

Ronald J. Lehrman

In Memoriam
1932 – 2022



Overview

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of our founding partner, Ron Lehrman, who died on

February 9, 2022, after a brief illness unrelated to the pandemic. Ron retired in late 2020 from Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu, P.C., the firm he co-founded in 1969, but he continued to remain in touch and guide us with his wisdom and humor even after retirement.

More than 60 years ago, Ron embarked on a career in international trademark law as a way to ensure that his work would enable him to pursue his love of travel. In 1969, he joined with Peter Weiss, Heinz Dawid, and Alvin Fross to form Weiss, Dawid, Fross & Lehrman – now known as Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu, P.C. Thanks in large part to Ron’s dedication, depth of knowledge, personal charisma, and understanding of client needs, the firm quickly acquired a clientele of prominent U.S. and foreign trademark owners and established itself as a leading firm in the field.

A *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School, Ron had a storied career protecting some of the world’s best known brands, and he was widely recognized as one of the leading international trademark lawyers of his time. In addition to conceiving and implementing innovative worldwide trademark filing strategies for leading brand owners, Ron successfully handled litigations around the world.

Among numerous other wins, Ron secured a decision of the Supreme Court of Japan recapturing the TABASCO trademark from a Japanese trademark pirate, protected the copyright and trademark of BOZO THE CLOWN in the Supreme Court of Mexico, and, in the U.S. federal courts, protected the ROLLS-ROYCE grill and Flying Lady hood ornament against sellers of kits to replicate those marks on Volkswagen and Chevrolet automobiles.

Ron received the President’s Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Trademark Association in 2010. Within our firm, Ron was a leader in creating a warm culture of gifted

intellectual property lawyers. He also prided himself on building a firm that would sustain, devoting untold time and energy to ensuring that the next generation of firm lawyers were prepared to expand on the founders' achievements.

Ron was a teacher without equal and an invaluable resource, always providing a reassuring presence and generously sharing his extensive knowledge and life wisdom. His intellectual and moral elegance, good sense, and unflinching decency have been a model of professionalism and a source of strength. We are deeply saddened by this loss, but we are comforted by the many happy memories and life lessons that Ron imparted to all of us.

Representative Experience

U.S.

- *Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd. v. A&A Fiberglass, Inc.*, 428 F. Supp. 689 (1976)
- *Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd. v. Custom Cloud Motors, Inc.*, 190 U.S.P.Q. 80 (SDNY 1976)

International

- Decision of the Supreme Court of Japan resulting in the recapture of the TABASCO trademark from a Japanese trademark pirate. (*McIlhenny Company v. Kaneki*)
- Decisions of the Supreme Court of Mexico canceling copyright and trademark registrations for BOZO THE CLOWN and enjoining the Mexican registrant from performing as the BOZO character.
- "Reputation without use" cases brought on behalf of owners of marks which were well-known but not registered or used in the

jurisdiction where suit was brought, including the Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey case in Australia, in which an injunction was obtained against a local circus using a version of the famous Ringling slogan THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH (*Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Inc. v. Michael Edgely, Supreme Court of New South Wales, Equity Division*, No. 157 of 1977), the PIZZA HUT case in Cyprus, which closed down an unauthorized "Pizza Hut" operation, and the recapture of the WHIRLPOOL mark in India.

Education

Harvard Law School (JD, 1957)

University of Havana; Dartmouth College (BA, *cum laude*, 1954)

Phi Beta Kappa

Admissions