Michael P. Hanagan, who died of complications from Parkinson's Disease on September 14, 2018, was born April 10 1947, in St. Louis, Missouri, the son of Judge Francis P. Hanagan and Berenice Henke Hanagan, also an attorney. Growing up in West Frankfort, Illinois, the heart of Illinois coal country, he learned respect for the hard work of and challenges faced by coal-mining families, many of whom were his friends.

After graduating from Chaminade College Preparatory School in St. Louis in 1965, Michael attended the University of Illinois-Urbana. There, he devoted much of his time outside the classroom to the movement against the Vietnam War. Earning a B.A. in 1969, he went on to the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor for graduate studies in European history, receiving his Ph.D. in 1976. There, he met his wife Miriam Cohen, also a graduate student in history. He accompanied Miriam to Poughkeepsie in 1977 when she became a faculty member at Vassar College; he lived in Dutchess County until his death.

Michael taught history at Vanderbilt University, Columbia University, The New School, and Vassar College, from which he retired in 2013. A distinguished scholar, he was the author of many books and numerous articles on European history, world history, and the history of social movements. His first book, The Logic of Solidarity: Artisans and Industrial Workers in Three French Towns, 1871-1914, appeared in 1980; his last, a co-authored history text titled Global Connections: Politics, Exchange, and Social Life in World History, was published in 2015.

Active in his profession, Michael held various roles in the Social Science History Association, served on the editorial board of the journal International Labor and Working Class History, and was one of the editors of the Cambridge University Press book series on Politics and Contentious Action.

Michael enjoyed long walks and travel as well as music, both classical and celtic. He was also a voracious reader of fiction and poetry. A loving, supportive husband, father, and grandfather, he cherished and delighted in his family.

In addition to his spouse, he is survived by his daughter Nora Hanagan and spouse Melanie Priestman; his daughter Julia Hanagan and spouse Nathan Verbiscar-Brown; and his grandchildren Leah Hanagan, Eve Hanagan, Emmett Hanagan-Brown, and Lilah Hanagan-Brown.