

Justice Thomas Sergeant

1782-1860

Term

February 3, 1834-October 1, 1846

Education

- College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) 1798
- Studied law under Jared Ingersoll, Philadelphia

Professional Experience

- Admitted to the Philadelphia bar, June 8, 1802
- Governor Thomas McKean appointed Sergeant, Clerk of the Mayor's Court of Philadelphia, April 22, 1806-May 9, 1809
- Member, Pennsylvania House Representatives, 1812-1814
- Associate Judge, District Court of Philadelphia, October 20, 1814-March 26, 1817
- Governor William Findlay appointed Sergeant, Secretary of the Commonwealth, December 16, 1817-July 6, 1819
- Attorney General, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1819-December 20, 1820
- Solicitor, Philadelphia County, April 1825-1833
- President John Quincy Adams appointed Sergeant, Postmaster, Philadelphia, April 16, 1828-April 10, 1833
- Governor George Wolfe appointed Sergeant, Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, February 3, 1834-October 1, 1846
- Private Practice, 1846-1860

Honors and Awards

- Honorary Member, New England Historic Genealogical Society

Memberships and Associations

- Law Academy of Philadelphia, Vice Provost, 1821-1844; Provost, 1844-1855
- Trustee, University of Pennsylvania
- American Philosophical Society
- Pennsylvania Historical Society
- Founder, State Law Library at Harrisburg

Publications

- Reflections in the City Port Folio 176 (June 8, 1805)
- The American Lounger 193 (June 29, 1805), 201 (July 6, 1805)
- Treatise upon the of Pennsylvania Relative to the Proceedings by Foreign Attachment (1811)
- With William Rawle, Jr. Reports of Cases Adjudged in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (17 vols. 1814-1829) (Sergeant & Rawle's Pennsylvania Reports)
- Constitutional Law. Being a Collection of Points Arising upon the Constitution and Jurisprudence of the United States, Which Have Been Settled, by Judicial Decision and Practice. (1822; 2d ed., 1829)
- Sketch of National Judiciary Powers, Exercised in the United States Prior to the Adoption of the Present Federal Constitution (1824) (Added to Stephen Du Ponceau's Dissertation on the Nature and Extent of the Jurisdiction of the Courts of the United States (1824)
- View of the Land Laws of Pennsylvania (1838)
- Legal Profession—Nature and Duties. 3 Pa. L.J. 95 (184)
- With J. C. Lowber, T. M. Petit, George Sharswood, eds., English Common Law Reports, 1822
- With J. C. Lowber, J. Purdon, and T. I. Wharton, The Law Library (104 vols.), 1833-1860

Sources

4 Rawle iii; 7 Lamb's Biographical Dictionary of the United States 16 (John Howard Brown, ed., 1903); John Hill Martin, Martin's Bench and Bar of Philadelphia (1883); 4 Memorial Biographies of the New England Historic Genealogical Society 72 (1885); Thomas Sergeant, Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Sergeant; 1 Hampton L. Carson, History of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania 193 (1940)