

 [Back To Results](#)

Obituary Database Search

Obituary Database Record

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Name | Sigmund Balka 156 | Residence | New York, NY | |
| Age | 84 | Date of Birth | 08/01/1935 | Date of Death |
| | | | | 01/16/2019 |

Obituary / Death Notice

BALKA--Sigmund Ronell, died on January 16, 2019 having persevered with Parkinson's Disease for 25 years. A Philadelphia native and philanthropist, he was guided by the principle of Tikkun Olam or Repair of the World. His guiding precepts were in a paper delivered before the Friedman Society of the Jewish Museum. Balka was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters by Hebrew Union College, cited as a consummate legal counsel, entrepreneur, and corporate executive dedicated to fostering new perspectives in management and public service, responsible for innovative expressions in the world of art and donations. He attended three outstanding schools, Central High School of Philadelphia from which he received a four-year scholarship to **Williams College** where he was Phi Beta Kappa. He then graduated from Harvard Law School with fellowships. After beginning the practice of law, he joined the Kennedy and then Johnson Administrations holding various posts in Washington, D.C. Moving to New York City, he was Assistant General Counsel of the NY State Power Authority and VP, General Counsel of US operations of Brown Boveri Corp before joining Krasdale Foods in 1980. His position there which continued to his death was VP of Public and Cultural Affairs and Executive General Counsel, as well as Director and Chief Operating Officer of Krasdale Galleries which he established in 1986. Since then he has curated changing exhibits of contemporary and modern art from around the world. He was known for his personal art collection, his gifts to art institutions, his service on the board of directors of the Bronx Museum and the Queens Museum of Art, the Judaica Museum as well as Chair of the Fellows of the **Williams College** Museum of Art and a Visiting Committee member. He also was president of the Print Connoisseurs Society of NY and chaired the Hunts Point Sculpture Park. He was on the advisory board of the Brodsky Center at Rutgers University and was also on the Bronx Council of the Arts. He chaired the Board of the Jewish Repertory Theater of NY. He was Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the American Corporate Counsel Association (ACCA) Foundation and on the Board of Directors of the New York Chapter of ACCA. He held many positions at the American Bar Association (ABA) Committee of Corporate Counsel. He was a Fellow of both the ABA and the New York State Bar Association. He chaired committees encouraging corporate Pro Bono participation at both the ACCA and ABA. His parents Jane and Israel E. Balka predeceased him. His wife, Elinor survives him. Services will be held January 23rd at 11:30am at Frank E. Campbell's at 1076 Madison Ave., New York, NY. Donations can be made to the Museum of Art or the Chapin Rare Book Library, both at **Williams College**.

