BIRD MARELLA LLP

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Remembering Dorothy Wolpert

It is with profound sadness that Bird Marella announces the passing of our founding partner and dear friend, Dorothy Wolpert.

Dorothy helped build Bird Marella since its earliest days. She was instrumental in shaping our firm's values, culture, and commitment to professionalism in the practice of law. Over the course of a remarkable legal career spanning nearly five decades, she served as an exceptional leader and mentor for generations of attorneys, colleagues, and clients at the firm and throughout the broader Los Angeles legal community. Her wisdom and bedrock sense of justice had an enduring impact on all who were privileged to work with her. We will miss her deeply.

Dorothy's path to becoming one of California's most respected trial lawyers was decidedly unconventional. Raised in New York City, she married her beloved husband, Stanley Wolpert, while still a student, and spent years supporting his academic career, raising their two sons, and living abroad in India, before eventually returning to her longtime dream of becoming a lawyer. In 1976, she earned her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law and embarked on a distinguished legal career. As a founding partner of Bird Marella, her practice spanned complex commercial litigation, intellectual property, entertainment, and appellate matters, and she frequently served as a well-respected mediator and arbitrator.

Dorothy’s reputation for excellence in the courtroom was matched only by her steadfast commitment to public service. Throughout her career, she devoted countless hours to pro bono advocacy, championing the rights of vulnerable individuals and underserved communities, and serving as a leader for organizations dedicated to expanding access to justice, including the Inner City Law Center and the Western Center on Law & Poverty. Those who knew her best point not just to her accomplishments in the courtroom, but to the generosity and humanity she brought to every endeavor. UCLA Law aptly celebrated her as a lawyer whose career reflected "uncommon decency," a fitting tribute to the principles that guided her life's work.

While we mourn this tremendous loss, we also celebrate an extraordinarily well-lived life. Dorothy's legacy teaches us that effective advocacy and professional excellence should be inseparable from kindness, integrity, and service. Our thoughts are with Dorothy's family, loved ones, and all who had the good fortune of knowing and working alongside her.

Please join us in honoring Dorothy Wolpert's memory and the lasting impact she had on our firm, our profession, and our community.