
Partner Roger Zissu Receives American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Second Circuit

We are delighted to report that our partner Roger Zissu has been selected to receive the 2013 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

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Roger Zissu has practiced in the copyright, trademark and unfair competition law fields for over 40 years. The American Inns of Court Professionalism Award annually honors, on a federal circuit basis nationwide, a senior lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law.

In the Second Circuit, the Professionalism Award honors a quintessential mentor, recognizing a fundamental value of the profession to which the American Inns of Court is dedicated. As the Court has explained, the honoree is a senior lawyer who for a generation or more has taught, supervised, and mentored developing practitioners in government, private practice, or public service, by word and by example. He or she is a “lawyer’s lawyer” – a master of the craft – whose life and work reflect civility, competence, and ethical behavior. The Second Circuit Award honors such a mentor in New York, Connecticut, or Vermont. Roger was one of two lawyers selected for this year. Candidates are drawn

from open nominations and selected by a panel of representatives from both the circuit and the American Inns of Court. The American Inns of Court, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, fosters excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility, and legal skills. The organization's membership includes more than 28,000 federal, state, and local judges, lawyers; law professors; and law students in more than 350 chapters nationwide and more than 85,000 alumni members.

Roger's copyright and trademark work includes litigation and counseling on a broad spectrum of authorship, ownership and infringement issues in a wide variety of media, involving all kinds of works and marks. He is a long time member and past President of The Copyright Society of the U.S.A. (1992-94) and past Chairman of the New York City Bar Committee on Copyright and Literary Property (1989-92). He has also been a frequent speaker and writer on copyright law.

Roger has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in copyright and trademark litigation relating to: fiction and non-fiction literary works, protection for literary and visual characters, motion pictures, television programming, educational testing and scientific materials, e-books, sports events, the Copyright Act's termination provisions, work for hire under the 1909 and 1976 Copyright Acts and the fair use defense, including with respect to President Gerald Ford's memoirs in the seminal Harper & Row v. Nation Enterprises case. He has also for many years worked on licensing and transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions of media and entertainment companies, author/publisher agreements and the commission, acquisition and sale of works of art. The characters involved in his work have included Tarzan, Superman, Batman, Winnie the Pooh, Sherlock Holmes, Barney, Rocky and Bullwinkle, Troll dolls and many other famous and popular fictional heroes.

Primary Contacts

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