

IN MEMORIAM: BRUCE W. NEELY

Bruce Neely passed away on August 10, 2010, after complications from back surgery. Although Bruce had managed his way through a number of serious health challenges in recent years, he had expected to have a successful recuperation in anticipation of being able to renew travels and other activities with Mildred, his wife.

Bruce was a graduate of The College of Wooster, 1970, B.A., *cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Columbia University, 1974, M.A., *cum laude* and the University of Pittsburgh Law School, 1978, J.D., *cum laude*.

Bruce was an unusually accomplished member of the Energy Bar Association who began his practice as an advisor to the FERC from 1978 to 1987. During his time at the FERC he was a major intellectual force behind the development of open access services in the natural gas industry, playing a major role in the conversion of pipelines into the vehicles for competition that they are today.

In 1987, Bruce came to LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae (now known as Dewey & LeBoeuf), where with Ray Shibley, Brian O'Neill, and Larry Acker (and later a larger group) he spent the next two decades assisting some of the largest participants in the energy business find their way through the morass of rules, restrictions, and regulatory conundrums Bruce had a key role in creating.

In addition to his prominence in gas transportation matters, Bruce worked at developing strategies for pipeline and LNG project development, at creating the rules for reliability must-run electric service in California, and for dealing with a variety of post-bankruptcy Enron proceedings before the FERC and federal courts.

Bruce's achievements were a product of his intellect. He focused on taking a problem apart, finding at its core an inexorably correct proposition, and from that premise, building the facts up until he was satisfied that the chain of thinking would lead to an unchallengeable conclusion.

Bruce's rigor of thought and his insistence on clarity of expression were also at the core of the role he played as mentor to many lawyers who today are fortunate to be able to say with justifiable pride that an important part of their education came from Bruce Neely. Not a bad legacy at all.

Bruce's interests were not confined to the law. He enjoyed horticulture, hermeneutics, academic and scholarly religious readings and history, travelling with his wife to Europe and Puerto Rico, and vacationing with his wife, Mildred, and his daughter Alexandra, about whom he was exceptionally proud.