

Frederick A. Daugherty
United States District Judge
for the
Western, Northern and Eastern Districts
of Oklahoma

The dual careers of U.S. District Judge Fred Daugherty were unique. He combined judicial and military service at very high levels of responsibility and authority and distinguished himself in each.

Born August 18, 1914 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, he graduated from Oklahoma City Central High School in 1932 and received his law degree from Cumberland University. He also did post graduate study at Oklahoma City University and the University of Oklahoma. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Upon being admitted to the Oklahoma State Bar in 1937 he entered private practice, becoming a partner in the prestigious Oklahoma City firm of Ames, Daugherty, Bynum and Black. In 1955, Oklahoma Governor Raymond Gary appointed him to the state district court bench. Six years later, in 1961, he was appointed U.S. District Judge for the Western, Northern and Eastern districts of Oklahoma by President John F. Kennedy. He took senior status in 1982 and retired fully in 1996.

Judge Daugherty's judicial distinctions were many. Widely regarded as having a brilliant legal mind, lawyers found him to be formidably knowledgeable and prepared in their cases. He was a stickler for proper courtroom decorum and preparation. His rulings showed meticulous analysis and reasoning and factual and legal precision. He was rarely reversed.

Chief Justices Warren Burger and William Rehnquist appointed him to important positions and committees in the federal judiciary, including membership on the Advisory Committee of the Judicial Conference on Financial Disclosure and Codes of Conduct and on its Advisory Committee on Codes of Conduct. He was appointed to membership on the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, a judge of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and as a judge of the Temporary Emergency Court of Appeals. He served as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma from 1972 to 1982. Under his leadership, the court enjoyed highly efficient administration, including high standings, nationally, in such areas as the prompt disposition of cases and economical juror utilization.

Primarily located in Oklahoma City, Judge Daugherty handled cases in all three of Oklahoma's federal judicial districts located in Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Muskogee. His dockets were famously current and expeditiously handled.

He presided over many notable cases during his long career. One was the criminal trial of former Oklahoma Governor David Hall who was convicted of extortion, conspiracy to attempt to bribe a public official and illegally using interstate facilities to further the scheme. He handled the school desegregation case of the Tulsa, Oklahoma public schools, cases involving Oklahoma's county commissioner scandals and the extortion trial of colorful Oklahoma City gambling figure Tracy C. "Pody" Poe.

Judge Daugherty was a Scottish Rite Mason, serving in many leadership positions including Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Oklahoma. Civically he served as Oklahoma County Chairman of the American Red Cross and was a member of the Red Cross National Board of Governors. Among his many civilian honors were Sertoma Club's "Award to Mankind," Big Brothers "Citizenship Award," the University of Oklahoma Distinguished Service Citation, Oklahoma City University Honorary LLB and Award for Lifetime Achievement in Law, Cumberland School of Law Distinguished Alumni Citation, Oklahoma Christian College Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree and induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the state of Oklahoma's highest honor.

In addition to his judicial career, Judge Daugherty also served the nation with extraordinary distinction as a soldier. He saw combat as an infantry officer in the World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations, including campaigns in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. Daugherty commanded the 179th Infantry Regiment of Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division in combat in the Korean War.

His storied military career began with his enlistment in the 45th Division in 1934 as a private. In 1960 he was promoted to Major General of the Line as its Commanding General.

His military decorations included the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and the National Guard Association of the U.S. Distinguished Service Medal.

Judge Daugherty died at age 91 on April 7, 2006, survived by his wife, Betsy, of Oklahoma City.

By Ralph G. Thompson
U.S. District Judge – Retired
a colleague