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Hon. William S. Duffey, Jr.

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District Judge
N.D.Ga.

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Average Rating:3.1 - 27 rating(s)

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Occupation

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Ratings

*Temperament: (1=Awful,10=Excellent)

*Scholarship: (1=Awful,10=Excellent)

*Industriousness: (1=Not at all industrious,10=Highly industrious)

*Ability to Handle Complex Litigation: (1=Awful,10=Excellent)

*Punctuality: (1=Chronic'y Late,10=Always on Time)

*Evenhandedness in Civil Litigation: (1=Demonstrates Bias,10=Entirely Evenhanded)

*Evenhandedness in Criminal Litigation: (1=Demonstrates Bias,10=Entirely Evenhanded)

Flexibility In Scheduling (1=Completely Inflexible,10=Very Flexible)

General Inclination Regarding Bail (1=Pro-Defense,10=Pro-Government)

General Inclination in Criminal Cases, Pre-Trial: (1=Pro-Defense,10=Pro-Government)

Involvement in Civil Settlement Discussions: (1=Least Involved,10=Most Involved)

General Inclination in Criminal Cases, Trial: (1=Pro-Defense,10=Pro-Government)

General Inclination in Criminal Cases, Sentencing: (1=Most Lenient,10=Most Harsh)

Typical Discount Off Guidelines for Cooperators: (1=10%,10=100%)

Items marked with (*) are averaged into the displayed overall rating

Comments



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What others have said about Hon. William S. Duffey, Jr.

Comments

Other

Comment #: 23427

Rating: Not Rated

Comments:

Jekyll and Hyde personality. Narcissistic. Can't keep an employee for very long, has had two law clerks leave in the same year, never completing their terms. Has gone through several JA's. Not one has lasted more than 3 years. Says a lot.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 4/22/2016 2:41:06 PM

Court Staff

Comment #: 23080

Rating: 1.0

Comments:

Micromanages courtroom and staff. Lacks grace. Lacks management skills. Inflexible. Tyrant.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 10/19/2015 9:24:16 PM

Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 22284

Rating: 1.0

Comments:

Clarence Darrow once said, "The world is made up for the most part of morons and natural tyrants, sure of themselves, strong in their own opinions, never doubting anything." He certainly described Judge Duffey.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 1/5/2015 5:31:33 PM

Civil Litigation - Private

Comment #: 22165

Rating: 1.0

Comments:

A sanctimonious hypocrite.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 11/19/2014 2:06:07 PM

 Other

Comment #: 21993

Rating: Not Rated

Comments:

Just an angry, arrogant man. Not what we need on any bench, in any classroom, or place of worship.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 8/11/2014 8:36:38 PM

 Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 21911

Rating: 1.0          

Comments:

Judge Duffey is a political appointee. W made him a judge to reward him for going after the Clintons in Whitewater. So it's no surprise that this man is as partisan a Republican as they come. What is surprising is what a terrible judge he is. He's not a thoughtful, principled conservative. He's just a man with his own biases who now is in a position to make his biases the law.

He lacks a judicial temperament: he has no interest in thoughtfully and fairly weighing the issues. Instead, he makes up his mind about a case almost immediately, and refuses to let the facts or even the law stand in his way. And watch what happens if you challenge him -- he loses his cool, goes out of his way to demean you (taking advantage of the fact that it's not a fair fight -- few lawyers have the stones to actually tell a federal judge that he's being an asshole), and will punish lawyers and litigants who refused to kowtow and "admit" that the judge is always right.

He's really not very smart. True, he has the veneer of intelligence, but push a little and you realize he makes decisions based on anecdotal evidence, gut feelings, and whether or not he can relate to you. So watch out if you're not an old, white, military man who worked at a big law firm or a corporation and made a lot of money. Anyone else, and Bill Duffey just doesn't understand you and won't bother to try. He reflexively sides with those like him. Very dangerous in a judge. He cares most about getting cases dismissed quickly, probably to clear his docket. He'll find any excuse to dismiss a case, regardless of the merits. He tends to side with corporate defendants and law enforcement. And he can't write -- his long, rambling opinions rarely show any deep thinking or insight, and none are original. (I've had two cases before Duffey and in both, the opinions he wrote were way too long to say very little that mattered. I guess we should be thankful -- he'll never be elevated to be an appellate judge.)

But the scariest thing about Duffey is that he is a real threat to the constitution. When it comes to the 4th amendment, it doesn't even exist in his mind. He will side with law enforcement no matter what. Any civil rights plaintiff that draws Bill Duffey as the judge might as well just drop the case. You will not win or even get your day in court. And separation of church and state? Pffff. Duffey quotes scripture from the bench. Criminal defendants? Expect long sentences -- Duffey goes out of his way to impose sentences greater than the prosecutors even ask for. He says he's doing God's work.

Watching this man in action really makes you depressed that he has a lifetime appointment. Atlanta is stuck with this monster -- for many years we'll still have him unnecessarily berating people from the bench and standing in the way of justice. He's hated by the entire bar and you'd be hard pressed to find ten people kind things to say about him. Even the other judges can't stand him, and openly talk about what a jerk he is. One told me that "the legal community of Atlanta know just what he is" You'd almost feel sorry for him if he hadn't ruined so many people's lives. A miserable man out to make everyone else miserable too.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 7/9/2014 6:37:15 PM

 Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 21875

Rating: 1.0          

Comments:

A smug, haughty, self-righteous man who is more interested in rebuking and insulting lawyers than in doing justice. His sanctimonious personal attacks are reminiscent of Kenneth Starr. He should write a book on "confirmation bias" because his decisions are a shining example.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 6/29/2014 8:30:40 AM

 Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 21655

Rating: Not Rated

Comments:

With regard to comment #11578: the comment above was written by the judge himself.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 3/31/2014 1:49:32 PM

 Other

Comment #: 19156

Rating: 1.0          

Comments:

This Bush era judge abuses power in his court room against pro se litigants. He is pro government and pro corporation in the courtroom all the way. He is more than likely a racist and also has a strong dislike for for the disabled. This judge has lawyers who handle criminal and civil cases stating how bad a judge he is. For More Information See Lawless America The Movie.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 12/11/2012 11:15:45 AM

 Other

Comment #: 18560

Rating: Not Rated

Comments:

Hardworking and thorough. That being said, he is the most arrogant human being I have ever met. Just plain cruel.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 9/13/2012 6:44:37 PM

 Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 13768

Rating: 1.0          

Comments:

I have NEVER seen a judge like this is 35 years practicing law.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 3/17/2012 1:26:13 AM

 Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 12700

Rating: 4.7       

Comments:

This is one of the most arrogant self centered jurists I have ever had the misfortune of appearing before in over 40 years of practice. He is harsh and hateful toward defendants and their counsel. He is a disgrace and should be relegated to social security disability cases.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 8/4/2011 5:27:55 PM

 Other

Comment #: 11856

Rating: 1.0          

Comments:

Horrible horrible Judge, very prejudice and arrogant. If he doesn't like your case he will attempt to throw it out of court, and if your pro se you better be on your toes. He shows a strong dislike for the underdog; especially the poor. He truly dishonors the words "and justice for all"

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 12/28/2010 4:24:33 PM

 Other

Comment #: 11632

Rating: Not Rated

Comments:

As an observer in his Court, this judge frightened me. I saw that "image" was extremely important to him. He was overly concerned that everyone in the court room find his credentials distinguished and believe his decisions to be based on correct interpretation of the law, coupled with a sense of even-handed, fair application. He chose his words carefully to construct this image, but every now and then, sharp insight came when he'd slip and his words would reveal his inclinations were more harsh, perhaps, than he wanted others to sense. Not too far into the trial, I was jolted by the realization he had made up his mind about the defendant's guilt well before the trial ever began. His acidic comments to defense attorneys and defendants were highly inappropriate. Several times, this judge characterized the defendant in terms that surely must have prejudiced the jury. I'll never understand why the defense didn't object. My sense of it is that he's a prideful judge, arrogant and self-righteous. That's what frightened me most.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 10/24/2010 2:15:41 AM

 Civil Litigation - Private

Comment #: 11578

Rating: 10.0 

Comments:

In a world of self-important pretenders, Judge Duffey is one of the few who has the character and personal integrity to acknowledge his demeanor issues, to apologize personally (even where not necessary), and to vow to do better. Moreover, this judge is a very smart person from a distinguished background, who (unlike many on the bench) has sacrificed financially to serve his country. Lawyers who are so quick to criticize others would do well to look in the mirror, and ask themselves how well they would/could do in the difficult role of a federal judge.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 10/13/2010 1:09:44 PM

 Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 11547

Rating: Not Rated

Comments:

This guy is a fool. Even when he ruled with me, I was disgusted with his nastiness to opposing counsel.

I have practiced in all of the major, and most of the minor jurisdictions in the United States, and have seen very few who would compare with this loser.

BTW, I voted for President Reagan twice, so this is not a left wing attack deal.

This twerp has the typical big firm dislocation. He probably didn't try a case until he was 40, but nonetheless believes that he is congruent with his big firm. Pitiful.

There are a lot of lawyers who agree, but are intimidated by federal court judges. This is pitiful too, but lawyers are not known for their courage. Perhaps, if they did more appellate work, they would be less intimidated. bmw

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 10/5/2010 8:33:25 PM

 Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 11496

Rating: 2.8 

Comments:

A mean spirited disrespectful jurist who needs a Dale Carnegie course in how to treat his fellow man(and woman)!

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 9/29/2010 4:13:30 PM

 Other

Comment #: 11466

Rating: 1.0 

Comments:

This judge is vicious, sadistic, and has serious anger issues, which infiltrate every aspect of his position. He routinely berates court staff, including this in his own chambers. (He's had 3 secretaries in the last 12 months.) He also routinely bullies both prosecutors and defense attorneys with gusto. Duffy is a classic example of why lifetime appointments should be abolished.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 9/23/2010 5:11:23 PM

 Litigant

Comment #: 11403

Rating: 1.0 

Comments:

If Duffey is such an offense to the Bench, why has noone filed valid judicial complaints against him?

The only way to solve a problem is to address it.

When I mentioned to an associate the other day that I was sending comments about Duffey to Obamam they asked what that would accomplish. Do you all realize that his aspiration to higher positions is at the recommendation of the President?

There is no way to stop this man in his current position, but there is a way to ensure he is never nominated for a higher Court position.

This man has ruined our lives with his Pro Se prejudice.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 9/3/2010 11:24:34 PM

 Criminal Defense Lawyer

Comment #: 11347

Rating: 2.7 

Comments:

This is one of the most arrogant and meanspirited judges I have encountered. He prejudices the issues and is not scholarly. The poor defendant or those charged with

white collar offenses will not get a fair shake from this childish jurist. I totally agree with Litigant's comments.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 8/17/2010 4:14:41 PM

 Litigant

Comment #: 9267

Rating: 1.0  

Comments:

Totally biased, mean, antagonistic, unfair. He ignores the facts and the law, twists the facts and the law. He is prejudiced against pro se litigants, and HE is the only federal judge in Atlanta who is assigned pro se cases. He should be impeached.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 10/4/2009 2:43:24 AM

 Civil Litigation - Private

Comment #: 8637

Rating: 4.2 

Comments:

Judge Duffey is widely known in the Northern District of Georgia as becoming irrationally angry without notice, insulting to counsel and parties, and unprofessional at best. He has been criticized by his colleagues and the bar for his conduct and should be the subject of a JQC complaint. His decisions on the merits are frequently good, but his courtroom demeanor brings shame on the profession.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 5/11/2009 4:18:06 PM

 Litigant

Comment #: 5823

Rating: 10.0 

Comments:

Judge Duffey is an exceptional Federal judge with courage. His courtroom demeanor demands the very best from all who enter. He is very tough and yet courteous and respectful of all. He is very thorough, thoughtful, and very well prepared for each day. He commands respect because he has earned it.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 2/28/2008 6:29:44 PM

 Other

Comment #: 5429

Rating: 5.0 

Comments:

I felt that he was very thorough but extremely tough in his sentencing guidelines. Went over the minimum sentencing requirements and did not follow the prosecutor's recommendations - whom, by the way, he had previously hired and trained.

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 12/20/2007 3:26:56 PM

 Litigant

Comment #: 5024

Rating: 1.0  

Comments:

Judge Duffey is not fair and impartial, does not treat handicapped and/or pro se litigants equally and without prejudice. He should be impeached!

[Send e-mail to this poster](#) 10/8/2007 10:32:21 PM