

ACTEC Law Journal

Volume 43 | Number 1

Article 23

9-1-2017

Dennis Belcher

Anne Marie Whittemore

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.hofstra.edu/actecj>



Part of the [Estates and Trusts Commons](#), [Taxation-Federal Estate and Gift Commons](#), and the [Tax Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Whittemore, Anne Marie (2017) "Dennis Belcher," *ACTEC Law Journal*: Vol. 43: No. 1, Article 23.
Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.hofstra.edu/actecj/vol43/iss1/23>

This Part II is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarship @ Hofstra Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in ACTEC Law Journal by an authorized editor of Scholarship @ Hofstra Law. For more information, please contact lawscholarlycommons@hofstra.edu.

Dennis Belcher

*Anne Marie Whittemore**

There are no words that can describe Dennis fully, or the special impact he made on so many of us. Knowing Dennis is an experience we cherish.

Professionally, Dennis had an uncanny ability to combine his sharp intellect with his insightful perspective to guide clients through the most complicated legal problems and their often-difficult human implications. Those of us who had the privilege to work with him were challenged by his probing questions, awed by his quick analysis and admiring of the loyalty he inspired in his clients. Clients were the beneficiaries of his gifts and often came to view Dennis as a friend as well as trusted advisor. They knew Dennis would always be there for them when needed. Their recent outpouring of support to his family and our law firm is an expression of deep appreciation and profound loss. It was and continues to be an extraordinary and well-deserved tribute to him. And likewise, those who sat across the table from him were always treated professionally and with respect, coming to admire Dennis as an advocate for his clients and a pragmatic problem solver.

The bar has also lost a leader who grasped the strengths and weaknesses of the laws and regulations in which he was so deeply immersed and were the tools of his practice. He had the vision to see opportunities for improvement and advanced them nationally and in Virginia. This work will continue as one of his many legacies.

Just as Dennis was a friend to clients, he was a friend to his law partners. We will always remember his mentorship of so many young lawyers and his role as a leader in the firm. He personified the values of integrity, ethics, excellence, mutual respect and collegiality that are the foundation of our culture. We miss his infectious smile, his contagious laugh and his warmth. He delighted us with tales that inevitably pointed out the foibles of human nature, which fascinated him, and were often cast in his beloved valley of Virginia. He enjoyed people, and people enjoyed him.

For family and friends, there was no finer man than Dennis. We have lost him too soon but his life with us was an incomparable blessing.

* Anne Marie Whittemore is a Partner at McGuireWoods LLP.

