

Interview with Fred Nicholas

Having a conversation with Fred Nicholas is a history lesson on the Beverly Hills legal community.

Admitted to the Bar in 1952, Fred started practicing law at Loeb & Loeb. In 1956 he moved to Beverly Hills and one of the first things he did was join the Beverly Hills Bar Association.

"I believed the Bar Association is the most important asset a lawyer has in Beverly Hills and I wanted to meet the high calibre attorneys who were its members.

They were a great resource for my law practice, and I made some of my dearest and best friends through the BHBA."

At an age when most people would have focused on retirement, Fred left the practice of law in his 60s to concentrate on commercial real estate development with The Hapsmith Company, a company he co-founded.

At 93, Fred still goes to work every day. "It's important to be challenged and be productive every day and to feel you are contributing something."

Fred Nicholas' contributions of time and financial support to the BHBA are legendary. Not only did he serve on the Board for many years, but Fred is also best known for his role in founding both Public Counsel and the Beverly Hills Bar Foundation.

In 1968, Fred Nicholas Chaired "Pledge for the Future," created to chart the BHBA's future. At the time, well-known consumer advocate Ralph Nader – guest speaker at a BHBA luncheon – spoke about law-

yers' responsibilities to the community and criticized the legal profession for not giving back.

This message hit a nerve with Nicholas and he suggested that the BHBA sponsor a *pro bono* law firm to provide free legal services to the poor and needy.

In 1970 the BHBA authorized the formation of a *pro bono* law firm under the name of Beverly Hills Bar Association Law Foundation.

The Bar donated \$5,000 and Fred Nicholas was the first President. In the beginning, the fledgling organization survived on a donation of \$20,000 from Nicholas and small gifts from the large Beverly Hills law firms.

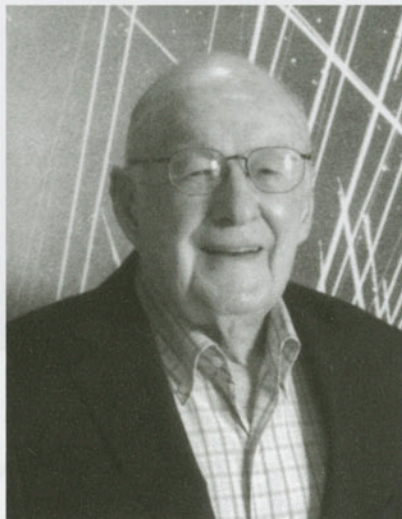
Almost 50 years later, Fred is still making significant contributions to the BHBA's image, success and future.

Fred and his wife Joan made a gift of \$100,000 to support the BHBA's Capital Campaign, "Building Beyond Tomorrow."

When asked why he made such a generous gift Fred said, "I believe the BHBA is the best Bar Association in the country.

We're an example to all other Bar Associations, but I didn't think the old building represented us well. The BHBA needed another image and the new building has provided that; it is something to be proud of and reflects our esteem throughout the legal community.

I'm very proud of my long involvement with the Bar Association and grateful for its support. I wanted to make a contribution that reflected that."



Fred Nicholas

Join the Campaign

Members, firms and friends are encouraged to contribute to the "Building Beyond Tomorrow" Capital Campaign.

Donor Wall, office naming and other significant donor opportunities are available.

For more information, a private tour and specific donor benefits, please call our offices at 310 601 2422.

Members Feel at Home

One of the nicest additions to the Beverly Hills Bar Association's new home is the beautifully appointed Members' Lounge. Overlooking the picturesque intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Canon Drive, the Members' Lounge is furnished with large, comfortable chairs, phones, two computer terminals, daily newspapers, refreshments and a large flat screen TV.

It's an open and inviting space for members to catch up on business, do a little research or relax and have a cup of coffee. With our convenient location in the heart of Beverly Hills and free parking directly adjacent to the building, members often stop in between meetings rather than take the time to go back to their offices in Century City, the Westside or the San Fernando Valley.

Members also use the Lounge to meet colleagues before or after one of the many events hosted at the BHBA headquarters.

The Members' Lounge is available for use by all BHBA members and we invite you to visit and make yourself at home.