Rebecca A. Bowman, Esq., P.E. Builds A Distinguished Career At The Intersection of Engineering, Law And Ethics



MCMURRAY, PA, UNITED STATES, September 16, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- With More Than Five Decades of Engineering Experience, Rebecca Bowman Has Forged an Unconventional Path as a Forensic Engineer, Attorney, Arbitrator, and Engineering Ethicist Dedicated to Integrity, Professional Responsibility and Fearless Leadership

McMurray, Pennsylvania — Rebecca A. Bowman, Esq., P.E., D.F.E. (NAFE #1153), has built an extraordinary professional career by refusing to be confined to a single discipline. A private practice attorney, professional engineer, certified forensic engineer, arbitrator, mediator and engineering ethicist, Bowman has spent more than five decades developing a body of work that bridges technical expertise, legal reasoning, and professional responsibility.

Her journey began long before she entered the profession. From early childhood, Bowman was instinctively drawn to construction, problem-solving and understanding how things worked. What began as an early fascination ultimately became what she describes as a singular, lifelong focus on engineering. She began practicing in 1976 at age 19 and has remained continuously active in the field ever since.

Today, Bowman maintains a self-directed practice in McMurray, Pennsylvania, where she handles construction disputes from engineering, forensic, and legal perspectives. She also frequently serves as an arbitrator/mediator and travels approximately 90 to 120 days each year to lecture to professional and technical organizations about engineering ethics and professional responsibility.

Her academic background reflects the breadth of her interests. Bowman earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Structures from the University of North Dakota, accompanied by minors in Mathematics, French, German, and Piano Performance. She later earned an MBA in International Finance from the University of Oklahoma and a Juris Doctor from the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University. She also completed a postgraduate certificate in Sustainability Policy at Penn State University.

Her professional credentials include Professional Engineer (PE), Esquire (Attorney), Diplomate of Forensic Engineer, and Certified Arbitrator and Mediator. She is a longstanding member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, dating back to 1974, as well as the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Academy of Forensic Engineers, the American Bar Association, and the American Arbitration Association.

A Career Built Across Disciplines

Bowman's transition from engineering into law emerged naturally from her professional experience. While working on international construction claims negotiations with Westinghouse, she was encouraged to attend law school to strengthen her ability to navigate complex disputes.

That decision expanded the scope of her career without taking her away from engineering. Instead, it allowed her to bring together technical knowledge and legal analysis in ways that could serve clients and professional organizations facing complicated construction and engineering matters.

At Duquesne University's law school, Bowman studied intellectual property, real estate and employment law. Her subsequent education in sustainability policy further broadened her perspective and reinforced her interest in the responsibilities professionals have toward organizations, communities and the broader environment.

Over the past decade, she has also developed her practice as a certified forensic engineer. This work has placed her at the intersection of technical investigation, dispute resolution, and legal reasoning, while her role as Senior Director of Ethics and Professional Practice at the National Society of Professional Engineers provided another avenue through which she could influence the profession.

Bowman describes her professional identity simply: engineering ethicist.

For her, the title captures more than a job description. It represents an ongoing commitment to helping professionals understand that technical competence and ethical responsibility must exist together.

Finding Strength in an Unconventional Path

Bowman attributes much of her success to the strength and independence she developed early in life. She left home at 16 after a very challenging childhood, an experience she would never recommend to anyone else but one that ultimately contributed to her resilience and determination.

That independence became particularly important as she entered engineering at a time when women were still very much in the minority. Rather than allowing the opinions or expectations of others to determine her direction, Bowman remained focused on the career she had chosen.

She also credits her husband of nearly 44 years with playing an extraordinary role in her life. A nuclear engineer himself, he has been her intellectual peer and partner in a relationship grounded in shared faith, multilingualism, and music. Bowman describes their partnership as an essential part of the person she has become.

Her faith has also been a tremendous source of peace, resilience and perspective, helping her let go of the idea that she must be in charge of everything.

Advice Rooted in Fearlessness

Although Bowman is not certain she ever received traditional career advice, she knows the advice she has given herself throughout her professional life: If something looks like fun, try it.

That philosophy has encouraged her to forge her own path rather than conform to expectations. She believes being different is not something professionals should apologize for. Instead, she prefers to frame it as originality.

For young women entering engineering and related technical fields, Bowman offers two central recommendations: be fearless about asking questions and be fearless about volunteering.

She encourages women to volunteer for difficult assignments, unattractive tasks, and charitable work because those experiences can open doors and provide opportunities that might otherwise remain unavailable. Asking questions, meanwhile, demonstrates confidence and a willingness to understand rather than make assumptions.

For Bowman, being fearless about asking questions also means being willing to seek out mentors and eventually become a mentor to others.

Recognizing the Shoulders of Those Who Came Before

Bowman's perspective on women in engineering is informed by her own experience entering the profession before affirmative action. She has witnessed decades of progress, but she believes the professional world has experienced significant setbacks in recent years.

She emphasizes that today's opportunities for women did not appear spontaneously. They were built through the efforts of generations of women who entered workplaces where they were not

always welcomed or expected.

When speaking with students about gender and history, Bowman often points to the women who became known as Rosie the Riveters. She believes particular attention should be paid to the women who entered industrial roles during World War I, only to be expected to return home afterward.

Their experiences helped lay groundwork for the next generation. By World War II, women entering industrial work were less willing to accept the idea that their participation was temporary.

Bowman believes those earlier women deserve greater recognition because today's professional women stand on the shoulders of their predecessors.

Integrity at the Center of Everything
Above all else, integrity is the value that defines Bowman's approach to both work and life. To her, integrity encompasses reliability, accountability, honesty and fidelity.

That philosophy is particularly important in her professional relationships. Bowman expects people to follow through on their commitments, but she does not believe accountability requires micromanagement.

When she begins a professional relationship, she establishes an expectation of trust. If someone has a question, she expects them to ask. If a deadline becomes a problem, she expects them to communicate it. She does not believe professionals should need to be constantly reminded or monitored to fulfill their responsibilities.

In fact, she believes that approach is empowering.

People sometimes avoid asking questions because they are embarrassed or afraid of appearing uninformed. Bowman sees the opposite: asking questions is a sign of responsibility. It prevents misunderstandings, strengthens professional relationships, and helps ensure that work is performed correctly.

A Continuing Commitment to Professional Responsibility
After more than 50 years in engineering, Bowman continues to pursue work that challenges her intellectually while contributing to the broader professional community. Her combination of engineering, law, forensic analysis, arbitration, and ethics has allowed her to approach complex problems from multiple perspectives.

Her career demonstrates that professional success does not necessarily require following a conventional path. For Bowman, the willingness to explore, ask questions, volunteer, remain independent, and uphold integrity has created a career that continues to evolve.

Whether she is analyzing a construction dispute, serving as an arbitrator, examining an engineering matter from a forensic perspective or speaking to professionals about ethics, Rebecca A. Bowman remains committed to one central principle: professionals must be capable of doing their jobs—and committed to doing them responsibly.

Her career stands as an example of what can happen when technical expertise is paired with courage, curiosity, independence and an unwavering commitment to integrity.

Learn More about Rebecca A. Bowman:

Through her Influential Women profile, https://influentialwomen.com/connect/rebecca-bowman

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