Cumberland, Maryland, on April 2, 1890. Both his father and paternal grandfather were lawyers, and the latter was elected a member of Congress from the Sixth District of Maryland in 1874 and 1876, and also served as a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1867.

Mr. Walsh received his early education in Saint Patrick's Parochial School, Cumberland, Maryland, graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Maryland, in 1910, and received his Bachelor of Laws degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C., in 1913. He passed the Maryland State Bar examination in the fall of 1912, about six months before his graduation, and after his graduation, began the practice of law with his father in Cumberland in June, 1913. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Mount St. Mary's College in 1930.

He joined Company G, First Maryland Infantry, as a private in June, 1916, when the National Guard was sent to the Mexican Border, and served on the Border as a private and a corporal.

In August, 1917, he went to Camp McClellan, Anniston, Alabama, as a sergeant in Company G, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Third Officers Training Camp in May, 1918, and went overseas as a Second Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Company of the 113th Infantry in June, 1918, was promoted to First Lieutenant in France, and was honorably discharged in April, 1919.

Resuming the practice of law in Cumberland, Mr. Walsh was named City Solicitor in April, 1920, and served until September, 1921, when he resigned to accept appointment as an Associate Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit. At that time he was thirty-one years of age, was the youngest man ever appointed to the bench in that Circuit, and was one of the youngest ever appointed in the State of Maryland. In 1924 Governor Ritchie appointed him Chief Judge and a member of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and he served in this capacity until the election of 1926, when he was defeated by the present Chief Judge, D. Lindley Sloan, the Circuit at that time having a Republican majority of approximately 15,000. He also served as State Insurance Commissioner from 1931 to 1935.

Mr. Walsh received the Democratic nomination for Attorney General in September, 1938, after a spirited contest with three other candidates, and was elected Attorney General of the State of Maryland on November 8, 1938, by the largest majority ever received by a candidate for that office.