

ADAM M. TRENK Esq.

Arizona Equestrian Community's Premier Attorney

Adam Trenk, Esq. has been servicing the legal needs of Arizona's equestrian community for more than seven years. He has worked to establish himself as the authority on the legal aspects of the horse business since the beginning of his career and is now a preeminent attorney in his field.

Trenk is the go to lawyer for local equestrians because he is a life-long horseman, he understands the mechanics of the horse business about as well as one can, and he is dedicated to the advancement of the equestrian way of life.

Adam and his colleagues at Scottsdale's Rose Law Group pc provide a full spectrum of business and legal services assisting clients across a wide range of industries. Adam takes pride in delivering results when he assists his clients with an equine law matter, a real estate transaction, dispute resolution or strategic development. But his commitment to adding value and advancing your cause, no matter what it is, is not the only thing that sets him and his team apart. He has a unique perspective on problem solving that serves his clients well.

"When you work with a young horse you have to be patient. You have to approach problems with a kind of ease that keeps things from spiraling out of control. The same is really true in the practice of law, particularly when you are involved in adversarial situations," Trenk said when we asked him how his experience with horses relates to his career.

Trenk knows this as well as any attorney could. Having grown up in the Northeast, within a family of equestrian enthusiasts, he has worked with horses his entire life. He started working as a stable hand in the rural parts of New Jersey as a freshman in high school, then went on to start colts as an apprentice to renowned reined cow horse trainer Zane Davis in Montana and Idaho. This experience helped prepare him for life as an attorney, teaching him about patience and the value of hard work.

Trenk settled in Cave Creek, Arizona in 2008 after moving west to pursue his education at Arizona State University in 2001. He has horses of his own in his backyard, and when he is not working at his Scottsdale office, those horses are the focal point of his free time. In the summer of 2017, he got out of the office and went back up to Idaho to work with Zane again and refresh his skills. "My trip last summer helped bring things back into focus for me. It reminded me how elemental the world is, and that with a little grit, some persistence and a patient hand, you can get the results you want in just about any situation."

Adam established the Equine Law Department at Rose Law Group pc shortly after going to work for the firm in 2010. Over the course of the past seven years, he has seen all kinds of issues working on behalf of the men and women who share his passion for the ponies. "Disputes arise between buyers and sellers, business partners, haulers and horse owners, neighbors, trainers and their clients... it goes on and on.



I may not have seen it all, in fact I know I haven't, but I promise there are few circumstances that would surprise me anymore," he said when we asked him about the types of legal problems he helps his clients with.

"The way I spend my free time working with horses has a lot of parallels with my work. Not just because of the subject matter, but because no two sets of circumstances are the same. Once you've done enough of it, you learn not to be rattled by the unforeseeable and to apply the lessons of yesterday's challenges where they are appropriate. That's what gets results. That's how you add value.

"Naturally, my work is less stressful when people engage my services before problems arise. When I am brought on to assist in negotiating, defining deal terms and properly papering the transactions,



Adam and his father riding in a creek bed in Central Arizona.



Adam Trenk on his Foundation Bred Appaloosa, riding in Arizona's White Mountains, summer of 2017.

everyone wins. But, in those circumstances when my clients are dealing with the threat of a pending lawsuit or enforcement action from a governing agency, I am here to defend them and be an advocate for their interests."

Though his formal training has been in the western performance horse disciplines and most of his work has been with working ranch horses and race horses, there is no single discipline or breed that holds his exclusive interest. "I relish the variety of it, and I like to study the varying techniques that horsemen around the world and across time have developed."

Trenk tells us that his recent readings have included older works on classical horsemanship, as well as the development and deployment of cavalry forces, and how those efforts shaped human history. "These lessons often translate to my work, where I have to deploy the same relentless work ethic and the creative problem solving skill set that being around horses ingrained in our society," Trenk says.



Adam on his Appaloosa Draft Cross with his girlfriend, Ashley, riding the washes in Cave Creek, Arizona.

Adam believes that everyone who has a horse, or who otherwise participates in the equine industry as a hobbyist or professional, has legal needs, even if it's only what he deems the "basics." Trenk states, "Anyone who owns a horse likely has had or will have a need for liability waivers, purchase and sale agreements or boarding contracts to be drafted or reviewed." And he cautioned that "using boiler plate documents handed to you by other parties to a transaction or downloaded off the internet generally will not help you in the event a conflict arises, or worse, could actually give rise to a conflict."

Trenk tells us that so many of his equine law clients first come to him to resolve problems. "In the majority of these cases, those problems could have been easily avoided had they consulted with someone who had the knowledge and skills to assess the situation and advise them accordingly beforehand," he said. "My objectives as a practitioner go beyond prevailing on the prosecution or defense of a claim. I aim to minimize the frustration and the legal cost associated with resolving issues and aspire to educate my clients so they may avoid future problems. I am a firm believer that everyone can take steps to mitigate risk and protect their interests. It often starts with defining the rights and obligations of the parties to a transaction or merely understanding the legal parameters of a given situation."

While Trenk's equine law practice includes contract drafting and resolving disputes arising out of injury or breaches of contract, he also handles regulatory and government relations matters, including obtaining the zoning approval and building permits necessary to develop equestrian facilities. However, his practice of law is not limited to servicing the needs of his fellow horsemen. He has a robust transactional and strategic development practice. "I have put together countless private transactions and a number of agreements with government entities, and I have worked to strategize for the advancement of corporate objectives for a diverse group of clients."

Among Trenk's more public professional accomplishments was the re-negotiation of a contract with the City of Scottsdale, Arizona for the use of WestWorld on behalf of the producers of Arizona Bike Week, a motorcycle rally that is one of the largest events hosted at the multi-purpose convention center. In 2016, he successfully negotiated the resolution of a conflict between New York City's Mayor and the helicopter air tour industry's operators in the Big Apple.

"As a strategist and negotiator, my practice is virtually limitless," Trenk told us proudly, "and if my clients have needs outside my wheel house, I have about twenty of Arizona's finest lawyers standing behind



Adam working a Lusitano Cross colt in Elgin, Arizona.



Adam and his father riding a wash in Cave Creek watching a hawk circle above.



Adam Trenk is very involved and dedicated to the rehabilitation and placement of Thoroughbreds through his work with CANTER.

For Adam Trenk, working as an Attorney is clearly rewarding. His passion for serving his clients is universal, and it shines through, but the spark is magnified when the phone rings and he finds another horseman on the other end of the line. "I like practicing equine law because there is a certain satisfaction in dealing with a subject matter that is personally interesting. But even on matters that are not necessarily horse related, I especially enjoy helping ensure the success of others with whom I share something in common.

"I have the greatest career in the world. I get to work with a diverse group of folks whom I share a common interest with, but that I might not otherwise meet. I work with three day eventers, halter horse breeders, Arabian horse trainers, and everything in between. What could be better?"

Trenk wants Arizona's horse community to know that he is available to help with any legal issue they have, even if it is not horse related. "As long as I am around, the horse community will always have someone in their corner to advocate for them and help navigate the varying business and legal issues they may face." It is obvious that Trenk loves what he does in providing legal services to his fellow horsemen and women in Arizona's equine community!

You can reach Adam Trenk by email at ATrenk@RoseLawGroup.com or by phone at 602.402.3335. Like his firm's page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/equineattorneys and follow him on Instagram @theLawHorse. □

me at my firm, Rose Law Group pc. We are a full service shop, ready to assist with everything from complex civil litigation to family law and estate planning matters. Serving our clients' needs is our primary objective."

When he is not working as an attorney, Trenk finds time to volunteer in the community, helping horses and horsemen alike. One of the attorney's volunteer causes, CANTER Arizona (The Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses), functions as a network to connect buyers and sellers for Thoroughbred ex-racehorses.

Trenk served as a past Executive Director for CANTER Arizona and now sits on the board. "I proudly call an off-track Thoroughbred rescued through my contacts in CANTER my own. Bred and refined over centuries for their athleticism and disposition, I think they make excellent horses," Trenk told us.

Today Trenk has six horses, each of a different variety. "I have three 'rescues,' in my remuda. A draft cross I took home as a yearling, a Thoroughbred off the track, and most recently I brought home a BLM mustang colt. Each in their own way has humbled me, taught me patience, and ultimately given me something to be proud of."

Trenk has also been a staunch promoter for the rural lifestyle. He dedicated years to advancing that cause in his capacity as an elected member of Cave Creek's Town Council. "The town's government had taken actions that were detrimental to the rural lifestyle, and particularly to the horse community. When I saw that happening, I decided it was my duty to get involved and protect the property rights that attracted me to the area in the first place."

Of note, Trenk drafted and passed an ordinance abolishing arbitrary restrictions on equestrian privileges and private ranch uses in Desert Rural Residential zones. When it became law, it resulted in the restoration of horse privileges, a valuable private property right, to 240 lots in Cave Creek. He continues to be active in Arizona's political circles.

Since stepping out of public service in 2015, Trenk has given back to the equestrian community by volunteering his time to give guest lectures to the Scottsdale Community College Equine Sciences program. For the last several years, he has gone each semester to talk to students in the Equine Business and Law class about what liability in the equine industry means and how they can protect themselves.



Adam on his Foundation Bred Appaloosa carrying the flag for the national anthem at a local bull riding at Outlaws Saloon in Cave Creek, Arizona.

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