

IN MEMORIAM: EDWARD BERLIN

Edward (Ed) Berlin died on December 25, 2016 in Durham, North Carolina. Ed was born on March 28, 1939 in the Bronx, N.Y. He grew up in the Bronx, graduating from DeWitt Clinton High School in 1954 at the age of fifteen, and then went on to the City College of New York to receive his B.B.A in 1958. He received his L.L.B. from Columbia University School of Law in 1961 where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

Ed joined the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice where he argued appellate cases. He joined the Federal Power Commission in 1966 as Assistant General Counsel—Congressional Liaison. He left the FPC in 1969 to form Berlin, Roisman and Kessler, the first non-foundation-supported public interest law firm, where he represented national environmental, consumer, and poverty groups. In 1974, he was appointed to the New York State Public Service Commission where he served as Deputy Chair and then Chair.

Ed joined the Washington, D.C. firm of Leva, Hawes, Symington, Martin and Oppenheimer in 1978. He left in 1982 to form Swidler, Berlin and Strelow, which later became Swidler and Berlin, in 1982. He was Chair of the firm until his retirement in 2004, building it into a firm of 300-plus attorneys, with offices in Washington and New York. In private practice, Ed represented utilities and other energy companies before FERC and state commissions. He provided devoted, creative, and effective service to his clients, which included, among others, American Electric Power Corporation, New England Electric System, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation. He played a key role in the development of the California Independent System Operator Corporation after its formation in 1998, especially in the maintenance and reform of its operations after the electricity crisis of 2000-2001.

During his career, Mr. Berlin taught at the Law, Engineering, and Environmental Schools of the University of Wisconsin. Ed also taught at the University of Denver and Catholic University Law Schools.

Ed was an avid and accomplished sailor who was most at peace while navigating the waters of the Caribbean with his wife Marilyn, his children, and grandchildren. Ed will be missed and cherished by his friends, family, and former colleagues, for his kind and generous heart, quick wit, and tremendous wisdom.