IN MEMORIAM: CHARLES A. “CHARLEY” MOORE

On January 21, 2016, our professional community lost one of its genuine “Lions” when Charles A. (“Charley”) Moore passed away peacefully in the company of his family in Houston, Texas.

Charley devoted his life to family, faith, friends, and the practice of law. Born November 17, 1950, to Harrell and Caroline Moore, Charley spent his formative years in the Texas Panhandle playing football and becoming enamored with Texas politics and the energy industry that surrounded him, not knowing that those early interests would come together to forge his life-long career and passion.

Recruited by Coach Bill Yeoman to play football for the University of Houston (UH) Cougars, Charley moved to Houston where, after starting at left offensive tackle for three straight seasons and graduating with a B.A., he was the second Cougar football player admitted to UH’s law school. Following his graduation magna cum laude, Charley became a highly successful trial attorney at the law firm of Reynolds, Allen & Cook.

At the age of thirty, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve as General Counsel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the (correct) belief that a Texas lawyer, as feared by competitors in the courtroom as on the football field, could whip the fledgling agency into shape. Despite being a self-admitted neophyte in the byzantine ways of Washington, DC, and the arcane world of federal energy regulation, he was a quick study, displaying a brilliant legal and tactical mind masked by his “good ole’ boy” demeanor, always colorfully on display when he talked joyfully of Cougar Football or peppered his conversations with humorous Texas maxims. Charley’s outgoing, Texas-sized personality (and ubiquitous cigar) won him fast friends and admirers in Washington.

Following his FERC tenure, Charley returned to Houston to rejoin his prior law firm. A few years later, he started and headed the Houston office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld before moving to LeBoeuf Lamb Green & MacRae (which merged into Dewey & LeBoeuf) and, finally, Morgan Lewis & Bockius, where he worked for the rest of his life. Charley continued to practice energy law throughout it all, representing FERC and state regulated clients across the U.S. and advising several foreign governments on their energy regulatory regimes. At the FERC and each firm at which Charley worked, the attorneys and staff who knew and were mentored by Charley came to be passionately loyal and devoted to him, and each of them remain so today.

Unbeknownst to many, Charley was also committed to and involved in numerous church and charitable organizations during his career. He was the founding Board Chairman of Community Health Choice, a Houston non-profit dedicated to providing high-quality, affordable health care and related services primarily to women and children.
Charley is survived by his best friend and wife, Cathy; his two children, Ashley and her husband Mike Batistick (with granddaughter Mia Scarlet) and Mallory and her husband Diego Fernandez; his four step-children Josh Gold, Michael Gold, Kelsey Gold and Kyle Gold; his parents; his two brothers, Andy and his wife Brucie Moore and Rager and his wife Gigi Moore; as well as countless nieces, nephews, family members, friends, and clients; to each of whom Charley was deeply devoted and for each of whom Charley prayed every day. He will be missed far more than his humble nature could ever have realized.