

**SAMUEL GOLDFARB, 1921 — 2020****Tax law specialist had a fun and meaningful life, friends recall**

By Kamila Knautd  
Daily Journal Staff Writer

**S**amuel Goldfarb, founding partner of one of San Fernando Valley's oldest law firms, was remembered Friday as a fun-loving man who led a long and meaningful life. He was 99.

"He had a big personality and shared warmth and enthusiasm with the people he touched," said longtime friend Zane S. Averbach, former name partner of The Law Offices of Goldfarb, Sturman & Averbach.

Goldfarb died of natural causes Wednesday in Sherman Oaks just three months shy of his 100th birthday.

Working as a certified public ac-

countant, Goldfarb attended Loyola Law School at night. He specialized in tax related transactional law, including estate planning, probate and trust administration.

He was born Jan. 20, 1921 in New York City after his parents and brother emigrated from Poland. Soon after, the family moved to Los Angeles, where Goldfarb grew up and then went on to establish his legal practice in 1958 after serving in the army.

"He loved his family and the firm was an extended part of his family," commented Averbach, who began his legal career working for Goldfarb and is now a shareholder at Lewitt Hackman. Goldfarb, Sturman & Averbach was absorbed by Lewitt Hackman in

2019.

"Sam had an ongoing practice for a number of years, but he was looking for some inspiration, I think. He was looking for somebody to relate to, somebody to share with, somebody to groom, to be the future and I think he found that in me and certainly I found that in him," Averbach added.

"Sam Goldfarb was an extraordinary man, who lived a long, exemplary and meaningful life," said Mark J. Phillips, also a shareholder at Lewitt Hackman. "He influenced both my outlook on life and the way I have practiced my profession in ways large and small, with undeniable impact."

Like Averbach, Phillips joined the firm straight out of law school and

went on to practice at the firm for 39 years, long after Goldfarb retired in 1999.

"At the firm I learned the basics of the law of trust and estates, going on to build a practice in that field," Phillips added. "I owe that beginning to Sam."

Throughout his career and life, Goldfarb took an active part in his synagogue and community. He was a member of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, board member of the American Association of Attorney CPAs and president of the San Fernando Valley Estate Planning Council.

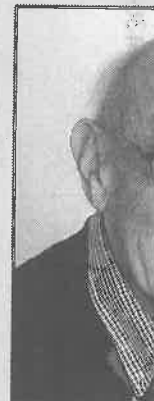
He also spent time as a judge pro tem and a court appointed family law

mediator.

He was a firm believer that the law was a way of life and a profession to be practiced with honor, according to his colleagues, and attributed his long life to his love of pickled foods and Hebrew National Salami.

"He was funny, comical, but serious in serious things," said Israel Levy, recalling his longtime friend and former colleague. "He had a good sense of humor and he would often tell me a joke or something funny to laugh at when we talked on the phone."

Goldfarb's funeral was held at Mount Sinai Memorial Park on Friday. He is survived by his daughter Deborah Golden, an attorney in Pennsylvania; daughter Nancy Goldfarb



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Pope, son Benjamin grandchildren and daughter.

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