

Paul M. Ruden is Senior Vice President for Legal & Industry Affairs for the American Society of Travel Agents. His responsibilities include all of ASTA's internal and external legal activities, industry policy issues, state and federal legislation, consumer affairs and extensive media activity. Ruden served as Acting Chief Operating Officer of ASTA for periods in 1992 and 1998-1999.

He is the author of "Competition in the Distribution of Travel Services -- The Future of Travel Agents," an economic study published by ASTA in January, 1997, and authored and edited the *ASTA Travel Agent Manual* (1990, 1995). He also wrote "Distribution Dilemmas", in the *Handbook of Airline Marketing*, McGraw-Hill (1998), and "Competitive Issues Arising from the Orbitz Joint Venture," in *Air & Space Lawyer*, American Bar Association (Spring, 2001). In June, 2001, the Speaker of the House of Representatives appointed Ruden one of the nine commissioners of the National Commission to Ensure Consumer Information and Choice in the Airline Industry.

Prior to joining ASTA in 1990, Ruden was in private law practice in Washington, DC for nineteen years. He was retained by ASTA in 1979 for the final deregulation case directed at the travel agency-airline relationship, the Investigation into the Competitive Marketing of Air Transportation. Ruden worked as a Trial Attorney at the Civil Aeronautics Board from 1967 to 1969. Ruden graduated from Yale University in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts *cum laude* degree and earned a J.D. degree from the Harvard Law School in 1967.

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