IN MEMORIAM: EDWARD J. GRENIER, JR.

Edward (Ed) J. Grenier, Jr., a longtime practitioner before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and former President and Board Member of the Energy Bar Association, passed away on April 7, 2021. Ed was a leader in developing the industrial energy practice at FERC. He represented, for many years, the Process Gas Consumers Group as well as a broad cross section of US industry and other energy clients before FERC.


Ed established the energy practice at Sutherland in 1971. His practice initially focused on representing large industrial consumers of natural gas in the curtailment proceedings in the 1970s. He played a lead role in developing FERC’s national policy on allocating natural gas among customers based on end use during energy shortages. Ed later expanded the firm’s energy practice into other areas, including representing a major natural gas pipeline before FERC. In the mid-1970s, he served as lead counsel for the prevailing applicant in one of the largest energy cases before FERC involving the construction of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System to deliver natural gas from Alaska to the lower 48 states. Toward the end of the 1970s, he was instrumental in forming the Process Gas Consumers Group, a broad consortium of large consumers of natural gas used in industrial processing operations, including manufacturers of automobiles, iron and steel, aluminum, glass, and many others. Ed led the representation of PGC in FERC and appellate proceedings involving interstate pipeline services and the supply and price of natural gas until his retirement in 2001.

Ed served as President of the Energy Bar Association, President of the Prettyman-Leventhal American Inn of Court, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. He was also active in the American Bar Association and was chairman of the Association’s Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Section as well as a member of the Association’s House of Delegates.

Ed was known for his gentlemanly demeanor and was a friend to many in the energy bar. During his 30 years at Sutherland, he mentored many younger lawyers who went on to become leaders in the energy field, continuing his legacy. He was also active in the community, serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Connelly School of the Holy Child from 1978 to 1985, as a member of the Board of Directors of D.C. Recording for the Blind from 1977 to 1989, as Chair of the Lighthouse Board of Trustees for several years, and as President of the Thomas More Society of America.

Ed is survived by his wife Pat and his children Edward Jr., Peter, and Tori. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.