Art Center College of Design

BIOGRAPHY

FREDERICK M. NICHOLAS

President, The Hapsmith Company

Frederick M. Nicholas is President of The Hapsmith Company, a real estate development firm with interests in California, Washington State and Washington, D.C. Previously, he practiced law with the firms of Swerdlow, Glikbarg & Nicholas, and Loeb & Loeb.

Nicholas was the Founder and First President of Public Counsel Public Interest Law Firm; President of the Maple Center; Chairman of the Real Property Shopping Center Subsection of the Beverly Hills and Los Angeles Bar Associations; and Co-Developer of the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. He was also the first Chairman of the California Broadcasting Commission.

Nicholas serves on the Los Angeles Task Force on Art, the California Economic Development Commission, the Executive Committee of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and is Director of the ACLU Foundation. He was a Trustee of Pitzer College, the American Federation of the Arts, the American Arts Alliance, the Fund for the Republic and the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. He has served on the California Council on Technology Education, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Chairman of the Walt Disney Concert Hall Committee, Governor of the Music Center, Trustee of the Dance Gallery in Los Angeles, Chairman of the Greystone Foundation and Trustee of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association. He is also a Life Trustee of MOCA.

Widely recognized for his philanthropic activities, Nicholas has earned the City of Angels Award, the Tribute Award from the LA County Music Center, the UCLA Dean's Council Award, the California Institute of the Arts Trustees' Award and the Medici Award. He received an Outstanding Founder in Philanthropy Award from the National Philanthropy Day Committee, and the Beverly Hills Board of Realtors and Chamber of Commerce have both named him Citizen of the Year. The Equal Justice Advocacy Award 2005 from American Civil Liberties Union and Presidential Honoree 2006 American Institute of Architects "Service to Community." He is also the author of numerous articles and publications, including Commercial Real Estate Lease Practice and California Land Security and Development.

Nicholas graduated from USC with a B.A. in journalism and served as a correspondent for United Press International before attending Law School at the University of Chicago and USC. He served in the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of Captain during World War II. Nicholas was an Honorary Trustee at Art Center from 2001–2004, when he was elected as a Trustee.