

IN MEMORIAM: CARLA J. URQUHART

Carla J. Urquhart, wise beyond her years and at the peak of her career, passed away unexpectedly on March 29, 2015, due to complications from pneumonia. Coming of age in an era when it was relatively rare to have a true calling for the law, Carla was an exception. She thrived on energy law and her work reflected her brilliance and vigor.

Carla was born in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Her father, Earl, was in the United States Army for 26 years. Consequently, Carla attended school in many places, including Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Benning, Georgia; and Richmond, Virginia.

Carla graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University and earned her J.D. from Washington and Lee School of Law. A studio art major, Carla delighted in telling how her artist friends pegged her for a lawyer early on, peppering her with subtle comments like, “You think like a lawyer, you sound like a lawyer, are you sure you don’t want to be a lawyer?” From 1994 to 1995, Carla was an assistant editor of *Masthead: Washington and Lee Journal of Civil Rights & Social Justice*.

Carla practiced corporate energy law with the firm Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. Her first employer, Mark Williams, still remembers being so impressed by Carla that he offered her a position barely two hours after interviewing her. Carla was honored that her colleagues chose her to serve as chairperson of the energy division of the Virginia Bar Association. She co-taught corporate energy law for Michigan State University Law School students engaged in externships in Washington, D.C.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the energy bar were fortunate to have Carla serve in the Energy Markets division of the Office of General Counsel for over nine years. Carla was the “go-to” person at the Commission for electric utility corporate issues and matters involving the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to name a few. She was smart, dedicated and very highly regarded, both inside and outside of the Commission. Carla had a real gift for recognizing the essential underlying problem to be resolved in a complex case. She left no stone unturned in trying to answer a question or resolve a legal matter. Carla relished in tailoring language to express precisely the exact meaning she intended to convey.

Carla was a very attentive daughter, sister, and aunt. She enjoyed spending time with her mother, Hazel, her brother, Michael, her nephew, Ian, and her sister-in-law, Colleen. She was a loyal friend, an excellent listener, and trusted confidante.

Witty, savvy, with a penchant for puzzles, grammar, baking, and perusing *The New York Times*, Carla possessed an enviable *joie de vivre*. She was an early riser and deeply enjoyed her morning runs, savoring the sunrise over the Potomac River, igniting the Washington skyline. Carla will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and colleagues. We are deeply saddened by this sudden, tragic loss.