

Tom ALBERT, Feld Entertainment

“From Pythons to Pachyderms: The Transport of Circus

With over 100 years experience in the transport of circus and performing animals, Feld Entertainment has developed highly specialized systems for moving domestic and exotic animals by rail, sea, land and air. Feld’s Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey circuses travel throughout the United States, primarily by rail, and include regular transborder movements into Canada and Mexico. The circus also regularly imports and exports specialty acts from Europe and around the world. In both 1988 and 1989, the Ringling Bros. Gold Unit circus traveled from the United States to Japan, moving performing elephants, big cats and horses by sea. In 1990, Feld Entertainment’s production of the Las Vegas show Siegfried & Roy traveled to Japan, requiring specialized air transport of the renowned entertainer’s menagerie of exotic tigers and beloved elephant, Gilda. Tom Albert, Vice President of Government Relations for Feld, will provide an overview on how the circus moves its animals, the preparations required, especially with international moves, new studies on rail transport of elephants and big cats, along with a few case studies on some of the more unusual shipments.



Feld Entertainment, Inc., is the world's leading producer of live family entertainment and the parent company of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey®, Disney On IceSM, and Siegfried & Roy® at the Mirage in Las Vegas. Feld Entertainment spectaculars have toured in 47 countries on six continents and are seen annually by 25 million people. Both the Ringling Bros. and Siegfried and Roy shows have traveled internationally with their performing animals and regularly import and export animal acts and Feld was instrumental in helping devise guidelines under CITES for the transborder movement of circus animals. Ringling Bros. animals have been the subject of animal transport studies by experts in the field.

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Mr. Albert serves the company as vice president, government relations. In this position, Mr. Albert represents Feld Entertainment's interests before local, state and federal legislatures and regulatory bodies on issues affecting all corporate operations, including animal care. He also handles international regulatory matters related to animals and conservation activities.

Mr. Albert joined Feld after 15 years in private practice in Washington, D.C., where he represented clients, including Feld, on wildlife, natural resource, public lands and conservation issues before Congress and various federal and local regulatory bodies.

Mr. Albert received his Juris Doctor cum laude from The American University - Washington College of Law and was graduated from Hofstra University with a Bachelor of Arts in political science. Mr. Albert is based out of Feld's worldwide headquarters in Vienna, Virginia.