

# William R. Sasso

## Chairman Emeritus

Philadelphia, PA

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William Sasso served as Chairman of Stradley Ronon’s management committee and board of directors for 27 years, ending on January 1, 2021. He currently serves as Chairman Emeritus of the firm. The transition to Chairman Emeritus took place as a result of his desire to spend more time with his clients, and in his political and community activities. As Chairman, he was responsible for oversight and management of more than 200 attorneys in the firm’s eight offices in Philadelphia and Malvern, Pennsylvania; Wilmington, Delaware; Cherry Hill and Newark, New Jersey; Washington, D.C.; Chicago; and New York.

During his 50-plus years of experience, he has counseled privately and publicly held companies and religious and nonprofit organizations in various matters, including general corporate and securities law, mergers and acquisitions, health care, education, medical devices, tax and real estate.

Given that Mr. Sasso recognizes the importance of fair, bipartisan and good government, as well as the fact that many of the firm’s clients operate in areas of heavy governmental regulation, he has been involved politically for several decades. For example, he was asked in November 2022 to become the Chairman of the Board of the Transition Team for the Governor-elect in Pennsylvania, Josh Shapiro. In addition, after the November 2016 election Mr. Sasso was asked by then Attorney General-elect Josh Shapiro to serve as senior counsel to his transition team. He was also appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf to serve on the board of Independence Blue Cross. He was appointed by former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure and Investment Authority (PENNVEST) and as a Commissioner of the Delaware River Port Authority, an office he held until 2015. He was asked in 2010 by then-Governor-elect Corbett to co-chair his Transition Team in preparation for taking office in January 2011.

For the last five years (2020 through 2024), Mr. Sasso has served as Chairman of SELECT Greater Philadelphia (Select). Select is the arm of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce responsible for marketing the Greater Philadelphia region in order to attract and retain jobs. As such, in addition to his legal practice, he has worked **on a pro bono basis** for the HRP project involving the development of the former Sunoco refinery site, as well as for the Philadelphia International Airport, the Port of Philadelphia, and developments at the Philadelphia Northeast Airport.

## FOCUS

Public Companies  
Closely Held & Family Owned Businesses  
Nonprofit & Religious Organizations  
Government & Public Affairs  
Real Estate  
Health Law  
Energy & Regulatory  
Financial Services  
Tax  
Special Situations

## BAR ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania

## COURTS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit  
U.S. Court of Federal Claims  
U.S. Tax Court  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Supreme Court

## EDUCATION

J.D., Harvard Law School  
B.A., La Salle University

## MEMBERSHIPS PAST AND PRESENT

Advisory Board, Corporate & Foundation, Satell Institute  
Board Member, The Fund for Girard College  
Former Advisory Board Committee Member, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia  
American Bar Association, Taxation and Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Sections  
Board Member, Cancer Treatment Centers of America Global, Inc. and Former Board President, Cancer Treatment Centers of America-Philadelphia  
Chairman of the Board, Redeemer Health

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In 2018, Mr. Sasso received a lifetime achievement award from the Philadelphia Inquirer for his leadership in the legal and business community. In 2022, he was named to the Philadelphia Business Journal's "Power 100" list of the most influential people in the Philadelphia region, a recognition he has received for the last six years. The publication deemed him the "dean of Philadelphia's law firm leaders" and noted that he "often serves as the legal adviser of choice for some of the region's key business and political leaders." In 2019, Mr. Sasso was selected by the Philadelphia Business Journal as one of Philadelphia's Most Admired CEOs. The honorees include 25 individuals "who are established leaders with a record of innovation, outstanding financial performance, a commitment to quality, a strong vision, a commitment to diversity in the workplace and contributions to Greater Philadelphia." He was also inducted into the Philadelphia Business Journal's "Best of the Bar: Hall of Fame" to honor his outstanding 47-year legal career.

In addition, Mr. Sasso was also awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by The Legal Intelligencer. The award honors "the best the Pennsylvania legal community has to offer," noting that honorees have "moved forward the legal profession in the state, helped foster the legal education of younger attorneys and stood as examples of some of the best virtues of Pennsylvania attorneys." In addition, Mr. Sasso was named as one of the "23 Most Influential Business People in Philadelphia" by *Philadelphia Business Journal* readers. He was the only practicing attorney included on the prestigious list. He was also honored by the *Philadelphia Business Journal* as one of the publication's "2015 Outstanding Directors" due to his work with the Children's Scholarship Fund and by *Philly Biz* as one of the region's "Best Business Lawyers." Mr. Sasso was named to *City and State Pennsylvania's* "Power 100" for the last five years. He was also recognized by *City and State Pennsylvania* as one of the "Top 10 Titans: Power Players You Need to Know" in Pennsylvania politics and *Philly Biz* honored him as one of their "Power 50," a list of 50 men and women "shaping the future of Philadelphia's business community."

He was also recognized by the American Diabetes Association for his commitment to this organization, and was the recipient of the Chairman's Award from the USO of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey in honor of his service to the country and his sustained and significant support of the USO mission.

Notably, Mr. Sasso and the firm were selected as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Americanism Award recipients – which recognized their commitment to the Greater Philadelphia community and to the values of ADL. Mr. Sasso was honored with the American Jewish Committee's Judge Learned Hand Award, presented each year to a member of the Philadelphia Bar whose achievements exemplify the high principles and noble traditions associated with Judge Learned Hand. Also, Mr. Sasso and the firm were presented with the "Stand and Deliver Award" by Philadelphia Academies for their commitment to providing educational opportunities to inner-city youth.

He was also the recipient of the William Penn Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a business person in Greater Philadelphia. Awarded annually since 1949, recipients are chosen for their outstanding contributions toward the betterment of the region, their professional accomplishments and their commitment to charity, as well as to the community.

## MEMBERSHIPS PAST AND PRESENT

Board of Advisors, Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation  
Board of Directors, CrossCurrent Business Analytics  
Board of Directors, Fred's Footsteps  
Board of Directors Member and Former Chairman of Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation  
Board of Directors, Children's Scholarship Fund  
Former Board of Directors Member, United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey  
Board Member, Visit Philadelphia  
Board Member, National Constitution Center  
Board of Trustees, La Salle University  
Chairman, Select Greater Philadelphia Governing Board Member, Committee of Seventy  
Independence Health Group Board  
National Health Lawyers Association  
Philadelphia Bar Association, State and Local Tax and Real Property Sections  
Philadelphia Facilities Task Force  
Stradley Ronon Diversity Committee

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In 2016, Mr. Sasso received an honorary degree from Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law. In 2015, he was chosen by Philadelphia University to serve as the school's undergraduate commencement speaker, and the university conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Mr. Sasso was recognized by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for being "known throughout the region for his integrity, tenacity, and pragmatic approach as a business leader and attorney."

## RECOGNITIONS

- *Suburban Life Magazine*, "Five-star Attorney"
- *Philadelphia Business Journal*, Best of the Bar: Hall of Fame
- *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Influencers of Law – Lifetime Achievement
- Saint Martin de Porres Award
- *South Jersey Biz*, Top CEOs/CFOs
- *South Jersey Biz*, Most Successful Executives
- *Philadelphia Business Journal*, "Power 100"
- *City & State Pennsylvania*, "Power 100"
- *City & State Pennsylvania*, "Power 100: Law"
- *Philly Biz*, "Top CEOs and CFOs"
- *The Legal Intelligencer*, Lifetime Achievement Award
- *Philadelphia Business Journal*, "Most Admired CEOs"
- *Philadelphia Business Journal*, "Most Influential Business People in Philadelphia"
- *Philadelphia Business Journal*, "2015 Outstanding Directors"
- *Philadelphia Business Journal*, "Power 76"
- *Philly Biz*, "Power 50"
- *Philly Biz*, "Best Business Lawyers"
- *City & State Pennsylvania*, "Top 10 Titans: Power Players You Need to Know"
- Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, William Penn Award
- Anti-Defamation League, Americanism Award
- USO of Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey, Chairman's Award
- American Jewish Committee, Judge Learned Hand Award
- American Diabetes Association, Father of the Year Award
- Fox Chase Cancer Center, Reimann Honor Award
- Philadelphia Academies, Stand and Deliver Award
- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*
  - "William Sasso is noted for his breadth of expertise in areas ranging from corporate and securities law to healthcare. One source notes: 'He is the kind of person you can bring any problem to and will offer amazing guidance and practical hands-on tactics.'"
- *The Best Lawyers in America*
- *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*
- *Martindale-Hubbell*, AV Preeminent rating

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## IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Sasso is widely recognized as a community leader in the Delaware Valley. He previously served as chairman of the board of directors of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, where he oversaw the Chamber's executive committee and its board of directors, which included advancing the business community's agenda. He continues to serve on the Chamber's board and executive committee, and he is also a member of the Paradigm Award Committee, which honors the outstanding businesswoman of the year. He also serves as Chairman of Select Greater Philadelphia, one of the four divisions of the Chamber.

Mr. Sasso previously served on the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau board and executive committee, and previously served on the board of Visit Philadelphia.

Mr. Sasso is especially interested in charitable activities in the areas of education and health care. His private life is noteworthy for the leadership roles he has taken in so many areas, including:

- Advisory Board, Corporate & Foundation, Satell Institute
- Board of Advisors, Philadelphia Holocaust Remembrance Foundation
- Former Board of Directors Member, Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation
- Former Board of Directors Member, United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey
- Board of Trustees, La Salle University
- Chairman of the Board, Redeemer Health
- Founding Trustee, Leo Niessen, Jr. Charitable Foundation, which benefits inner-city youth and working women in need and meets health care and educational needs
- Former Board President, Cancer Treatment Centers of America – Philadelphia
- Recipient of a Papal Knighthood from Pope John Paul II as a Knight of St. Gregory the Great
- Special Counsel, Montgomery County Higher Education and Health Authority
- Former Board of Directors, Children's Scholarship Fund
- Board Member, Girard College Foundation