

IN MEMORIAM

LESTER NURICK—by Peter D. Trooboff*

Our colleague Lester Nurick, an American Society of International Law (ASIL) member for many decades, passed away last October at age ninety-nine. For those of us who first came to Washington in the 1960s, Lester was—like Walter Surrey, John Laylin, and Bill Rogers—a true international lawyer who we could only hope to emulate and strive to become.

Lester served in the Army Tanks Corps during World War II as an instructor and then in JAG where he wrote a remarkable article for the American Journal of International Law on distinguishing combatants from non-combatants (*The Distinction between Combatant and Noncombatant in the Law of War*, 39 AJIL 680 (1945)). That piece appears in the Society's classic essays volume.

Lester joined the legal department of the World Bank in 1946. He rose through the ranks and retired as its general counsel in 1980. With Ronnie Broches, Lester was “Mr. ICSID” as well as the go-to expert on privileges and immunities of international organizations.

For twenty-two years after leaving the World Bank, Lester was a highly productive partner at Wilmer Cutler & Pickering. He also taught at George Washington University Law School and Georgetown University Law Center. He was a loyal ASIL contributor serving on our executive council and also our nominating committee.

Most of all, Lester was a really nice man who liked to talk, to dance, and to have fun despite the weight and difficulty of the issues that he regularly addressed at the World Bank and in private practice. We will miss Lester Nurick, as we remember his long, distinguished, and happy life.

* Senior Counsel at the law firm of Covington & Burling LLP.