

IN MEMORIAM: GEORGE F. BRUDER

George F. Bruder, a former President of our Association and among the foremost practitioners before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and its predecessor the Federal Power Commission, passed away at his home in Cos Cob, Connecticut on June 8, 2011 after a long illness. George was a partner in Debevoise & Liberman from 1971-1975, an associate with that firm from 1968 to 1970, and a founding partner of Bruder, Gentile & Marcoux where he practiced from 1976 until his retirement in 1997. George had worked for several years, 1964 to 1968, in the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Power Commission.

George practiced with and before the FPC and the FERC and the Courts of Appeals for over 30 years. He argued many cases before the United States Circuit Courts of Appeals and was lead counsel in innumerable FPC and FERC cases. His expertise extended to all matters under the Federal Power Act.

George represented his clients with diligence and to the highest professional standards. He was highly valued by his many public utility clients for his business acumen and negotiating skills. He placed a high premium on harmonious relations between his clients and their customers. He viewed settlement as the principal mechanism for dispute resolution. If negotiation failed, George was a formidable adversary with a firm grasp of both the detail and the broad issues affecting the disputes he was constrained to litigate. A sailor by avocation, George was expert at sensing the ebbs and flows of Commission policy and structuring his litigation positions to accord with the prevailing tide. His briefs to the Commission and to the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals were models of elegance, lucidity, and brevity, pierced to the core of the issues, and achieved the art of reducing complexities to utter simplicity.

George had a well-merited reputation for unimpeachable integrity. He was truthful in all his representations and his word, whether to FERC, its Staff, his clients, or his clients' adversaries, was his bond. In negotiation and litigation, he was invariably the gentleman showing courtesy, cordiality, and respect to friends and foes alike. This unique combination, the determined edge of a resolute litigator and the amiability of a gentlemen, in all respects at all times, helped make the practice of law a pleasure for George and for his fellow practitioners whether they were on his side or in opposition. Often, even at the later stages of litigation, his competence, demeanor, and the trust reposed in him led to negotiated outcomes with significant benefits to both parties to a dispute.

George was an active member and supporter of the Energy Bar Association throughout his professional career. George served many years on the Association's Board of Directors and in many of the Association's

committees, including as a reflection of his integrity, the Ethics Committee. Committed to ensuring the long-term success of the Energy Law Journal, he worked with others during a critical period to help nurture the Journal and place it on a sound financial footing.

George's service to the Association was capped by his election to the Presidency in 1983. The positions George held with the Association, as a member of its committees, as a Director, and as President testify both to his commitment to the Association and esteem in which he was held by his peers.

George was born June 4, 1938, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1960 and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Chicago in 1964. He served as a law student assistant for the renowned administrative law scholar, Professor Kenneth Culp Davis.

George was a member of the Edison Electric Institute Legal Committee. He was active at All Saints Episcopal at Chevy Chase Circle and served on its Vestry. He was Legal Counsel to the Board of Trustees of St. Andrews School in Potomac, Maryland. George loved sailing and biking and was an avid reader, an accomplished conversationalist with a dry but ever-present sense of humor, and a handy man *non pareil*. He loved and was much loved by his wife Jean, daughters Roxanne Bruder Goh and Stephanie Susan Bruder of Old Greenwich Connecticut and New York City, respectively, and his two grandchildren.

This unsolicited statement from the Honorable Joseph R. Nancy was received upon Judge Nancy's receipt of the news of George's death:

I have been a member of the bar for 60 years and a Hearing Examiner/ALJ for 41. During that span, as you can imagine, I have encountered more lawyers than I can now number. By any standard, George Bruder was one of a half-dozen or so whom I could conscientiously describe as "great." Whenever he walked into the hearing room, I relaxed because my job suddenly became easier and more pleasant.

George Bruder was once described to me by a (now-deceased) colleague as a lawyer who was never spectacular, but who never made a mistake. He was quiet in the hearing room. He never raised his voice. He never objected just to be saying something. And everyone in the room always paid careful attention to what he did say. He knew his business in the tiniest detail, but never flaunted that knowledge for self-aggrandizement. He simply protected his client's interest to the utmost with the minimum of fuss. In short, to use a now old-fashioned term, he was a gentleman. It was always a pleasure to have him in a hearing, and I have missed him since his retirement.

The excellence with which George lived his personal and professional life stands as a magnificent achievement by him and a credit to our profession and Association.