In Memoriam
Thomas A. Hagemann

June 16, 1956 - October 7, 2015

With sadness of the greatest magnitude, we announce the passing of our friend and partner Thomas (Tom) A. Hagemann who died on October 7, 2015, while biking in Vermont with his wife Christi and their friends. In an era of ubiquitous “super lawyers” Tom stood out as truly one of the best lawyers in America, specializing in white collar litigation.

Before his legal career, Tom attended Rice University (where he met the love of his life, Christianne Mays) and Yale Law School. Tom excelled in all matters from academics to theatre to volleyball to just hanging with friends, a passion that continued his entire life. From 1985 to 1991, Tom served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles and handled cases ranging from air piracy to narcotics prosecutions. As Chief of the Financial Investigations unit, Tom prosecuted a massive police corruption case that reformed the LA Sheriff’s Department.

Following his years as a federal prosecutor, Tom was a partner at Mayor Day Caldwell & Keeton in Houston from 1992 to 2001. He joined Gardere in 2002. After returning to private practice, Tom not only tried cases of national notoriety (such as the Enron Nigerian Barge case, the Duke Energy trading case, and the KPMG tax shelter case), but he handled many threatened prosecutions with what he termed his strategy of “silent solutions.” Tom went out of his way not to publicize the high-profile clients whom he represented. Tom, instead, focused on making criminal problems go away quietly and, when he could not, advocating an aggressive trial defense. Tom brought to the courtroom his love of acting combined with powerful intellect. He had that unique ability to walk into a courtroom or conference room filled with lawyers and command the venue—and most importantly—command respect.

One client bestowed upon Tom the designation of a “Knight of the Enterprise, For Victory In Combat,” which the client considered the highest honor that could be conferred upon a lawyer. Another client expressed her appreciation for Tom this way: Tom was like my “Courageous Lion” and “had enough courage for the both of us.”

The greatest irony of Tom’s life was that, despite his professional acclaim, being a lawyer never defined who Tom was. Just the opposite. He was a teacher. He was a history buff. He was a cheerleader in college and wherever he found himself. He was a cyclist. He was a world traveler. He was a father. He was a loving husband. He was a serious playwright and actor. He was a lecturer. He was an audiophile, listening to rock ‘n roll only on vinyl records and not CDs. And he may have been the last person in Houston to get a cell phone.

Above all, Tom was a man at peace with being himself and with savoring life every day. He often wore to the office Hawaiian shirts, khaki shorts and flip-flops (and sometimes puka shells around his neck), having driven in on his Vespa or in earlier years in his twenty-five year old baby blue Volkswagen bug. Tom also wrote the plays Breakfast at Eight and 1946 and was in the midst of finishing his third play, The End (or, Fluke’s Last Chance). Breakfast at Eight had its world premiere at Main Street Theater in Houston in 2010, and 1946 will premiere at Main Street’s newly renovated theater space in the Spring of 2016.

Tom Hagemann was a remarkable man, friend, and partner. He will be missed. Our hearts go out to his wife Christi, his children, Emma and Max, and to all the extended Hagemann family.