

A EULOGY TO FERNANDO MEANA GREEN

That D. Fernando was a family man was something you learnt about him from the moment you met him. Immensely proud of his daughters and, later on, of his granddaughters, hardly a day would go by without their names dropping into conversation, naturally, and with a palpable affection that would endear him to those he conversed with. Veronica had inherited her father's passion for maritime law and Estefania shared his love for contemporary art. The father-daughter relationships were deep, meaningful and lovely to observe.

Fernando Meana was an avid tech fan. His enthusiasm for the latest gadgets and procedures was legendary. He took to each innovation like a fish to water, moving seamlessly from fax to email, from Blackberry to iPhone, from PC to iPad, from using glasses to having his eyesight expertly corrected by laser treatment, all with great confidence in the benefits of each step.

He embraced office management software innovations too and would no doubt have been the first to move operations onto the cloud had he not retired in 2014, just prior to safe online-storage for legal documentation becoming a reality.

He had a lovely spacious room with a gorgeous leather-topped desk and an array of designer fountain pens, each with a distinctive coloured ink, which he used to correct typos or misheard phrases in characteristic calligraphy which combined flamboyance and elegance. Yet, more often than not, he would be found sitting at the long table in the meeting room, perched

at one end, surrounded by papers and books, at an ideal vantage point to keep an eye on the daily comings and goings. The whole office was peppered with pieces of artwork from his collection, giving it the feel of an unselfconscious art gallery. Visitors were encouraged to comment upon and admire the display by a gregarious host who was quick to his feet to greet those who came for appointments, be they artists he supported, peers acting on the other side of cases we were defending, clients or professional experts from the world of maritime insurance.

It is fair to say that Fernando Meana Green was the captain of the ship, working for most of his life alongside Pedro, his business partner whose name graced the partnership of Meana Green Maura from 2005 onwards. Both anglophile Basque lawyers based in Madrid since the early Eighties, their cases were complex, high-profile and attracted media attention.

Many top-tier maritime lawyers worked alongside Fernando Meana during a career that spanned 45 years, excellent barristers such as Ernesto Rivera, Manolo González, Javier Galiano, among many others. Behind the scenes were a trio of loyal support staff, Amelia, Dominique and Encarna, whose dedication was deeply appreciated. More recently, Fernando Meana was delighted to continue sharing the occasional professional consultation with his successors, Aiyon Abogados. He enjoyed working with all of them, particularly with his daughter, Verónica.

With a life full of professional achievements which will be proudly remembered by those who knew him, today the sphere of international maritime law mourns the loss of a truly

remarkable mind. However, if truth be told, his greatest pride, that which gave him a brimming sense of fulfilment, was that of being a good father to Veronica and Estefania, a faithful husband to Mariví, and a loving grandad to Fany and Valentina.