

In Memoriam: Donald T. Fox



The partners of Fox Horan & Camerini LLP announce with profound sadness the loss of our founding partner on June 26, 2024.

Donald Fox was born in Iowa in 1929 and grew up in Nebraska. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University in 1951 and served as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1953, during which time he served as trial counsel for many special courts martial. Following his military service, he continued his legal education at NYU School of Law (LL.B., 1956), where he was a Root-Tilden Scholar. He was admitted to the bar in New York in 1957 and studied at the University of Paris as a Fulbright Scholar, where he obtained two additional law degrees (*Brevet de Traduction et de Terminologie Juridiques*, 1957 and *Diplôme de Droit Comparé*, 1961). His experience in France sparked a lifelong interest in comparative law and international judicial systems. He was a teacher of comparative law at NYU School of Law and for ten years served on the Board of Trustees, with oversight responsibility for the foreign law institutes.

Mr. Fox began his professional legal career as a litigator at Davis Polk Wardwell Sunderland & Kiendl, a “white-shoe” Wall Street law firm. His foreign law training and knowledge of French and Spanish, not being common among New York lawyers of the time, led to his involvement in numerous international legal matters. In 1968, he co-founded what would

eventually become Fox Horan & Camerini LLP based upon his vision for a new type of international law firm: small but collegial, free from the staid bureaucracy of larger firms, and always striving for excellence, integrity, and creativity. He spent decades helping foreign firms in diverse geographical regions export, license technology and acquire businesses in the United States, as well as advising American firms doing business abroad. He was keen to develop and strengthen our firm's foreign trainee program, which has allowed more than 100 foreign lawyers from around the world, particularly Europe and Latin America, to obtain firsthand experience in U.S. law. It was a point of pride for him that these former trainees have prospered in diverse ways, some even establishing practices of their own, and that many of them have returned year after year to attend firm anniversary celebrations. Mr. Fox's addresses – or “sermons,” as he called them – at these anniversary events and annual holiday parties became a well-loved firm tradition which displayed his humility and wit, his erudition in a wide range of subjects from philosophy to science, and his deep appreciation for the attorneys and staff who contributed to the firm's success.

Ezequiel Camerini, whom Mr. Fox recruited in 1981 to build up the firm's Latin America practice, recalled: “Donald was the principal reason that I joined the firm. He was a brilliant lawyer and a generous and compassionate mentor and partner.”

Beyond business, Mr. Fox was dedicated to promoting independent judicial systems and reforms to deter oppressive governments around the world. As chairman of the American Association for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), he conducted missions and wrote reports on the judicial systems of foreign countries, from Hungary to Ethiopia as well as Latin America. He published a number of articles on the international enforcement of human rights and his work with the ICJ also led to an appearance before a Congressional Committee on human rights law.

In addition to his many other accomplishments, Mr. Fox was a life trustee of the American Bar Foundation, a sustaining life member of the American Law Institute and a member of many organizations involved in foreign affairs.

Words cannot express how deeply Mr. Fox will be missed, both personally and professionally. His dedication to the profession and extraordinary accomplishments will continue to inspire us. We extend our sincerest condolences to Mr. Fox's wife Ana Clemencia, his children Mark Edward, Genevieve, Melissa and Matthew, and to his 10 grandchildren.