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JAMES G. GILLILAND JR., 1954-2016

IP attorney respected for ability, humor, perspective

By Saul Sugarman

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Friends and colleagues of intellectual property lawyer James G. Gilliland Jr., who was shot and killed last week outside his home in El Cerrito, said Monday they will remember him as an outstanding and respected attorney. He was 62.

"He represents the best of any of us," said Mark LeHocky, a San Francisco-based mediator with Judicate West on Monday.

In an earlier interview with the Daily Journal, LeHocky said he had known Gilliland since they were at UC Berkeley School of Law. Later, when LeHocky was general counsel with Ross Stores Inc., he hired Gilliland to work on intellectual property matters.

"He was first and foremost a great person, and in turn a great lawyer. Those two don't always co-exist, but they certainly did with Jim," LeHocky said.

El Cerrito police officers responded to reports of a shooting Thursday night around 9 p.m., and they found Gilliland suffering from multiple gunshot wounds on his front porch.

Few details have been released from police and a spokesperson was unavailable for comment Monday.



GILLILAND

Neil Smith, a San Jose-based lawyer who once worked with Gilliland, said news of the shooting was a shock.

"I don't see any reason for why this happened. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time," said Smith, of counsel with Schwegman Lundberg and Woessner in San Jose.

"I've worked with him and been adverse to him, and he's always been a gentleman," Smith said. "Everyone treated him with dignity and respect."

A prominent intellectual property lawyer, Gilliland's clients included technology giants Apple Inc., Sony Computer Entertainment

America LLC and Oracle Corp.

Gilliland served as a partner and was chairman of San Francisco-based Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP from 2001 to 2010. The firm subsequently merged and is now known as Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP.

He spent more than a year involved on the merger, according to a Daily Journal story on the announcement. He said at the time he was pleased with it because all of Townsend and Townsend's partners were part of the deal.

Scott D. Baker, a San Francisco-based partner with Reed Smith LLP, said Gilliland was "always immaculately prepared and able to distill an argument or an entire case down to its essence.

"He had a tremendous sense of perspective and sense of humor. He enjoyed the universal respect of his peers and consistently did right by his clients and his partners. His word was gold," said Baker, who knew Gilliland for 25 years.

"I'm still in shock and very sad," Baker added.

A memorial service will be held will be held on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana St. in Berkeley.

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