

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Gregory Sleet

PERSON

Sleet, Gregory Moneta, 1951-

**Alternative Names:** The Honorable Gregory Sleet;

**Life Dates:** March 8, 1951-

**Place of Birth:** New York, New York, USA

**Work:** Wilmington, DE

**Occupations:** Federal District Court Judge; United States Attorney

## Biographical Note

Judge Gregory M. Sleet was born on March 8, 1951 in New York, New York. He is the son of Moneta Sleet Jr., the first African American journalist to win a Pulitzer Prize. Sleet obtained his B.A. degree from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. He completed his J.D. degree from Rutgers University

School of Law at Camden, New Jersey where he was an Earl Warren Scholar. Sleet began his career as an assistant public defender for the Defender Association of Philadelphia. He later left the Defender Association to join a private practice, later to serve as the Deputy Attorney General for the State of Delaware.

In 1992, Sleet worked as General Counsel for Hercules, Inc., a chemical and munitions company based in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1994, at the recommendation of Delaware United States Senator Joe Biden, Sleet was selected by President Bill Clinton to serve as the United States Attorney for the District of Delaware. A year later, he was appointed by United States Attorney General Janet Reno to the Attorney General's Advisory Committee. He was further honored by being named the Vice Chairman of the committees' 1995-96 session. On January 27, 1998, Sleet was nominated to the United States District Court for the District of Delaware and was sworn in as judge of that court on September 28, 1998. In 2007, Sleet became Chief Judge. He is responsible for representing the Delaware district at judicial policy-making bodies in the 3rd United States Circuit Court of Appeals, overseeing the general business and operation of the Delaware court. He is the first African American to be appointed United States Attorney in Delaware and the first to be appointed to the federal bench in Delaware.

Sleet is the recipient of the 1994 Distinguished Service Award from the NAACP. He has been named one of "Fifty of the Finest" graduates in the first fifty years of Rutgers University – Camden Division. In 1998, Delaware Today magazine selected him as Delawarean of the year. Sleet currently holds an adjunct teaching position at Widener University School of Law, where he teaches a course in patent litigation. Sleet is also a member of the Third Circuit Committee on Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions, the Third Circuit Judicial Council Automation & Technology Committee, the Third Circuit Judicial Council Facilities and Security Committee and Member of the Third Circuit Judicial

Council Case Management Committee.

Judge Gregory Sleet was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 24, 2012.

## Related Entries

**Hampton University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**BA**

**Rutgers School of Law** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**JD**

**Ulysses Byas Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Little Stars Academy at the Lutheran Church of the Epiphany** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School**

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Lawrence Road Middle School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Uniondale High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Connecticut College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**District of Delaware** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to ?]

**Chief Judge**

**Public Defender Association of Philadelphia**

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1976 to 1983]

**assistant public defender**

**Hercules, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to 1994]

**General Counsel**

**District of Delaware** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1976 to ?]

**United States District Attorney**

**District of Delaware** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to ?]

**Judge**

**Attorney General's Advisory Committee** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1997 to ?]

**Victims Advisory Subcommittee of the Criminal  
Justice Council** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1992 to 1996]

**Chairman**

**Widener University School of Law** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**District Court Technology Committee** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1990 to 1996]

**Member**

**Third Circuit Committee on Criminal Pattern Jury  
Instructions** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Nemours Health and Prevention Services** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1974 to 1976]

**Advisory Board Member**