

Subject: Biography Needed for SLD Oral History Project

This e-mail intended for Mr. J. W. Neal

Senior Lawyers Division Member:

The Senior Lawyers Division is compiling biographies as a part of their Oral History Project. Please send your biography to Tony Horvat, [thorvat@nmbar.org](mailto:thorvat@nmbar.org), fax it to (505) 828-3765, or mail it to the State Bar of New Mexico, PO Box 92860, Albuquerque, NM, 87199-2860.

J. W. Neal, educated in Carlsbad, NM, attended University of Texas, lettering in football, graduated from University of New Mexico with a Business degree. He attended the University of Oklahoma and received his law degree in 1952. After passing the New Mexico State Bar he made his home in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Born into the prominent Neal Family lawyers, J.W. began practicing with his uncle, C. Melvin Neal, and practiced for more than 50 years.

J. W. Preferred to be a "behind the scenes" figure. He has been described as one of Lea County's biggest asset for fostering cooperation in the legal profession. Whenever a lawyer has had a personal or professional problem, he has always been available with some common sense advise. He has always counseled an ethical and professional approach to the practice of law.

In October of 1999 J. W. Neal received the Century of Achievement Award. This award recognizes attorneys and judges who has made exemplary and substantial contributions to the practice of law in New Mexico since the 1900s.

J. W. contributes most of his success to his friend and secretary of 45 years, Bes Castleman. Her continuous dedication and amazing sense of humor carried them though many years of working with good clients.