

IN MEMORIAM: JON MOSTEL

With sadness, we at the Long Island Power Authority bid farewell to our friend and colleague, former General Counsel and Secretary Jon R. Mostel, who passed away on October 20, 2018 after a short illness.

Jon was an extraordinary attorney, with expertise in federal and state regulatory law, energy markets, property tax law, municipal law, M&A and corporate law, among others.

Jon graduated in 1970 from Columbia University with a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering. Jon turned down lucrative opportunities to join major chemical and petroleum companies in favor of the Brooklyn Union Gas Company where he began his career as an engineer. He moved steadily up through the ranks holding a variety of senior management, engineering and operations positions while at the same time earning a Master of Science in Management from Polytechnic University in 1978.

Jon's passion for the law was sparked as his responsibilities at Brooklyn Union increased and he was called upon to testify in legal and regulatory proceedings. Jon enrolled in Brooklyn Law School's evening division. He became the Senior Editor of the Brooklyn Law Review. Foreshadowing interests in the interplay between law, emerging technology, and society's best interests, his Law Review comment focused on the then-emerging debate surrounding traditional copyright law protection versus the public's right to exploit the new-technology of home video recording. As he would throughout his career, Jon didn't see the issue as a simple legal choice of winners, but rather how the law could facilitate the expansion of technologies "that increase the public's access to knowledge and information [] without destroying the economic incentives of creativity and development provided by the copyright laws."¹ He graduated in 1985 Summa Cum Laude and was named Class Valedictorian.

Jon began his legal career at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, where he became a partner. In 2009, he joined Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. At Stroock, Jon focused his practice on natural gas and electricity transactional and regulatory matters, including the formation, mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, and regulation of energy sector companies; power generation project development; project and transmission line site selection; interconnection procedures and agreements; permitting; and environmental review.

Jon was admitted to practice law in the States of New York and New Jersey, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a number of federal courts, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He also practiced before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the New York Public Service Commission and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

In December 2014, Jon "retired" from Stroock and in January 2015, he brought his wealth of talent and experience to the Long Island Power Authority, where he became its third General Counsel and Secretary. In that role, Jon was instrumental in implementing reform legislation impacting LIPA resulting from

1. Jon R. Mostel, *The Home Videotaping Controversy: Fair Use or Fair Game?*, 49 Brook. L. Rev. 363, 368 (1983).

Hurricane Sandy. He oversaw LIPA's property tax litigation and through his leadership helped LIPA win several important court rulings. Though he passed away before its signing, it was Jon's hard work that laid the foundation for a major property tax settlement with two municipalities, a first of its kind effort to bring tax fairness and relief to LIPA ratepayers. When announcing his intention to retire in late 2017, Jon stayed on long enough to ensure that his successor was in place before finally retiring in July 2018.

Jon was an active member of the EBA for many years, where he served on the Power Generation and Marketing and Alternative Dispute Resolution committees. Jon was also a member of the Energy Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Jon was an Eagle Scout and he carried the character and lessons he learned in scouting throughout his career. Jon had a photographic memory. He could accurately recall a case by name years after having read it, draw a schematic of LIPA's transmission backbone to illustrate a regulatory point, and be totally at home at the local plumbing supply shop proving he'd never lost his engineering "chops." Jon had a love for history, particularly of his beloved Long Island, and of constitutional law and politics. Jon had deeply held political and philosophical views, most of which he kept to himself in a professional setting. But when he encountered what he perceived to be a sympathetic spirit in sometimes dark times, he would add a "keep the faith" to his missives, letting you know subtly how he felt, and reminding his colleagues to retain their optimism.

Jon demonstrated a strong commitment to public service throughout his legal career. He served as deputy mayor of the Village of Great Neck and as village justice. In 2016, he served as co-president of the Nassau County Magistrate's Association. He was a longtime member of Temple Beth-El of Great Neck.

An avid sailor, Jon enjoyed taking family, friends and colleagues out on *Cat's Paw* for sailing and bonding on Long Island Sound. On the other hand, he loved to re-tell how clients of his after 18 holes joked, "it's a good thing you're a better lawyer than you are a golfer." Most of all, he loved his family, spending time with his wife Rebecca, his sons Adam and Ben and their spouses, and especially his beautiful granddaughter Jenna Rose, who arrived in February 2018.

Jon was a mentor, and a generous and cheerful friend, who is sorely missed by his colleagues here at LIPA and in the Energy Bar Association.