College, 1985