

## Foreword

On November 26, 2023, Yoram Danziger, professor at Tel Aviv University and former judge of the Supreme Court of Israel, celebrated his 70th birthday. Colleagues, students, friends and companions of Justice Danziger have taken this as an opportunity to compile a volume that is intended both to relate to various issues concerning the Israeli legal system and to reflect the broad spectrum of Danziger's thought and work.

Yoram Danziger was born in Tel Aviv in 1953. He graduated from the Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium in 1971. From 1972 to 1975 he served in the Israeli army. In 1980 he graduated with a law degree (LL.B.) from Tel Aviv University. The same university also awarded him the Master of Laws (LL.M.) the following year. In 1983 he was awarded a doctorate in law. His thesis was entitled "The Duties of Directors of Target Companies in Takeover Bids". Danziger wrote it at the London School of Economics under the supervision of Professor Lord Wedderburn, the former Dean of the faculty.

After his return, Danziger founded the law firm "Danziger, Klagsbald & Co." in Tel Aviv (Ramat Gan) in 1984, in which he served as managing partner and head of the corporate department of the firm until 2007. Danziger's main area of work was commercial law. Moreover, he was an active member (as well as a board member for a few years) of the Israeli Association of Civil Rights and the founder of the Tel Aviv branch (back in 1980). In 2000 he published a book entitled "The Right to Information about the Company". Danziger's other publications are also mainly related to business and corporate law.

In 2007, Danziger was appointed as a justice on the Israeli Supreme Court. The appointment of a lawyer practicing in the private sector was then, and still is, very unusual. Many of his decisions were marked by their clear orientation toward secular liberalism and human rights, including freedom of expression.

In 2018, Danziger resigned from his judgeship almost six years before his official retirement, with private but probably also political reasons playing a role. At the time, the liberal newspaper *Haaretz* ran the headline "Israeli Supreme Court Loses Most Liberal Justice."

After his retirement, Danziger was appointed as chairman of the Public Committee for the Prevention and Correction of Wrongful Convictions. He also serves as a member and a board member of the Council of the Israeli Science Foundation. In 2022 he was appointed by the President of Israel, Mr. Isaac Herzog, as chairman

of the Advisory Committee to the President for the awarding of the President's medal of honor.

In addition to his highly successful legal and judicial activities, Danziger became active in academics at an early stage. In 1983 he became a lecturer on the law faculty at the Tel Aviv University, specializing in corporate law. From 1984 to 1988, he also taught at the School of Management of the same university. In addition, Danziger served as an adjunct lecturer at the College of Management (Rishon LeZion) from 2011 to 2018.

In 2018, after retiring from the bench, Danziger was appointed professor at Tel Aviv University. Since then, he has headed the LL.M. program of the Faculty of Law. In 2021 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In the dispute over the curtailment of the powers of the Israeli Supreme Court in favor of the government, which has been going on since 2022, Danziger has been actively engaged as a defender of the separation of powers and the rule of law. In May 2023, he spoke at one of the "Saturday demonstrations" in Tel Aviv in front of more than 200,000 people.

Danziger's family has German roots, which may be one of the reasons why Yoram Danziger has traveled to Germany a number of times. A special connection exists to the old town of Würzburg, where Danziger has lectured several times at the Julius-Maximilians-University and participated in conferences and workshops.

Yoram Danziger has been married to Mrs. Ronit Danziger since 1977. The couple has three children (Yonathan, Daniela and Yoav) and three grandchildren (Cyan, Noga and Maya).

It is not easy to characterize in just a few words a person as multifaceted and active in many areas as Yoram Danziger. Four qualities that characterize Danziger are vigor, acumen, practical understanding, and optimism – all of which make the most appropriate combination for a lawyer and judge. Danziger belongs to Israel's most respected and important jurists. This Festschrift is acclaimed at making his work and thought even better known beyond the borders of Israel. *Ad multos annos!*

\*

I would like to thank Mrs. Sina Tenbrock-Ingenhorst, Mr. Roger Fabry, Mrs. Leonora Qerimi and Mrs. Amelie Pauly very much for their help in editing the texts. In addition, I would like to thank Mrs. Larissa Szews from Duncker & Humblot for her excellent work. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Schulze-Fielitz-Stiftung Berlin for a generous printing grant.

Veitshöchheim, July 2023

*Eric Hilgendorf*