

## **IN MEMORIAM: JAMES CURTIS (CURT) MOFFATT**

James Curtis (Curt) Moffatt, General Counsel of Kinder Morgan and highly regarded FERC practitioner, died unexpectedly on December 28, 2018, while skiing with his family in Park City, Utah. He was 67.

Moffatt's road to Washington began with a passion for politics, seeded by his interactions as a student at Duke University with Duke's then-President Terry Sanford. Sanford singled out Moffatt among the many talented undergraduates at Duke, nurturing what would become Moffatt's life-long interest in electoral politics. Moffatt honed his instinctive political skills working in campaigns, including the 1976 Carter Presidential campaign. Armed with a law degree from the University of North Carolina, Moffatt joined the Carter inaugural committee and then won a position on the staff of Charles B Curtis, the recently appointed chairman of the newly created Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. An excellent listener and communicator, Moffatt was particularly effective in understanding and communicating the practical effect of regulatory decisions, providing invaluable insights to the Commission and communicating the Commission's policy objectives to FERC practitioners and industry leaders. Moffatt's keen intellect, along with his engaging personal qualities — his open and generous spirit, good humor, and genuine regard for people regardless of their point of view — earned him a wide network of friends and a reputation for forthrightness that remained part and parcel of his professional life for all of his career.

Moffatt spent over 30 years in private legal practice, serving for most of that time as a partner at Van Ness Feldman, where he sped the growth of a robust energy law practice, representing many of the country's premier natural gas pipeline and infrastructure companies. He advised clients on strategic issues and was often found in FERC hearing rooms, taking the helm of complex litigation, coaching young lawyers, and negotiating difficult settlements. Infused always with a sense of humor, an infectious laugh, and kind regard for colleagues and opponents alike, Moffatt was a hard-working champion of his clients' interests who could listen objectively to opposing points of view and was often able to find compromise in seemingly intractable situations. Moffatt was particularly good at saying something people didn't want to hear, in a way that made it possible for them to hear it. This quality, along with his ample tactical skills, nurtured and sustained his relationships with colleagues and clients over many years of successful practice.

In 2014, Moffatt went in-house with Kinder Morgan, a longstanding client and one of the nation's largest energy infrastructure companies, serving first as Deputy General Counsel for the Natural Gas Group and then, since 2017, as the General Counsel. It was "his dream job" and he brought to the role his years of energy law experience, strategic insight and deep understanding of the interaction between business and public policy. In addition to managing the company's complex legal affairs, Moffatt focussed much of his energy, as he had in private practice, on the professional development of the firm's legal talent. Recalling always with gratitude the role played by mentors such as Sanford, Curtis, and (Kinder Morgan founder) Rich Kinder, Moffatt kept an open door, making extra time — even when there seemed to be none — to coach and counsel young lawyers and colleagues on their professional development.

Throughout a career marked by much professional success, Moffatt remained staunchly committed to a personal ethic of kindness, generosity, and giving back. Always absorbed by politics and public policy, and particularly the intersection of energy and environmental issues, Moffatt served on the Board of Visitors of Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and had recently been elected the Board's chair. Moffatt was also a public advocate for openness about the challenges of addiction and recovery, and a forceful champion of the Caron Foundation, personally funding scholarships to provide access to Caron's innovative treatment programs. He supported political candidates, read voraciously about politics and policy, and kept up a steady stream of Facebook posts, sharing the best of what he'd read as he sat waiting for his weekly flights back and forth to Houston.

Moffatt was devoted to his two sons, Josh and Jamie, carrying on as a sole parent after the untimely death of his first wife and their mother, Greta Moffatt, to cancer. He considered it his great fortune to meet his second wife, Piper Starr Moffatt, in 2008. With their melded families of children, dogs, and grandchildren, Curt and Piper skied in Utah, played at the beach in Delaware, golfed everywhere they could, and planned for a retirement rich with travel and time with family and friends. His unexpected passing left an enviable legacy of friendships, professional accomplishments, and generous contributions to the many communities who gratefully claim Curt as one of their own.