



## JORDAN ROSSEN

November 3, 2015

Jordan Rossen, of Southfield, died November 3, 2015.

Jordan Rossen, a distinguished figure in labor law and a passionate defender of civil, workers', and women's rights, died at his home in Southfield, Michigan, on November 3, 2015, after a prolonged illness.

Rossen was born in 1934 in Detroit, the youngest child of Nathan P. and Rebecca Rossen, Jewish immigrants from Ukraine. He grew up in the city's near West Side, spending summers in Charlevoix, Michigan, with extended family. He attended the University of Michigan, from which he graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in economics. He went on to Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude in 1959 with a specialty in labor law. After law school, he briefly served in the United States Army, and then in the Michigan Army-Reserve and Michigan National Guard.

In 1964, then UAW President Walter Reuther appointed him to a position in the UAW's Legal Department under General Counsel Stephen Schlossberg, an important mentor. He was later named General Counsel by UAW President Douglas Fraser, a position he held until his retirement from the UAW in 1998.

Rossen specialized in unemployment insurance law and civil and women's

rights. He was especially proud of helping to establish the UAW's Unemployment Insurance Clinic. He litigated important cases advancing the employment rights of women, including successfully prosecuting a class action lawsuit securing unemployment insurance for women forced out of work due to pregnancy. He practiced in both state and federal court and appeared before the United States Supreme Court arguing for supplemental job benefits for pregnant workers forced out of work. As General Counsel, Rossen continued the UAW's historic role as leader in the movement for social justice by supporting numerous cases advancing the rights of people of color and women.

Following his retirement from the UAW, Rossen divided his time between Detroit and New York City. In Detroit he served as a University Professor of Labor Studies in the College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs (CULMA) and the Fraser Center for Workplace Issues at Wayne State University. In New York, he practiced labor law at Meyer, Suozzi, English and Klein.

In 1978, he was honored by the Detroit Human Rights Commission for his civil rights work. He served on the National Labor Relations Board Advisory Panel, Michigan Employment Security Commission Advisory Panel, the Board of Directors of the Sugar Law Center and was a member of the National Lawyers Guild, the ACLU, the Lawyers' Coordinating Committee and the NAACP.

In addition to his legal career, Rossen was active in politics. He served as President of the Michigan Young Democrats from 1964-66 and led the Michigan chapter of the Americans for Democratic Action from 1966-68. He also served as the Michigan Democratic Party's chairperson for voter registration in 1967.

Rossen was a beloved and dedicated parent, and is remembered by his

family and friends for his sharp intelligence and a great sense of humor that he demonstrated long after Parkinson's Disease took its toll.

The funeral service will be held at  
HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL

A link will be provided for a webcast of the funeral service.

Family Info:

Jordan is survived by his daughter, Rebecca Rossen Pavkovic, of Austin, Texas (from his first marriage to Susan F. Rossen) and two sons by his wife Elizabeth Bunn, Nathaniel Paul Rossen, of Silver Spring, Maryland, and Jordan David Rossen, of Ferndale.

He is also survived by his son-in-law, David Pavkovic, two grandchildren-Zoe and Lily Pavkovic-and five nieces and nephews: Marvin Portner, Elaine Portner, Steve Schane, Deborah Schane Dion, and Susan Schane. He was predeceased by two sisters, Genevieve (Rossen) Portner and Sylvia (Rossen) Schane and his parents, the late Nathan Paul and the late Rebecca Rossen.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of JORDAN ROSSEN* ”



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**Hebrew Memorial Chapel** - November 12, 2015 at 01:21 PM