Edward Sherman, cont.

Sherman remained in the Army Reserve in the JAG Corp for the next 20 years, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During this time, he and Alice became more active in social justice issues. They volunteered for Martin Luther King Jr.’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference in opposing school segregation in Crawfordville, Ga. Sherman did extensive pro bono work, particularly with the ACLU, helping draft resisters seek amnesty and fighting for prison reform.

In 1967, Sherman became a teaching fellow at Harvard Law School and two years later, he began teaching at Indiana University School of Law, where he became one of the country’s leading experts on military law.

From Indiana, he took a position at the University of Texas Law School, where he honed his expertise in civil procedure, complex litigation, ADR, among others. Sherman joined the Tulane Law family in 1996 as its Dean after 19 years on the faculty at the University of Texas Law School.

When he stepped down as Dean in 2001, he remained an active leader on the faculty until his retirement in 2015, becoming professor emeritus. In 2012, true to his love of poetry and literature, he endowed funds to create the Dean Edward and Alice Sherman Law and Literature Room in the law library, a place “where law students can read, browse and check out literature and fiction related to the law.” The room holds some of Sherman’s collection of books on poetry and literature.

In addition to his significant accomplishments as Dean, Sherman published nearly a dozen books and 100 articles and book chapters, as was the principal drafter of the Texas and Louisiana mediation statutes as well as the Republic of Vietnam’s Code of Civil Procedure. In 2004, the American Bar Association awarded Sherman its Dean Robert McKay Award and the Special Achievement Award for his extraordinary contributions in his field.

Sherman is survived by his wife, Alice, and sons Ned and Paul, his grandchildren Ted, Nora, Katlia and Lila, daughters-in-law Tinzar Sherman and Kelly Sherman, and many other family and friends.
Edward Sherman

Edward Sherman was the 20th Dean of Tulane Law School, serving from 1996 to 2001. He then served as W.R. Irby Chair and David Boies Chair at Tulane Law until his retirement in 2015. Throughout his career, he was an accomplished scholar in complex litigation, class actions, military law, civil procedure and a pioneer in the art of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

On June 7, 2022, Sherman died at the age of 84.

Sherman was a 1959 graduate of Georgetown University and earned his LLM in 1962 and an SJD in 1981, both from Harvard Law School. He also received master’s degrees in 1962 and 1967 at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Born in El Paso, Texas, in 1937 during the Depression, Sherman was the son of the city’s former mayor, Ray Sherman and his wife, Mary. His father died when Ed was 9, and his mother when he was 16, which thrust him into adulthood early. He went on to be valedictorian and president of El Paso High School in 1955.

He headed to Georgetown University the same year, majoring in philosophy. At Georgetown, he thrived, diving into poetry and literature, and becoming editor of the poetry journal as well as feature editor of the Hoya student newspaper. In 1959, he enrolled in Harvard Law School, where he met his two greatest loves: the law and his wife, Alice, to whom he was married for 59 years. After graduating from Harvard, he worked as a legal aide for Nevada Governor Grant Sawyer and wrote articles for various publications, including The New Republic and The Atlantic.

In 1963, the Ed and Alice married and returned to El Paso. Sherman clerked for U.S. District Court Judge R. Ewing Thomason. He later practiced law at Mayfield, Broaddus & Perrenot where he began his lifelong commitment to pro bono work, often in cases involving civil rights.

In 1965, he was called up to active duty in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, where he worked in the Army Pictorial Center. There, he was charged with notifying families of their son’s deaths and often viewed daily videos for the Pentagon on the war’s progress that were produced at the Center. The work had a significant impact on his life.