



In The Press: Passing of Morton Amster

Our founding partner, Morton Amster, passed away after a long illness on September 2, 2019, one month short of his 92nd birthday.

Mort started our firm with nothing but an idea. After a stint as a Patent Examiner in the U.S. Patent and Trademark office in Washington, he rented a room and a desk in New York and in 1953 began writing patent applications as overflow for an in-house counsel at a major company.

His intelligence, skill, and energy attracted other clients, as well as associates and partners. Under Mort's oversight over the years, the firm came to represent major domestic and foreign clients in litigation, licensing, and patent prosecution; and developed a broad-based domestic and foreign intellectual property practice. Mort's advice to his partners was always: "the best source of new business is doing great work for existing clients."

Mort was, for decades, the spirit of our firm. He knew, as many lawyers don't, that the practice of law is about people more than law books. He cultivated long and deep relationships with his firm colleagues and with the clients he counseled. He focused on our clients' business concerns and their solutions. To this end, he led the development of innovative legal theories in intellectual property law, including broadening the scope and effectiveness of the Lanham Trademark Act.

He was a consummate negotiator and a tough and aggressive litigator. He mentored his colleagues and imbued them and the firm with his approach and philosophy.

Mort was always bursting with energy and was dedicated to the practice of law and to the firm. The firm was his passion. In recent years, age and ultimately illness slowed him down and he became "of counsel" to the firm. He participated in the affairs of the firm as a counselor and advisor until his last illness made that impossible.



His spirit and philosophy remain alive in the firm, but he will be sorely missed. Rest in peace our dear friend.

