

IN MEMORIAM: RICHARD M. MERRIMAN

Richard M. Merriman, past president of the predecessor to the Energy Bar Association, died on December 18, 2009, at the age of 82. Born in 1927, Dick received an engineering degree from Milwaukee School of Engineering, and after a stint in the Air Force attended law school at George Washington University. Following his graduation Dick worked briefly in the patent office of General Electric; then in 1956 he joined the Washington office of Reid & Priest, where he remained for the rest of his almost forty year career, having become a partner in 1965.

In the early years of his career, Dick's work involved proceedings before the Federal Power Commission on behalf of natural gas distribution companies. As electric rates started to rise in the early 1970s, Dick became involved in many of the early electric rate cases at the FPC and then at the FERC, the FPC's successor agency pursuant to the Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977. Dick continued in the electric area for the remainder of his career and was involved in many of the leading cases of the day, including his representation of Entergy in the lengthy dispute over the allocation of its Grand Gulf nuclear unit.

Dick was active in the energy bar and served as President in 1977 of what is today EBA. FERC was established at this time, and the Federal Power Bar Association became the Federal Energy Bar Association. Dick was also active in the Public Utility Law Section of the ABA and the Legal Committee of the Edison Electric Institute.

Dick was known for his general good nature and affable disposition. At the same time, he brought a quiet determination to legal and business matters. He was devoted to his work, and he developed a comprehensive knowledge of FPC and FERC cases. His files were famous within his firm and beyond; in the time before electronic databases, Dick created his own database of FERC matters, with files on every issue that came before the agency as well as materials on every utility and from every principal case. Within his firm, whenever a question arose in a case, the best place to start one's research was to ask Dick about the issue. Invariably, he would respond, "Let me see; I think I have a file on that" —and invariably, he did.

In retirement, Dick devoted time to other interests, including the study of art, and to traveling with his wife Hanne, who died in 2003. He is survived by his daughter Wendy Steck Merriman.