

Jim Taylor, Q.C.

Jim Taylor, born December 5, 1943, died on October 16, 2016. Jim commenced his career at the UBC law school, earning his LL.B. in 1968. He returned to the law school in 1974 as a member of the faculty and was a tenured full professor by 1979. His energy and commitment to legal education were much appreciated, and many of his former students and colleagues maintained contact and their friendships with Jim for his entire career. He co-authored the "bible" for civil procedure in B.C. with his faculty colleague, now Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, under the title of *British Columbia Practice* but more commonly known as "McLachlin & Taylor". In 1983 he was appointed Deputy Attorney General and Deputy Minister of Justice in Saskatchewan under the administration of Premier Grant Devine. In 1984 he returned to Vancouver to take up the practice of law.



When it became known that Jim had decided to return to Vancouver he was approached by most major law firms in Vancouver with offers to join them. All that remained was for him to choose between them. However, he rejected all these offers and instead joined a firm of four lawyers in which the closest in age to him was seven years his junior. The firm had been in existence for only three years. The unusual choice to join the firm of Jordan & Gall provides a window into how Jim conducted his life. He was never drawn to the favourites. He preferred to seek out the less known with longer odds. The obvious answer and conventional wisdom never satisfied Jim's inquisitive nature. That curious nature and unbounded energy made

him one of the great lawyers in this province. The practice of Jordan & Gall flourished under Jim's leadership. He taught us many things including legal scholarship, considerate conduct and generosity.

In 1989 Jordan & Gall was approached by the Toronto firm of Blake, Cassels & Graydon to join them at their Vancouver office. This was unusual since we were a firm of litigators in administrative law and Blakes was known as a solicitors practice. Joining Blakes was a significant event. Just as in the former firm, at Blakes Jim was again a leader. Both staff and lawyers sought his counsel and he was always generous in taking the time and effort to assist, give guidance and teach.

In 1994 we established Taylor Jordan Chafetz. Again Jim led the practice with the usual wisdom, energy and generosity that we had come to expect and appreciate. In addition to the practice of law Jim continued in his commitment to the University of British Columbia. He was a leader in the creation the University Neighbourhoods Association ("UNA") and was its first chairman. He envisioned and created the governance structure for the residents at UBC that now provides services to over 11,000 residents. He initiated community activities within the resident group to bring those residents closer to both students and the university administration. In addition, after fulfilling the role of chair of the UNA, he mentored those who replaced him and continued to give wise counsel to the UNA as it grew in numbers. In recognition of that contribution in 2012 a park at UBC at Hawthorn Place was named in his honour. He was awarded a Commemorative Medal for his work during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In addition he spearheaded drives to raise money for UBC and specifically the Faculty of Law. He led by example and was very generous, often donating anonymously, in keeping with his general understated nature. The Faculty of Law annually awards a teaching award given in Jim's name.

Besides all his professional and civic accomplishments, and more importantly, he was our friend. His kindness and caring for his friends are without equal. We all cared for him very much just as he cared for us. He always gave more than he ever asked in return and that is the way he lived his life. His body betrayed him but he was never bitter from this unfairness and his concern was always how it affected others. We miss him and his example is a roadmap for all of us who had the privilege of being close to him.

You cannot honour Jim's life without referring to the thing he loved the most: his family. All that he was, all that he achieved, he attributed to the support of his loving wife, Judy, and his children, Carolyn and Jennifer. He considered himself a very lucky man.

Donald Jordan, Q.C., and Israel Chafetz, Q.C.