

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.
Of Counsel
New York, New York
(1914 - 1988)

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. was born in Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada, August 17, 1914. He graduated from Groton School, Groton, Mass., 1933; graduated from Harvard University, 1937; graduated from the University of Virginia Law School at Charlottesville, 1940; was admitted to the bar in 1942 and practiced law with the Cahill-Gordon firm in New York City until late February, 1941, when he went on full-time active duty with the U.S. Navy.

As a commanding officer of a destroyer during World War II, he served in North Africa, Europe and the Pacific and was awarded numerous decorations for bravery in the battle of Casablanca, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Secretary of the Navy Commendation. Mr. Roosevelt returned to practice law in New York City as Senior Partner of the firm of Roosevelt and Freidin from 1946 to 1958.

Mr. Roosevelt was elected to Congress in 1949 and served through 1954; while in Congress he was a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He also served as Under-Secretary and acting Secretary of Commerce during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations and was the first Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, in 1964 and 1965. As Under-Secretary of Commerce he was appointed by President Kennedy as Chairman of the Appalachian Commission; the Commission developed a progressive economic and social program for the Appalachian region which Congress later enacted. President Kennedy also appointed him to a cabinet-level committee to reduce the foreign balance of payments deficit. In 1957 he founded the Roosevelt Automobile Company, later Fiat Motors, Inc. From 1960 to 1970 the company was the importer/distributor of Jaguar automobiles in the southeastern United States, until British Leyland bought his interests. From 1970 until 1983, Mr. Roosevelt served as a consultant to Fiat Distributors U.S.A. until Fiat discontinued its U.S. operations. From 1972 until 1985, he was a member and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mickleberry Corporation, New York City.

In 1981 Mr. Roosevelt joined the law firm of Sonfield & Sonfield as New York counsel and held that position at the time of his death. In 1985, he became Chairman of the Executive Committee, and continued his tenure as a member of the Board of Directors, of Mickleberry Corporation. Mr. Roosevelt served as an American representative to the Roosevelt-Campobello International Park Commission since 1965. While a member of the Houston law firm, he participated in the creation of The Park Avenue Bank, N.A. and when the bank commenced operations, November 6, 1987, Mr. Roosevelt was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors and continued in that capacity until his death on August 17, 1988.