

Australia. I led the Rotary International District 7450 (Greater Delaware Valley Area) Group Study Exchange to Queensland, Australia, spring of 2004. I first spent 14 years with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources-the last 7 years as its Chief Counsel. The next 11 years were with the United States Environmental Protection Agency at the Region II offices in New York City where I served as the Regional Counsel. In 1995 I left government service to enter private practice with a medium sized regional law firm with a specialty in complex commercial and business litigation. My firm did not have a significant environmental practice when I joined so I have sought to build that practice during the last 7 years. I am pleased to have been an environmental attorney for 30 plus years. I have contributed to the environmental improvements we all value.

My disappointments are essentially twofold. Once I departed the government, my role in setting environmental, and certainly enforcement priorities ceased. Second, I find some aspects of our private legal system to be so competitive as to be counterproductive to the reasonable resolution of disputes. While the government attorney and the corporate counsel can generally believe that they are improving the environment, the private environmental litigation attorney must also enjoy "playing the game."

The most challenging aspect of private practice is staying current with the law, but it is also rewarding to maintain proficiency in one's "craft." Providing useful solutions and creative problem solving to clients is the greatest reward of private practice. The sense of maintaining social order and progress is the greatest reward of government service. My workday in the government, regardless of the level I held at the time, tended to include more meeting time and discussion time than a day in private practice. I would say, in general, that I write more in private practice as I have more time to write since my day is not nearly as committed to meetings and conferences as it was in the government.

The government decision-making process is essentially hierarchical with work and recommendations being reviewed and considered at many different levels. This type of decision-making generates some of the collegial satisfaction, but it also tends to isolate one from a sense of individual responsibility and accountability for the ultimate legal product."

*- Recycled from Class Notes*