

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PAGE

The Energy Bar Association (EBA) recently selected me as the recipient of the 2016 Paul E. Nordstrom Service Award, which recognizes exemplary long-term public service to the community through the EBA, the Charitable Foundation of Energy Bar Association, the Foundation of the Energy Law Journal, and outside of these organizations.

I was, and am, humbled to be chosen. I was honored during a luncheon on October 5, 2016, at the EBA's 2016 Mid-Year Energy Forum in Washington, D.C., and want to share with you my remarks that day.

Paul Nordstrom was beloved by energy lawyers for his service, his bravery, and his vision. One of the saddest duties I perform for this Association is to be involved deeply in the process of developing and publishing in the ELJ the In Memoriams for departed and distinguished members of the EBA. I thought it altogether fitting to remind myself of the In Memoriam we published for Paul almost eight years ago. It was quite meaningful, on multiple levels.

Let me read just two passages:

"Paul was brilliant, gracious, and possessed an indomitable spirit. He simply refused to be defined by his illness."

"Socrates once wrote that 'one cannot know until the evening how splendid the day has been.' Paul was taken from us way too soon—but he was an elegant man and he lived his life in a gracious way."

There are so many people I could thank for this award, but today I will thank only one: my wife, Laurie Remer, who is here today.

The last time Laurie attended an EBA event was in 2000 when I spoke before the Association at the end of my term as President. Laurie has been my partner in life for over forty years. There is precious little I could have achieved in my career, done for this association, or performed on a pro bono basis without her love and support.

In my service to others, I try to be guided by many things. One that I would like to share with you is a Jewish proverb: "The righteous are those who say little, and do much."

In the day to day grind that is the life of an energy lawyer, one can easily get caught up in mind numbing and important details, be worn down by a crushing work load, and allow the demands of clients and co-workers to rule our lives to the exclusion of much else.

I believe it is within each of us to transcend that, and do more for others. I am deeply honored to receive this award, and simply ask that you consider the following: Try to live your life, as Paul Nordstrom lived his, in an elegant and gracious way. Try to "say little"—which I know is particularly hard for lawyers—and "do much."

You, your family, and your friends will be the better for it. So will the world.

Respectfully,

Bob Fleishman