Bio of John R. Pate

John R. Pate, the son of two medical doctors, was born in Louisville, Kentucky and was raised in Arlington, Virginia and Boston, Massachusetts. John however spent most of his life in Latin America, having lived in Peru and in Venezuela since 1974. John first headed to Peru to pursue research for his dissertation as a PH.D. candidate at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy which dealt with aspects of the integration of various Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). During his early years in Latin America, John met his Peruvian wife, Gertie Páez, a recognized impressionist painter and conservationist, whom he married in 1973 and with whom he remained until her passing in 2008. They had one son, also a lawyer who focuses on Latin-American affairs.

John left Peru to pursue a position as a professor at the graduate school of public and business administration Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA) in Caracas, Venezuela teaching in a special, Latin American-wide Masters of Public Administration program on Latin American economic integration. After spending a few years in academia, John directed the Andean Community of Nations consulting group of KPMG in Caracas.

In 1981 John co-founded De Sola Pate & Brown, a Venezuelan law and consulting firm, where he directed the firm’s international corporate and transactional practice. John’s practice involved primarily counseling multinational companies on a broad range of business situations in Venezuela and neighboring countries. During his lengthy career, he handled numerous high profile transactions in the areas of foreign investment bank and
John was also active in a number of community and extracurricular activities, including having been a member of the advisory board of the Centro Empresarial de Conciliación y Arbitraje (CEDCA), an active contributor in La Asociación Venezolana American de Amistad (AVAA), and a member of various boards of directors of international companies, as well as of several domestic NGOs and civic organizations.

Despite the known challenges of living in certain jurisdictions, John found Venezuela and Latin America to be a fascinating, fun and enticing place to live. He loved the excitement of Latin America and made many of his best and most genuine friends there, including his closest partner during the last eight years, Sally E. Evans, a dual British and Venezuelan citizen who has lived in Venezuela since 1967. Up until the last minute of his passing on August 9, 2015, John lived life to the fullest working on client files past midnight on most weeknights, reading biographies from his ever-growing private library, playing two or more rounds of golf per week and traveling the world with his soul mate, Sally.

**Partner, Friend, Brother**

By Arturo De Sola Lander

John even though death has turned you into distance, I want to take this opportunity to give a precise vision of you to those that didn’t know you intimately, and for those that did know you well to join me on a walk down memory lane.

**PARTNER, FRIEND, BROTHER,** we shared more than four decades not only of professional activities, but of experiences and many family relationships. Together we saw our children born and grow and together we formed and consolidated our law firm De Sola, Pate & Brown. I enjoyed the friend, loved the brother and respected my partner, who I remember today with fondness and whom our workmates miss dearly, our family, your departure left a void that won’t be filled by any other.

John was a man that loved Venezuela intensely, he gave himself with passion to this land that saw his son born, and in that same land now rest his remains. Constantly, you repeated and even more on the last decades “Arturo we must build”, and here he was always, ready with his brilliant intellect and generous heart to plant the seeds on our Nation.

Without having been graduated from a Venezuelan university, he had a great knowledge of our laws, he studied the norms with eagerness, and with sapiens and care he could guide
the lawyers working with him, who felt supported by his thoughts, they admired the depth of his knowledge, his vision and thoroughness in all cases.

High among his specialties was the regimen of foreign investments. He was also knowledgeable of the air law, subject in which he always featured for his interesting articles and studies, taking him to represent leader companies and providers on this area. John’s life was spent among his family, the law firm, his books and notes, and golf. But something that must be emphasized and remembered about John is his respect towards people, the deference he always coupled with his advice and friendship. In particular, I recall and thank the treatment and appreciation he gave to my father, not only as a great jurist, but as an endeared friend and advisor, he will always miss you and has keenly felt your unexpected departure.

This is the John I always wanted to write about, the unconditional, friend, chief, supporter, advisor. John is irreplaceable. His workmates admired him and felt guided by his intelligence and expertise, they appreciated his unconditional and tireless efforts with his work, the care he always instilled in them about the details of each case; they admired the patience and depth with which he talked. The vision that always characterized him enabling him to understand in matter of minutes the macro of a case and getting to where no other did; the exigencies he impressed on each matter and in particular with regards to an English almost worthy of Shakespeare and of course his recommendations. They will miss the red corrections, which were highly appreciated. John you were their support and example and I am sure, knowing all of them, they will follow on your footsteps.

I write and my mind centers on your “legacy”. You will always be on our thoughts and hearts; you were and will keep on being exemplary, a real “gentleman”. We will long for your advice, your vision, your work vitality, your absolute devotion and commitment that spread to us each day, your precise and concrete solutions and the agile manner you took on every situation, your friendship and together as a great team and family we will show all what we learned con efficiency and effectiveness, as was your way. John you will always be my PARTNER, FRIEND, BROTHER.

My work experience with Dr. John R. Pate (10-10-1944 / 8-9-2015)
By Lorena Mingarelli Lozzi

I am grateful for the opportunity of sharing short but heartfelt lines filled with stories and memories lived a shared with a most wonderful human being, scholar, colleague and friend John Pate. I was able to share professional activities at his side close to 8 years and even though I do not want to elaborate extensively on telling you the excellent, brilliant and acute lawyer he was, but I believe that it is essential for you to know. A meticulous and keen professional reason why all of us went to his office to gather his thoughts on different cases, given his attentive and thoughtful way of analyzing even the smallest details and we a long-
term focus that allowed for the big picture reasoning of each matter, it has been an honor having worked with Dr. Pate.

Having said this, I will center on my ex-colleague, I long for his great work capabilities, incredible! He was tireless, dedicated and very committed, I learned that ALL clients are important, no matter their size, or if it was pro-bono, he privileged the excellence on his work. I still remember his midnight or crack of dawn emails in anticipation to the work for the following day and to this day how I wish I could still be getting them. Dr. Pate took advantage of his time effectively on his way to work, time he used to draw up and discuss with you about all the ongoing and pending works.

Each day I was amazed at his organizational skills with all the documents, files and the order and management of his emails, and his impeccable printed and digital records; the chronology and chronometry for following up on the time dedicated to each client one of a kind!, which meant a great help on honoring each client with the continuity of his work trying to apply what I learned from the Master! One of his virtues was being a great listener and understanding what was asked, and developing a practical solution almost immediately and naturally, satisfying the client who felt adequately and wisely advised.

Even with the constant work travels, you always felt his daily presence on the office, his constant support and we all said that he talked more and sent more emails that when we was at Caracas together with his trusty and faithful companion on his travels, his external disk with all the cases, which allowed him to always answer any doubt with knowledgeable replies. Definitely, his level of communication with his work team at all times and especially when traveling was amazing; he always made sure we knew his itinerary and time difference with the country he was currently in in case we needed to reach him.

I cannot forget his tone of voice when speaking, low and paused but always secure, forcing you to pay attention to understand what he was saying, just as all his corrections on the documents with the unmistakable “red pen”. He was perfectionist and formal, a coma or a dot missing was a grave error at the moment of drafting any document; everything was a vital as the merits of the case.

Satisfying the standards of Dr. Pate required dedication, passion and commitment. He had a clear view on how to satisfy a client and make him feel secure. As soon as a client contacted him he would call me to discuss it, he would give his directions on the research and a couple of hours later or early the next day he was calling for an answer. Every morning we would talk about work or a pending issue and I knew that at the end of the day everything had to be resolved. He had a very practical way of working he wouldn’t care about meeting the work schedule but of getting the work done well and in a timely fashion, he cherished efficiency and effectiveness.
We had an open communication; I could talk to him with trust about any personal, office or work matter. We were a great team and I felt very comfortable and valued working at his side despite his exigencies.

I feel lucky to have worked with him, on his work team as his executive right hand. To me he was an extraordinary man and an excellent professional, truth is I really miss him; he was a great friend, boss and partner. He left his mark on my professional life and will be IRREPLACEABLE to all who knew him. It is a great loss!