

IN BRIEF

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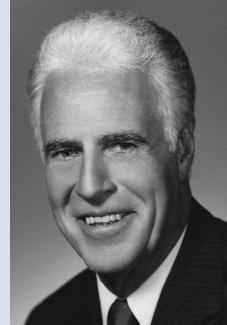
Malpractice Prevention Education for Oregon Lawyers

In Memoriam – Lester Rawls

1928 – 2013

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Lester Rawls, the PLF's first chief executive officer.

Lester served as PLF CEO from 1978 to 1988. Prior to 1978, Lester worked in the insurance industry, had a private legal practice, and was appointed as Insurance Commissioner by Governor Tom McCall. The support Lester gave to the Bar committees and lawyers working to create the PLF led him to his position as the PLF's first CEO. His unique mix of knowledge, skill, and personality made him perfect for the job of persuading Oregon lawyers, the Bar, and the Legislature that the Fund was indeed beneficial to all. His commitment to the idea – plus his willingness to try new things – fueled his work. With no United States precedent to rely on, he nevertheless forged enthusiastically ahead, successfully commencing PLF operations only a few months after its 1977 statutory creation.



Les's vision for new things that would work well for Oregon lawyers did not stop with creation of the PLF's operational structure and its coverage plan. He authorized the Fund's loss prevention programs for lawyers, negotiated favorable reinsurance rates for the Fund in its early years, and assisted law firms in obtaining favorable rates from the commercial excess carriers. He also helped create the National Association of Bar-Related Insurance Companies (NABRICO). Even after his retirement in 1988, Les continued to provide his expertise and support to the Fund.

Lester's extraordinary vision, good humor, thoughtfulness, gutsiness, good heart, and leadership will be sorely missed. His stewardship produced an exceptional legacy that touched the lives of those he worked with and forever changed the course of practicing law in Oregon for the better.

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