



United States Tax Court

Washington, DC 20217

March 14, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Tax Court Judge John O. Colvin passed away on March 11, 2024.

Judge Colvin was born in Ohio in 1946. He attended the University of Missouri for his undergraduate studies and Georgetown University Law Center for law school.

During college and law school, he worked for then-Missouri Attorney General John C. Danforth and Missouri State Representative Richard C. Marshall, in Jefferson City, and for U.S. Senator Mark O. Hatfield and Congressman Thomas B. Curtis, in Washington, D.C.

After graduating from law school, Judge Colvin briefly worked for Niedner, Niedner, Nack and Bodeux, in St. Charles, Missouri, in 1971 and then served in the Office of the Chief Counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard from 1971 to 1975, as Tax Counsel for Senator Bob Packwood from 1975 to 1984, and as Chief Counsel from 1985 to 1987 and Chief Minority Counsel from 1987 to 1988 for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. While working, he went on to obtain an LL.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center, where he later taught as an adjunct professor.

Appointed by President Reagan as Judge of the United States Tax Court in 1988, he was sworn in for his first term by then-Vice President George H.W. Bush. He was reappointed by President George W. Bush and began his second term in 2004.

Judge Colvin served with distinction as Chief Judge from June 1, 2006, to May 31, 2012, and from March 8 to August 6, 2013. He assumed senior status in 2016.

With a nearly encyclopedic knowledge of Tax Court history and procedures, he was always happy to help newer and more senior colleagues alike. Ever encouraging, he gladly offered his time to solve difficult issues, keeping the interests of the Court and the people we serve foremost in his mind.

Judge Colvin is survived by Ava, his wife of more than 53 years, his son, daughter-in-law, three grandsons, a mother-in-law, and a legacy of lawyers and Tax Court employees who benefited from his guidance and leadership. He will be missed by all.