



## Richard Wheeler

October 16, 1951 - November 5, 2007

Richard Frederick Wheeler, 56, a prominent Manassas attorney, died at his home in Bristow on November 5, 2007. A native of Central New York, he graduated from Penn State in 1973, where he marched in the Blue Band, and served as Director of Undergraduate Student Government Political Affairs. His involvement included a U.S. District Court of Middle Pennsylvania case that won an injunction against the County Board of Elections on behalf of disenfranchised voters (Janet Lowery vs. Centre County Board of Elections). Graduation from Georgetown University Law Center ensued in 1977. His legal career began with the Alexandria firm of Wrape and Hernley, before joining the Southside Legal Services staff in Danville, VA, in 1979. His work there was instrumental in the creation of the first Brown Lung Society in Virginia, in a fight to obtain compensation for victims of the disease. In 1981 he became Managing Attorney of Legal Services of Northern Virginia in Prince William County, a position he held until opening a private law practice in Manassas in 1988. He served a term as Secretary of the PWC Bar Association. Among his career awards is the Arthur W. Sinclair Professionalism Award, presented by the PWC Bar Association in 2005.

Rick is survived by his father Russell S. (Dona) Wheeler of Erie, PA; mother Elma H. (Paul) Beall of Stuart, FL; special friend Elizabeth Fagot of Annandale, VA; two sisters and their children: Joy (Al) Oliver, Jeremy Richard, and Rebecca; and Debra (Stephen) Gale, Hillary, and Ssgt. Jacob Gale (currently serving in Iraq); and step-siblings Douglas (Heather) Beall, their

children Sarah and Jonathan; Bruce (Magdalena) Beall; Betsy (Karl)  
Livengood.

A memorial service will be held at Pierce Funeral Home in Manassas on  
Saturday, November 10, at 10:30 a.m. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers  
may be made to Capital Hospice or The Nature Conservancy.