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Harold Rock, co-founder of Kutak Rock law firm, dies at 86

By Alia Conley / World-Herald staff writer Nov 6, 2018



Harold L. Rock



One of the founders of Kutak Rock, a half-century-old law firm that started in Omaha but later expanded nationwide, has died.

Harold L. Rock was 86. He died Sunday.

Rock, Robert Kutak and William Campbell were friends for years before they decided to open their own firm in January 1965, leasing an office in what is now the Omaha Building at 1650 Farnam St.

Over more than 50 years, Kutak Rock grew to become a national firm with 18 offices and more than 540 lawyers.

Rock was known for his affable style, according to a prepared statement from the firm. Starting in January 1990, he would send "anniversary memos" to all employees every year on Jan. 11. The notes expressed appreciation for all the workers who



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were continuing to uphold the firm's reputation.

"The memos included sparkling displays of Rock's wry take on the world and cemented his long-standing status as a much beloved and unifying force at Kutak Rock," the firm's statement said.



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Rock earned both his bachelor's degree and law degree from Creighton University.

Rock married Marilyn Clark in 1954. The couple had six children and 14 grandchildren.

He served as the president of both the Omaha and Nebraska State Bar Associations at various times. In 2010, he was awarded with the Omaha Bar Association's [lifetime achievement award](#).

Kutak died in 1983 and Campbell left the firm in 1992, leaving Rock to carry on the company's legacy.

"He also became the caretaker of the cultural values that the founders articulated in their charter: a commitment to excellent service, mutual respect for all lawyers and staff, no discrimination in hiring and promotion, the enrichment of

intellectual life within the firm, and support of projects that benefit society,” the firm said in its statement.

In addition to his wife, children and grandchildren, Rock is survived by his brothers, Tim and Richard. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Alia Conley

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