

John J. Duhigg, who helped build both Albuquerque's legal community as a trial lawyer for over 60 years, and the city's population with ten children, 18 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, died Tuesday morning. Duhigg, who found particular joy reading novels, walking along ditches with family and friends, and frustrating judges who had, regrettably, less well-rounded understandings of the law, was 89 years old. He was also a frequent ghostwriter and is fondly remembered for epistles described to him by his black labradoodle, Lucy.

Duhigg was born in 1929 in Mason City, Iowa, was raised in Emmetsburg and once blew up a tree in the main square (the result of overenthusiastic fireworks) during a Saint Patrick's Day parade. He completed U.S. Marine Corps training in the late 1940s, but wisely declined his commission upon realizing the Corps' unofficial logo, "First In, Last Out", was not a euphemism. He served in the Army during the Korean War and was on a troop carrier, headed to the front lines, when he was ordered off in Japan. To his luck, Duhigg fought for his nation in Tokyo at regional war headquarters. He also participated in humanitarian missions helping local businesspeople avoid unfair currency controls.

Upon returning to Iowa, he recognized Horace Greeley's wisdom and took his then-wife, Marjorie (née Kennedy), and children David and Patrick to the southwest in 1956. In a stroke of great fortune for New Mexico, he stopped in Albuquerque and soon established his own firm, first with Pat Sheehan and Paul Cronin, and then other partners including his son, David, and, later, his daughter, Katy. Duhigg and his firm have protected the rights of the poor, injured and dispossessed for over six decades, and have fought for democracy, justice and truth in courtrooms throughout the state.

Soon after arriving in Albuquerque, Mr. Duhigg helped raise other children – Nancy, Cassius, Jacqueline, Sean and Amy – and upon his marriage to Doris (née Drucker), Charles, Daniel and Katy. Duhigg and Doris were married for 46 years.

Duhigg practiced law until just a few weeks before his passing. Thousands of New Mexico's residents lead better lives because of his legal creativity and willingness to prosecute cases other lawyers could not even imagine. With his daughter Katy, he recently won a landmark verdict of \$2.7 million against Wells Fargo over improper foreclosure claims. During his career, he took in children who had been abandoned, helped elderly clients who could not fend for themselves, defended immigrants hoping to build new lives, made caselaw protecting those in need and helped shield the nation from politicians whose intellectual abilities seemed curiously inverse to the gravitas they hoped to project. (He was particularly amused by our current President and grateful to The New York Times's op-ed page.) He was one of the most creative, inventive and courageous lawyers of the past century, a constantly optimistic presence, an unequivocal force for good, a man of enormous generosity who loved his family and community and was always interested in learning something new. He was a Democrat, a reader, an embodiment of the American experiment in opportunity, and a wonderful father, husband and friend. He would want you to celebrate his life with a glass of scotch (expensive or cheap, he wasn't certain there was a difference), a relaxing walk amid nature, and a conversation with someone you love.

Duhigg is survived by his wife Doris, his dog Lilly, and many, many others who love and will miss him forever. There will be a wake for Duhigg at his home on Friday evening (please call 505-243-3751 for details), and a service remembering his life in the field behind the Bosque School (4000 Bosque School Road NW) at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 28. His family will sit shiva beginning Saturday night. In lieu of flowers, his family would prefer donations to the Jewish Federation of New Mexico and Mosaic Church Albuquerque. Duhigg would prefer that you vote for literally anyone other than Donald J. Trump. (Lilly Duhigg is expected to announce her exploratory committee soon.) To a long and good life filled with love.