

Chief Justice James Thompson

1806-1874

Term

December 7, 1857-January 1, 1872; Chief Justice, December 2, 1867-January 1, 1872

Education

Studied law under John Gilmore in Butler; studied under Thomas Blair, Kittanning, Pa.

Professional Experience

- Worked on the Kittanning Gazette
- Admitted to Armstrong bar, March 1828; Franklin bar, February 23, 1829
- Delegate, Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, 1837
- Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 1832-1835, 1855; Speaker, 1835
- Governor David Porter appointed Thompson, Judge, District Court of Crawford, Warren, Venango Counties, 1839-1845
- Member, House of Representatives, U.S. Congress (29th-31st) (March 4, 1845-March 3, 1851)
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, October 1857
- Private Practice, 1872-1874

Memberships and Associations

- Democratic Presidential Elector, 1836

Publications

- Speech...on the Oregon Question...January 28, 1846 (1846).

Sources

30 Pa. iii; Memorial Ceremony, 72 Pa. xiii; 1 Twentieth Century Bench and Bar 265, 335, 468, 1149 (1903); F. Carroll Brewster, Hon. James Thompson, 12 Medico-Legal J. 226 (1894); 4 Nat. Cyc. of Am. Biog. 412 (1891); 1 Who Was Who in America 528 (1963); Obituary, 31 Legal Intelligencer 44 (February 6, 1874); History of Venango County, Pennsylvania 169 (1890); Biographical Dictionary of the U.S. Congress, <https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/Home/MemberDetails?memIndex=T000204>