

**Press Council mourns the passing of Judge Ralph Zulman
Former Appeals Panel Chairman dies of Covid-related illness**



The Press Council of South Africa has paid tribute to Judge Ralph Zulman - a former Chair of the Appeals Panel of the Press Council - who has died from a Covid-related illness.

Speaking at the Press Council AGM this week, Press Council of South Africa (PCSA) chair, Judge Phillip Levinsohn, paid tribute to Judge Zulman, describing him as “one of the finest commercial advocates South Africa has ever produced” and thanking him for his years of service to the PCSA.

Judge Zulman was the first Chair of the Appeals Panel of the PCSA when the body was reconstituted in 2007 and served with great distinction. He also served as a public representative on the Press Council until his retirement in 2018.

Judge Zulman had a stellar career. He became an advocate in 1962 and had a well-established practice, rising to become a senior counsel at the Johannesburg Bar. He was appointed to the Bench as a Supreme Court (now High Court) judge. In August 1996 he was appointed judge of the Appellate Division (now Supreme Court of Appeal) in Bloemfontein; at the time the highest court in the land.

Judge Zulman was an internationally renowned expert on cross-border insolvency matters and represented South Africa at the forum of cross-border insolvency of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (“the Model Law”).

Most recently he chaired the Commission of Enquiry into the SA Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) – and, as the SABC noted, in his report he laid bare the corruption in the body.

Judge Zulman served the Press Council with vigour and integrity, helping to define and write the Press Code and chairing many appeals. He was forthright and honest and a staunch supporter of press freedom, while holding journalists to the highest standards of impartiality and fairness,” Judge Levinsohn said.

On behalf of the Press Council, Judge Levinsohn extended his condolences to Judge Zulman’s family: his wife of 55 years, Lynette, his son Jeff, daughters Adrienne Louise Kaplan and Charlene Hilary Wingrin, and their families.

* At its AGM, the Press Council agreed to offer membership to individual journalists who are not employed by subscriber publications of the Press Council or contribute freelance work to non-members of the Press Council.

The AGM heard that the Press Council had received 525 complaints between January and July this year. The Press Council also expressed concern about the number of recurring basic errors in news coverage, such as the failure by journalists to give the subjects of their reportage a right to reply and stating allegations as fact or not verifying or substantiating allegations.

The AGM heard that the Press Council’s social media policy guidance notes was well received by its subscriber members and that the Council will soon be making available guidelines

on the publication of correction and apologies which will set industry standards for the correction of factual errors, the right of reply as well as retractions in print and online publications.

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