



On Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Reichman University resolved to honor**

# **SAM ZELL**

Sam Zell was born on September 28, 1941, in Chicago, to Bernard and Rochelle Zell, Jewish refugees who escaped Poland before the Nazi invasion. Sam Zell is a world-renowned entrepreneur who has had a profound impact on the development of entrepreneurship curricula in Israel and the United States. The programs he established have fostered the success of hundreds of graduates who have gone on to launch thriving business ventures, primarily in the high-tech industry, and have played a significant role in promoting entrepreneurship on a broader societal level.

Currently, Sam is the chairman of Equity Group Investments, the private investment firm he founded more than 50 years ago. As a global, industry-agnostic entrepreneur and investor, Sam has a long track record of turning around troubled companies and assets, leading industry consolidations, and bringing companies to the public markets. His current investments are in logistics, health care, manufacturing, agribusiness, energy, and real estate. In addition, Sam chairs three companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange: Equity Residential, an apartment REIT; Equity LifeStyle Properties, a manufactured home community and resort REIT; and Equity Commonwealth, an office REIT.

Sam also founded and chaired Equity Office Properties Trust, which was the largest office REIT until its 2007 sale for \$39 billion in what was, at that time, the largest leveraged buyout before ever. In addition, he introduced both the first Brazilian and the first Mexican real estate companies to the New York Stock Exchange through Equity International, a private investment firm he founded to focus on real estate businesses in emerging markets.

As an active philanthropist with a focus on entrepreneurial education, Sam has been a generous and committed partner to Reichman University. Through the Zell Family Foundation, he has led the sponsorship of several leading entrepreneurship programs, including the Zell Entrepreneurship Program here at Reichman University, the Zell Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, and the Zell Fellows Program at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. The Zell Global Entrepreneurship Network (ZGEN) unites the students and alumni of these programs, providing connections, opportunities, mentorship, and support. Graduates of these combined programs have established hundreds of companies that have created thousands of jobs in Israel and abroad. In particular, the Zell Entrepreneurship Program has benefited Israeli society and made a significant contribution to promoting entrepreneurship in the country.

Sam also sponsors the Samuel Zell and Robert Lurie Real Estate Center at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. He holds a JD degree and a BA from the University of Michigan.

In 2017, Sam was recognized by *Forbes* as one of the 100 Greatest Living Business Minds. That same year, Sam debuted his book, *Am I Being Too Subtle? Straight Talk From a Business Rebel* (Penguin Random House), in which he shares fundamentals and philosophies that made him a self-made billionaire.

**For being a groundbreaking real estate entrepreneur and visionary and possessing the rare ability to rehabilitate companies and turn them into success stories, for his advocacy advancement of business education in the US and Israel, and for believing in and nurturing a new generation of entrepreneurs, and for his long-standing friendship and support of Reichman University,**

**Mr. Sam Zell is hereby conferred the degree of**

# **DOCTOR PHILOSOPHIAE HONORIS CAUSA**

**Of Reichman University**

מר אודי רקנאטי  
נגיד

**Mr. Oudi Recanati**  
Chancellor

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משנה לנשיא לעניינים אקדמיים

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**Prof. Uriel Reichman**  
Founding President and Chairperson  
of the Board of Directors