

Judge Stephen Higginson • U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit

Judge Stephen Higginson became an assistant United States Attorney in 1989, working in the criminal division for the District of Massachusetts. In 1993, he shifted to working in the Eastern District of Louisiana, and he became chief of appeals in 1995. From 2004 to 2011, he worked part-time as a prosecutor, continuing to supervise the appellate section. In 2004, he became a full-time faculty member at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. He taught criminal procedure, constitutional law and evidence.

On May 5, 2011, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Higginson to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and submitted the nomination to the Senate on May 9, 2011. Sen. Mary Landrieu had recommended Higginson to Obama for the vacancy in November 2010. The Senate confirmed Higginson's nomination by a vote of 88–0 on October 31, 2011, and he was sworn into office on November 2, 2011. He fills the seat that had been held by Judge Jacques L. Wiener, Jr., who took senior status in 2010.