

## IN MEMORIAM: JIM RUBIN

We write this in memory of a wonderful lawyer and true friend, Jim Rubin, who passed away in July. Jim practiced environmental and energy law during an exceptional career spanning 30 years, including 15 years at the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) where we both knew him well and began a lifetime friendship.

A New Jersey native, Jim was a stellar student and graduated from Harvard University, then Columbia Law School. He started his legal career at the law firm of Dickstein, Shapiro & Morin, where he met his wife, Nancie Thomas. He was quickly selected by ENRD to be a trial attorney in the Environmental Defense Section and started work there in 1991. Jim was highly successful in court, winning a number of high profile cases, and cultivated close friendships with many ENRD colleagues. He developed a reputation as thoroughly professional, completely reliable, and a great colleague who always pitched in to help others. Jim then transitioned to the Law and Policy Section (LPS) where, after a stint as the Department's representative to the White House Climate Change Task Force, he rose to a senior leadership position. In LPS, Jim coordinated international environmental law and policy matters for the Division with a particular focus on the intersection with domestic law. He represented the United States as part of several international delegations negotiating agreements on climate change, sustainable development, and multilateral trade and investment, then worked on the implementation of such agreements through international capacity building in compliance and enforcement.

In 2006, Jim returned to private practice, first at Hunton and Williams, then Dentons, and, finally, as a partner with Dorsey and Whitney. Throughout his government service and private practice, Jim actively participated in the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (ABA-SEER), both as chair of the International Environmental Law Committee for several years and a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Environmental Law.

He had the uncanny ability to find the right words, or the new option no one else had considered, that allowed for amicable resolution of disputes. He used that ability in countless negotiations and was well known for these skills.

Throughout his years of practice, Jim always gave to others as a mentor, teacher, and friend. Perhaps a letter from the current chair of ABA-SEER said it best: "Our organization prides itself on experienced lawyers giving of themselves to enrich the experience of younger lawyers and cultivate them as leaders. Many of our current officers point to Jim as a mentor who led them to deeper involvement. He was one of our stalwarts, and he will be sorely missed." These sentiments are widely shared by his colleagues at ENRD and elsewhere, who remember him with great affection.

In addition to his work with the ABA, Jim was active in the District of Columbia Bar Association and as a teacher for the Environmental Law Institute (ELI). With the growing need for environmental and energy lawyers to work together, Jim developed a course called “Energy Law for Environmental Lawyers,” which quickly became one of the most popular ELI courses of instruction.

While Jim’s passion for environmental law and pro bono work was evident, it paled when compared with his devotion to his family. He took pride in the accomplishments of his wife Nancie, and their sons Conall and Jeremy, and he relished every opportunity to share his love of the outdoors, music, and many other interests with them.

Jim touched so many of our lives. He combined a great legal mind with a kind spirit, always leavened with a healthy dose of humor. At a time in our history when core values are more important than ever before, Jim’s example shines for all of us as a beacon of integrity, professionalism, and generosity. He was a true leader in environmental and energy law, and he brought great credit to our profession by the way he lived and interacted with others. These qualities left an indelible mark on the energy and environmental law community in the U.S. and around the world. Jim will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.