IN MEMORIAM: DANIEL I. DAVIDSON

Daniel I. Davidson passed away on September 13, 2019. Dan spent forty-five years of his legal career practicing energy law as a partner with Spiegel & McDiarmid, where his colleagues remember him as an invaluable partner and wonderful friend, who had a unique gift for crafting the right legal argument, locating the most apt case, and recommending the best mystery novels.

Dan was a 1959 graduate of the Columbia School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review. After graduation, he clerked for two Second Circuit Judges: Harold Medina and Learned Hand.

Prior to his career as an energy lawyer, Dan worked in New York City, and for several years thereafter, at the U.S. State Department, where he was a staff member at the National Security Council and served as a delegate to the Paris Peace Talks to end the Vietnam War. Outside of the office, Dan was a longtime contributor of op-eds and book reviews to the New York Times, Atlantic, Financial Times, Economist, and the Washington Post.

Dan was a dedicated advocate for the firm’s municipal and cooperative clients, particularly those in Northern California. He litigated the long-running “Four Sevens” case at FERC on their behalf. One of Dan’s more notable successes averted an exponential (and for some clients potentially catastrophic) proposed wholesale power rate increase by PG&E against the Western Area Power Administration. He was also heavily involved in litigation regarding access to transmission service from the Pacific Northwest including the first successful enforcement of the antitrust conditions in a nuclear license.

More generally, Dan was instrumental in a range of complex matters. Perhaps most noteworthy was his and the firm’s success in the carbon fiber industry price fixing and qui tam litigation. The carbon fiber litigation, which included FBI wire recordings and international investigation, resulted in settlement recoveries of over $76 million for damages and attorney fees relating to Relators’ claims on behalf of United States Government alleging international cartel price fixing of carbon fiber.

Dan died peacefully at home, with his wife Susan and his daughter Jill beside him.

Throughout his career of law and public service, Dan was guided by a strong commitment to fairness and justice. He will be greatly missed.