

Our ref: Mr S M Rothbart/hd/

Your ref:

Date: 18TH May 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: TESTIMONIAL : RONALD BOBROFF

1. I have been in Practice as an Attorney of the High Courts in South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia for some 48 years, and for the past 20 years as senior Director of Rothbart Inc., and have specialised for most of my professional career in matters relating to the Law of Insolvency and commercial law.
2. I have served on Disciplinary, Assessment and Discussion committees of the Law Society of the Northern Provinces over the years.
3. I have known Ronald Bobroff since 1976 when both our firms practised in the same building in downtown Johannesburg, and since then we have had professional interactions from time to time with regard to his seeking my opinions on commercial and insolvency law, and my referring those of my clients who required the services of a personal injury or medical negligence specialist practitioner, to him.
4. I observed with both satisfaction and admiration the unselfish way in which Ronald devoted much of his professional life to serving the needs of his colleagues in the profession and in the public interest, and I am not aware of any South African lawyer who has served on, or chaired more committees of organs of the organised legal profession than he did. I may add that he did so at times when a smaller practitioner faced any number of obstacles in achieving those distinctions, and it says much for his commitment to the law and the profession that these were overcome by him.

5. He achieved the singular distinction of being the only Personal Injury Attorney representing Claimants to have ever at that time been elected as President of the Law Society of the Northern Provinces, which is the largest of the four statutory Law Societies, and regulates in excess of 60% of all attorneys in South Africa.
6. I am aware both from the reports received from colleagues in all areas of Practice, Ronald's co-councilors, as also from the regular and erudite newsletters he published whilst he was President of the Law Society, his twelve year long hosting of his own weekly and hugely popular two hour live legal talk show, his regular appearances on national television on relevant legal topics, and his numerous appearances before parliamentary portfolio committees on behalf of the Profession, that Ronald's passion has been to serve the Profession and the community.
7. Although he seldom spoke of it, I am aware that Ronald devoted enormous amounts of his professional time to assisting persons of colour at no charge, with regard to difficulties they encountered in their lives during the height of apartheid, and when it was professionally risky to represent such persons.
8. He took over the Practice of Joel Carlson (a well known Civil Rights Lawyer) after Carlson had to flee South Africa during the 1970's for fear of incarceration by the apartheid security police, and that this involved having to represent Carlson's clients who had primarily been forcibly dispossessed of their homes, in what is referred to in South Africa as a black township – Alexandria.
9. I know that Ronald exposed himself to considerable professional and personal risk when he fronted the professions opposition to successive ongoing attacks by Ministers of Transport to attempt to effectively exclude attorneys playing any meaningful role in South Africa's third party (green slip) road accident insurance compensation scheme. He was one of the few who represented the interests of the disenfranchised and poor population in seeking compensation for road accident injuries at a time when it was not fashionable to do so and when this was seen in a cynical manner by those proponents who did not wish to see them obtain a modicum of justice. Indeed I clearly recollect when an earlier President of the Law Society came out strongly in favour of that process which the State had not tried to nor been able or want to accommodate those indigent persons, primarily of colour.
10. I know that Ronald gave of his services for many years dispensing advice and supervising students at the University of the Witwatersrand Law Clinic, and also served for decades as a Commissioner at the small claims Court – a voluntary undertaking which bears no remuneration whatsoever.
11. Every client whom I referred to Ronald expressed their total satisfaction at his professionalism, integrity and the results obtained for them in their claims,

and having regard to my numerous interactions with Ronald both prior to, as also following the horrendous events which befell him, his son and his Practice, consequent upon a deliberate and unrelenting course of action designed to destroy Ronald, his son and their Practice for reasons unassociated with their professional integrity. He refused to be cowed and to the end properly maintained that the manner in which he had practiced was not subject to outside determinations for parochial or unlawful interests.

12. Ronald has informed me, that he and his erstwhile partner, his son Darren Bobroff, were both admitted to Practice in New South Wales almost two decades ago, intend to apply to renew their Practicing certificates, so that they may earn an income to support themselves and their families.
13. I have no hesitation in expressing my full support for such application, and I am entirely convinced from my decades of knowing and working with Ronald, that he has always been and remains eminently fit and proper to practise as a lawyer in any jurisdiction.

Yours faithfully

STANLEY M. ROTHBART
ROTHBART INC.