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Lifetime Achievement Award: Leonard Boxer

By The Stroock National Real Estate Group

Len's innovations in the real estate sector are evident throughout New York and beyond.

Leonard Boxer has influenced the New York City real estate community as few lawyers have. For more than five decades, “Lenny” has been at the center of the action, making deals and, in the process, making friends. And, to think, his fabled real estate career was due to a simple twist of fate.

After serving his country as a codebreaker during the Vietnam War, Len, who was trained as an accountant and an aspiring tax lawyer, took his first legal job at a top surrogate's firm in Brooklyn. One day, while having lunch with a former law school classmate, Len learned of a terrific opportunity. The now-iconic developer Robert Olnick was looking to expand his law firm. The classmate thought Len would be a perfect fit and eventually introduced the two. And, as Len is fond of saying, the rest is history.

Five decades later, Len's innovations in the real estate sector are evident throughout New York and beyond, from large apartments on the Upper West Side to commercial and residential properties in Battery Park City to the nation's largest subsidized housing development. He has worked on thousands of large scale transactions and has dealt with every major real estate developer in New York City. In one of his many notable transactions, Len helped Larry Silverstein secure the leaseholds for the World Trade Center.

Len is a longtime counsel to the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY), and he has long maintained a robust schedule of charitable and civic work. Len serves on numerous boards, including New York University, the NYU School of Law, and NYU's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, as well as the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged, which he has chaired since 2003.

Above all, Len is a man of the highest integrity and a trusted advisor. Known for his good humor, friendly demeanor and family values, he has set a standard and tone for his law partners to follow, making Stroock one of the most sought after law firms for real estate representations. As The Wall Street Journal has noted, he's continuing this distinguished legacy by helping his sons follow in his footsteps in real estate.

Len joined Stroock in 1987 after negotiating the merger of his firm, Olnick Boxer Blumberg Lane & Troy, into Stroock. He is still a Stroock partner, and working with him continues to be an exceptional privilege.

We are thrilled to congratulate Lenny on this well-deserved honor.

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