Farewell to Former Chair Peter Clapman

Peter Clapman, a beloved former chair of the ICGN and giant in the world of corporate governance, has died at the age of 84 in Washington, DC, where he lived with his wife Barbara close to his two daughters and their families and grandchildren. Peter served for 32 years as Senior Vice President & Chief Investment Counsel for TIAA-CREF—one of the largest asset managers in the US—until his retirement in 2005. From that perch he built a powerhouse of corporate governance, inventing policies and engagement strategies that insisted on giving life to the principle that corporations should be accountable to their owners.

He made TIAA-CREF a leader in the US, then brought the same drive elsewhere in the world, where the fund helped pioneer the drive toward a fairer global capital market. To cite just one example, Peter joined with Ira Millstein on the World Bank’s Global Corporate Governance Forum to help support the launch of the Novo Mercado in Brazil and the first corporate governance code in China. As chair of the ICGN Peter was a vital force in creating a long-lasting architecture of investor responsibility—and later received the ICGN Award from his peers in recognition of his work. A graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School, Peter’s leadership earned him influential posts at many other institutions, including the boards of the US National Association of Corporate Directors, the IRRC Institute, the AARP mutual funds board, iPass, and Governance for Owners. Wherever he went Peter won lifelong friends with his ready laugh, twinkling humor, sharp intellect, vivid tales, passion for fairness, and unshakeable integrity. Many of us will have warm memories and stories of times with Peter. It will be hard not to smile amid the tears.

The family intends to hold an online memorial service in the coming weeks, and we will hope to inform the membership when that is scheduled.

We encourage ICGN Members to send us any thoughts, testimonials and fond memories via Garvin Payne (garvin.payne@icgn.org) by Friday 19th February, we will relay these to Peter’s Family.

Warm wishes,

Stephen Davis, Anne Simpson and Kerrie Waring