

Chief Justice Ellis Lewis

1798-1871

Term

December 1, 1851-1857; Chief Justice, December 4, 1854-December 7, 1857

Education

Studied law with Espy Van Horne, Williamsport, 1821

Professional Experience

- Owned the Advertiser, then the Gazette, newspapers in Williamsport, Lycoming County, 1818-1821
- Admitted to the Lycoming County bar, September 3, 1822; Bradford County bar, May 11, 1829
- Attorney-General Frederick Smith appointed Lewis, Deputy-Attorney General, Lycoming and Tioga Counties, 1820, January 13, 1824-1827
- Deputy-Attorney General, Lycoming County, January 27, 1827-February 4, 1829
- Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, December 1832-October 14, 1833
- Attorney General, Pennsylvania, January 29, 1833-October 14, 1833
- Governor George Wolfe appointed Lewis, President Judge, 8th Judicial District (Lycoming, Luzerne, Northumberland, Union, Columbia Counties; Union leaves in 1842), October 14, 1833-January 14, 1843
- Governor David Porter appointed Lewis, President Judge, 2nd Judicial District (Lancaster County), January 5, 1843; confirmed by Senate on January 14, 1843
- Professor of Law and Medical Jurisprudence, Franklin College, 1847-1848
- Governor William Johnston appointed Lewis, President Judge, 2nd Judicial District (Lancaster County), January 14, 1851-November 30, 1851
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, October 1851
- Commissioner, Commission to Revise the Criminal Code of Pennsylvania, 1858

Honors and Awards

- Honorary LL.D. degree: Transylvania University, 1848; Jefferson College, 1848; Philadelphia College of Medicine, Hon. M.D.

Memberships and Associations

- President, Williamsport and Elmira Railroad
- Helped organize Sunbury and Erie Railroad and the Camden and Atlantic Railroad

Publications

- Powers of the National and State Governments. Pa. L.J. (April 1848); reprinted in 22 New Series United States Magazine and Democratic Review 398 (1848)
- The Vine and the Oak [Poem]. 22 New Series United States Magazine and Democratic Review 463 (1848)
- With Francis J. Troubat, Wilson McCandless, Editors, New Library of Law and Equity (1845-1849)
- An Abridgment of the Criminal Laws of the United States (1847)
- Variations of the Magnetic Needle. 10 no. 45 Scientific American 358 (July 21, 1855)

Sources

Burton Alva Konkle, Life of Chief Justice Ellis Lewis 1798-1871 (1907); Marshall R. Anspach, Historical Sketches of the Bench and Bar of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania 1795-1960 (1989 reprint)

<https://www.lycolaw.org/about/sketches/07>; Ellis Lewis, Wikipedia,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellis_Lewis.