

## Robert Lane: The best of the best. A giant of the energy world

Robert Lane excelled in terms of his legal and industry expertise as a leading energy specialist. Described as *“a luminary in the electricity markets field,”* *“a legendary name in the UK power regulatory space”* and a *“statesman of the energy industry with a depth of knowledge that is hard to match”* by both Legal 500 and Chambers Legal Directories, he was the best of the best - a partner, colleague, friend, husband and father. A gentleman, cultured, professional, extraordinarily kind, of great integrity and held in the highest regard.

Robert, a partner of global law firm CMS for over 30 years, joined McKenna & Co as it then was in 1988. He was a brilliant lawyer and utterly dedicated to his clients, his team and a leading ambassador of CMS worldwide. He founded the CMS Energy Sector Group and led it for 20 years.

We will always remember Robert for his immense technical knowledge of the nuts and bolts of all aspects of the power system, his attention to detail and his extraordinarily high standards of client care, for all of which he had a huge passion. But we also remember him as a man of great warmth who was just as excited by the achievements of his team, and supporting the growth of the CMS family around the world. He also found time outside the office for other passions such as books, opera, the Garrick Club and the music of Benjamin Britten and was an ally to diversity & inclusion and strong supporter of LGBTQ rights. Robert was an incredibly proud family man and, although modest by nature, he was not shy in talking about his beloved wife Margaret and adored children Edward, William and Alice with an infectious enthusiasm. Margaret, Edward, William and Alice were his world.

Robert had joined the firm from Slaughter and May and his first job at CMS was to write the first ever set of technical rules for operating the power system, now known as the Grid Code. He identified the difficult issues and potential answers almost instantly. He is well known as the author of the first ever Grid Code, and then of subsequent Grid and Market Codes which he wrote all over the world.

It would be wrong to think of Robert as an electricity technocrat, despite the fact that he would talk about new thinking in electricity market design, tariffs, transmission pricing or incentive regulation. He loved his work in water and other regulated industries, drawing learning out from one sector to another.

In the early 1990s, he looked after National Grid and Northern Ireland Electricity in their early years. Robert’s team transformed energy markets across 65 jurisdictions, including Saudi Arabia, Japan, Oman, Taiwan, Mexico, Turkey and others.

Robert was passionate about promoting the UK’s expertise in power sector reforms. Over the years he has led and served on The UK Government’s Power Sector Advisory Group, The Parliamentary Group for Energy Studies, The British Electricity Association, The Energy Industries Club, The Energy Committee of the City of London Solicitors Company and the

Nuclear Industry Association. In Her Majesty's Birthday Honours 2001 he was honoured and awarded a CBE for services to British commercial and legal interests overseas.

We remember Robert as a man of great kindness, integrity and warmth. He leaves a huge number of friends and admirers, not just in the CMS family and amongst his clients, but all over the world. He made a huge contribution, empowering everyone to match his own intense curiosity, not just to improve knowledge and problem-solving skills but also to collaborate and build strong lasting friendships. He was an inspiring leader and mentor to his team and leaves an exceptional legacy of a strong international Power team that he established together with Dame Fiona Woolf, DBE. We will always remember him with huge affection.

A tribute from Penelope Warne, The Senior Partner of CMS UK.

*For those who wish to pass condolences or to hear about funeral arrangements in due course, please contact Vicky Read. ([vicky.read@cms-cmno.com](mailto:vicky.read@cms-cmno.com))*