

Biography for Sylvain Segal

After graduating from Lehigh University, I attended and in 1951 graduated from Columbia Law School. 1955 was a good year: I opened my own practice and married Ann. By 1971, yet another good year, my family included three children: Richard, Steven and Jacqueline, and, looking for new challenges, we moved to Albuquerque.

I became the last lawyer in the State to be admitted to practice without taking a bar exam. Although success smacked me in the face very early, it was not without misfortune. Written up in 1983 in the first publication of "Best Lawyers In America," I lost my wife through illness in 1987. However 1988 turned out to be a good year too: I married Marlo, a long time friend.

Several years later we moved to a pueblo-style house on the west side of the Rio Grande River where we have been putting together a western art collection of unusual magnitude. Meantime in 1995, still another good year, I became a board certified specialist in real estate law. Now in my 55th year of practice, I am one of only two board certified specialists in any field who have practiced more than 50 years (and when Al Ussery retires, I'll be the only one).

I guess as long as my good fortune and health continue to hold, I'll keep practicing. I am told there are only 16 lawyers in New Mexico who have practiced longer than I have. I figure when I become number 1, it may be time to retire. That should also be a good year. Meantime I've slowed down a little by cutting my work week to 50 hours.