

Lucius Calpurnius Piso - Main Biography

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucius_Ca...s_\(consul_58_BC\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucius_Ca...s_(consul_58_BC))

For other people with the same name, see [Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus](#).

Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus

[220px-Statue della famiglia giulio claudia%2C dal foro di veleia%2C 14-54_dc_ca.%2C lucio calpurnio pis](#)

Statue of Piso at the [Museo archeologico nazionale di Parma](#) ^[it]

Born101 BC

Died43 BC

NationalityRoman

Occupation(s)Politician and philosopher

Office[Consul](#) (58 BC)

Children[Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus](#)

Relatives[Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus](#) (grandfather)

Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus (101 BC^[1] – c. 43 BC) was a [Roman senator](#) and the father-in-law of [Julius Caesar](#)^[2] through his daughter [Calpurnia](#). He was reportedly a follower of a school of [Epicureanism](#) that had been modified to befit politicians, as Epicureanism itself favoured withdrawal from politics.^[3] Piso was [consul](#) in the year 58 BC with [Aulus Gabinius](#) as his colleague.^[4]

Biography^[edit]

Caesar mentions his father-in-law in his [Commentarii de Bello Gallico](#). Piso's grandfather, also named [Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus](#), was killed with [Lucius Cassius Longinus](#) in 107 BC by the same [Tigurini](#) that Caesar conquered the year of Piso's consulship.^[5] As Caesar's father-in-law, when [Cicero](#) was faced with exile later that year for having violated the [Leges Clodiae](#) by executing members of the Catiline conspiracy without a formal trial, Piso declined to protect Cicero from the threat and consequences of exile, earning the enmity of that orator.^[6] In response, Cicero attacked Piso both during and after his subsequent administration of the province of [Macedonia](#), which he administered from 57 BC to the beginning of 55 BC, when he was recalled^[2] and replaced by [Quintus Ancharius](#). Piso's recall was perhaps in consequence of the violent attack made upon him by Cicero in the [Senate](#) in his speech [De provinciis consularibus](#).^[2]

On his return, Piso addressed the Senate in his defence; [Cicero](#) replied with the coarse and exaggerated [invective](#), a writing and/or oratory style or genre in classical times, known as [In](#)

[Pisonem.](#)^[2]^[7] Piso issued a pamphlet by way of rejoinder, and there the matter ended.^[2] Cicero may have been afraid to bring the father-in-law of Julius Caesar to trial.^[2] At any rate, Piso's repute was solid enough that he was elected, though reluctant, to the office of [censor](#) in 50 BC.^[6]

At the outbreak of the civil war between Caesar and [Pompey](#), Piso offered his services as mediator.^[2]^[8] However, when Caesar marched upon [Rome](#), Piso left the city by way of protest of Caesar.^[2] After the murder of Caesar, Piso insisted on the provisions of Caesar's will being strictly carried out,^[2] and the assassinated Dictator was given a public funeral.^[9] In the growing tension between [Mark Antony](#) and [Octavianus](#), Piso played a role neutral to both parties, yet seeking some form of resolution between the two sides.^[10] At the Senate session held that 1 August he offered a proposal to bring harmony between the two, but not one man supported him.^[11]

As armed strife between the soldiers of the two sides increased, Piso continued to work for peace. When the Senate opened the year 43 BC with debating over Cicero's motion to declare Antony an enemy of the state, Piso twice intervened over the legality of such an act, arguing for compromise.^[12] Still hoping for peace, Piso joined two consular Senators -- [Lucius Marcius Philippus](#) and [Servius Sulpicius Rufus](#)—in an embassy to Antony at his camp in [Mutina](#) later that month. Piso and Philippus returned the following month—Sulpicius had died on the journey—to present terms from Antony that enraged Cicero. Antony's terms were rejected and the Senate declared a state of war. However, events in the further East alarmed the party at Rome, and a second embassy was sent to Antony in March, which included Piso.^[13] He is not heard of after this, and Syme concludes from this silence he died not long after. [