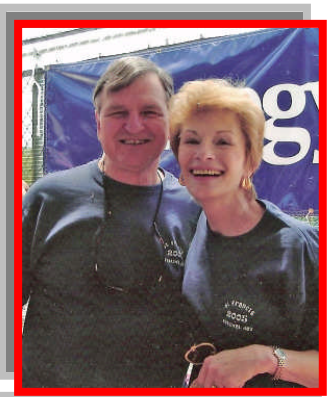




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CHS - Bio

Bill Bruckner Attorney at Law



After Central I went to Yale University for two years to major in chemical engineering. I really liked Yale but disliked chemical engineering. In all fairness I don't think chemical engineering really liked me. I took a year off to find out what I really wanted to do insofar as a major in college was concerned. The next year I worked in a testing laboratory and went to T.U. and took 18 to 20 hours a semester to find a major as I had always wanted to go to law school but I figured I needed a degree to have something to fall back on in the event things didn't work out in law. In May of 1959 I met Wendy Schroeder, a proud Will Rogers grad..

I nearly proposed to Wendy on our first date but waited until our fourth or fifth date and decided to get through school as quickly as possible so I would have an undergraduate degree to fall back on if I couldn't get accepted or stay in law school. I majored in chemical engineering as meeting Wendy kind of changed everything. We got married in 1961 when I started law school. Wendy taught and I worked for the Newspaper Printing Corporation distributing the World and the Tribune. The good news was that I made more than Wendy made teaching at John Burroughs.(note this is not a commentary on how we have neglected that profession over the years) and we lived fairly well while I getting a law degree. The bad news is that I had to get up every morning at by 4:30 to pick up the World at the dock of the printing plant. That created a habit that I have never been able to break and to this day I get up before five just about every day.

I went to T.U. because of my job. I was extremely lucky as I finished second in the class which enabled me to apply for the honors program then, in effect, with the federal government. I was accepted by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and assigned as a field attorney to the Kansas City, Missouri. I knew nothing about labor law when I applied to the NLRB in January of my senior year in law school so I took a labor law course and really liked the subject. I got hooked and my practice in the labor and employment field, for the most part, and in complex litigation arising in those fields.

I left the NLRB after three and one half years and accepted a job in Memphis, Tennessee. I left private practice two years later and went to work as a Regional Director of Labor Relations for Borden, Inc. The job required us to move to Houston, Texas, where we have remained for all practical purposes. In March of 1972, I came home one night after driving back from a long negotiation in Louisiana and found a note from **Chris Seger** enclosing an ad from the Houston Chronicle placed by Cooper Industries for a labor counsel to be based in Houston. (Chris has no recollection of this incident but, quite frankly, it was one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me.) I worked at Cooper for a little over two years. At that time I was offered a partnership in a law firm in the Midwest with the promise that if we moved there for two years they would open an office in Houston. I accepted and we moved to Nebraska for two years. Two years to the day Wendy had her car packed, the girls ready, and the movers at the house. Needless to say we returned to Houston.

See ya at the 50th Bill & Wendy!