

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PAGE

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.” -Albert Einstein

Recently I pondered deeply what it means to be a “success” and to lead a “successful life.” This was triggered by my youngest son, Eric, who is applying to college and struggling to develop cogent and persuasive essays and responses to questions such as: “What do you want in life?” “What do you find of value?” “What is true success?” and (believe it or not) “My favorite thing about last Tuesday was”

With great passion night after night my son, wife, and I discussed and debated possible answers to such questions. My son would return to his office to draft, revise, polish and, finally, complete and submit his college applications.

Throughout the process, I thought long and hard about what success means in my professional and personal life and in the lives of family members, friends, and colleagues. In addition, I thought about the meaning of success as the hotly-contested U.S. Presidential election debates captured the attention of a nation and people all over the world. Finally, I thought about what success for the United States in energy and geopolitical matters would look like in a world where, according to a recent report by the International Energy Agency, the United States may become the world’s largest oil producer by 2020 and natural gas will displace oil as the largest single fuel in the U.S. energy mix by 2030.

While preparing for a speech last week, I came across a quote by Albert Einstein that crystallized my thinking. The first part of the quote references striving, a process that never ends. It follows with an admonition to focus not on success, but something different. It concludes by suggesting that a person should instead “be of value” - to your family, clients, colleagues, and others in need.

I realized I have been focused on providing value for years through my involvement with the Energy Bar Association, in serving clients, and in performing charitable and pro bono work. When we plan and publish each volume of the Energy Law Journal we try to “be of value” by providing timely, interesting, and well-researched articles and other materials for our readers. We hope we are successful.

As I was finishing this page, my son bolted down the stairs to tell me he just got word of his first college acceptance! I hugged him hard and thought this was a prime example of what it means to be of value to others.

Perhaps success is around the corner.

Respectfully,

Bob Fleishman