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Lawyer Julius Tabin used his education in physics to become a leading counsel to companies seeking patents in the atomic energy, biotech and pharmaceutical areas, colleagues said.

Tabin, 92, and a retired partner with Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery LLP, died Saturday at Highland Park Hospital of heart failure, said his son, Clifford Tabin.

"He was a pioneer in patent law as far as protecting the atomic energy field," said John F. Flannery, of counsel with Fitch, Even.

General Atomics, which built nuclear reactors for experiments and hospitals, became Tabin's main client early in his career, Flannery said. Tabin also worked on patents for hydrogen reactors, he said.

Tabin served as general counsel for the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

Other clients included a company now known as SIBIA Neurosciences Inc., and Carrera, a sunglasses manufacturer, colleagues said.

"Any technical questions, I would always ask him and discuss with him," he said.

<u>James J. Schumann</u>, also of counsel with Fitch, Even, called Tabin a rainmaker for the firm and particularly adept at licensing matters.

"He was also skilled in corporate law as well as intellectual property law," he said.

Tabin became instrumental in opening Fitch, Even's San Diego office in the late 1980s because he frequently spent 10 to 12 days each month in San Diego on client matters at that time, he said.

Tabin, a Chicago native, earned an undergraduate degree and later a doctorate in physics from the University of Chicago.

During World War II, Tabin worked on the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb, Clifford Tabin said.

Tabin acted as a volunteer who rode in a lead-lined Sherman tank to ground zero at Alamogordo, N.M., shortly after the first atomic bomb test. He collected material and worked on measuring the efficiency of the first atomic test blast.

After that, Tabin received his law degree from Harvard Law School. He got admitted to the Illinois bar on Nov. 29, 1950.

He then joined Fitch, Even and remained there until he retired from practicing law in 2006.

Tabin's practice concentrated on client counseling, litigation, antitrust law, along with licensing in the areas of patents, trademarks, trade secrets and copyrights.

Joseph T. Nabor, a Fitch, Even partner, called Tabin an excellent problem solver.

"He had this ability to see through what all the issues were and craft a legal solution," he said. "Sometimes they were more practical business solutions."

Nabor called Tabin a hands-on teacher who also taught younger lawyers to care for clients and become their friends as well.

Tabin should be remembered for "his mentorship of younger lawyers and younger legal professionals," he said. "He was really just full of knowledge and enjoyed sharing that knowledge and watching younger lawyers develop."

Clifford Tabin called his father "an extraordinarily principled person" and an understated gentleman.

"He was just universally well-liked," he said.

Other survivors are Tabin's son, Geoffrey Tabin; seven grandchildren; and his brother, Seymour Tabin.

A memorial service is set for Nov. 11 at a location to be determined, his son said.

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