

## **IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT GORDON GOOCH**

R. Gordon Gooch, long time member of the energy bar and former law clerk for Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren, died September 23, 2020 at the age of 86. Gordon graduated from Washington & Lee University in 1956, served two years as an officer in the U.S. Army on the mostly peaceful Korean DMZ, and went on to the University of Texas Law School where he was elected Editor-in-Chief of the Texas Law Review. After his stint as a law clerk for Chief Justice Warren in the 1961 term, he joined the law offices of Baker & Botts in Houston, Texas. While there, he also acted as General Counsel to the Harris County Republican Party under the Chairmanship of George H. W. Bush. He returned to Washington, D.C. as General Counsel for the Federal Power Commission (now FERC) in 1969. In 1972, he joined Nixon's Committee to re-elect the President as regional director of New York and Pennsylvania. That same year, he opened the Washington office of Baker & Botts, and later his own firm, Travis & Gooch. Gordon was a skilled appellate advocate known for arguing his cases without any notes and who liked to prepare for those arguments by digesting a MoonPie and an RC Cola. While his focus was on energy law, over his long and colorful career he also tried three cases before the US Supreme Court, represented the first hijacker of a commercial aircraft, defended a pirate captain, successfully defended an Episcopal priest against a heresy charge, and helped to write legislation for Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich's Contract with America. Gordon is survived by his son, Gordon, daughter, Ellen, granddaughter, Aubrey, and sister, Gay Estes.