

A native New Yorker, Mr. Raben graduated in 1936 from Columbia College and received his law degree in 1939 from Yale University. His entire professional career was with Sullivan & Cromwell; it was interrupted in 1942 by World War II, during which he served briefly in the office of Under Secretary of the Navy and then at sea as an officer on the destroyer Edison.

Mr. Raben rejoined Sullivan & Cromwell in 1945 and became a partner in 1949. He was counsel to investment banking and accounting firms and associations. When the Financial Accounting Standards Board was established in 1973 as the rule-making apparatus of the accounting profession he became its counsel. He was also counsel to the industry task force that helped draft the Securities Investors Protection Corporation Legislation. He was a leader within the firm as well, giving generously of his energies to its administrative tasks.

He died in New York on September 14, 1975. A teaching fellowship has been established in his name at the Yale Law School, where he acted as Vice Chairman of the Law School Fund. He was survived by his wife, Constance (who died in 1980); his daughter Kathleen (Mrs. Richard J. Castiella); his son, John, Jr.; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Raben; a brother, Robert; and four grandchildren.

In addition to his activities for his law school, Mr. Raben's public service positions included: Chairman, John Jay Associates and Chairman, Columbia College Fund, Director, Heart Fund Association of New York, Solicitor for Legal Aid Society and Visiting Nurse Society of New York. He was a member of the American and New York State Bar Associations, The New York County Lawyers Association, the New York Law Institute and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York — upon which he served as a member of its Bankruptcy Committee, Committee on Increased Membership, and Committee on Post-Admission Legal Education.

*One of Mr. Raben's younger partners, John F. Cannon, adds:*

As thus briefly chronicled, the professional life of John R. Raben appears, as it truly was, rich in accomplishment and recognition. But no chronicle of any length could capture how potent a figure John's character, intellect and spirit made him with his clients and those with whom he dealt on behalf of his clients, and with his partners, associates and other co-workers at S&C. He pursued his clients' interests — never hesitating to tell them where he thought their interests really lay — with a forcefulness and zeal made quite irresistible by the speed and brilliance of his mind and by his passion for perfection in his practice of the lawyer's art. Clients had boundless confidence in John and transferred it readily to any lawyer he introduced to them as his colleague. No client expected you to be equal to him, just worthy of him. What a daunting standard that was! It often-times seemed the more unattainable because John's pedagogical style — Socrates all flint and fire — was itself so intimidating. But he loved to teach, worked tirelessly at it, and gloried in his students' successes and in the affection with which they eventually rewarded his efforts on their behalf.

For all of John's intensity and rigor as a lawyer, he never confused anyone for very long about what the man was like; warm and thoughtful, generous and forgiving. And in spite of the strength and confidence he projected, there was a boyish element, a shyness, in him, a paradox with roots, one judges, in his awareness that his great gifts were, after all, gifts.