

## **Thomas J. Hall**

### **Employment history**

Thomas J. Hall has been practicing real estate law in the Reno-Tahoe area since 1972. In 1985, he founded his own law firm in Reno, focusing on land use, water rights, and real estate. Hall has played a vital role in precedent-setting land use cases at Lake Tahoe and authored or co-authored a series of major land-use law publications for Nevada's continuing legal education programs. He maintained an active license as a Nevada contractor from 1966-2024, and holds a pilot's license since 1966, reflecting his lifelong passion for aviation. He served as a ski instructor for the Reno Ski Program for several years. Hall served seven and one-half years in the Nevada Air National Guard as a sergeant. He was activated for 18 months during law school following the Pueblo incident in 1968 where the U.S. Navy's intelligence ship, USS Pueblo, was attacked and captured by North Korea during the Vietnam War.

### **Educational background**

Born in southern California and raised on the Nevada side of South Lake Tahoe, Hall was valedictorian of Whittel High School. In 1961, the University of Nevada invited northern Nevada high school leaders to attend a leadership conference on campus where Tom met his future classmates, fraternity brothers and student leaders. He attended the University of Nevada where he studied business earning his bachelor's degree in finance and economics in 1965. While at Nevada, Hall was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, was a member of the debate team and participated on the ski team. After graduation, Hall spent two years as a contractor at Lake Tahoe when a friend suggested he attend law school. He attended Northwestern Law School in Chicago, Ill. where he received the school's prestigious Hodes Prize for authoring an outstanding paper, concerning Nevada subdivision laws. He earned his law degree from Northwestern University in 1971, and following graduation, served for a year as Law Clerk to Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice David Zenoff.

**Reasons for nomination (outstanding accomplishments, achievements and contributions to Nevada and its people)**

Hall's service, accomplishments and contributions have touched all areas of the state of Nevada and span legal, civic, educational and philanthropic arenas. He is a member of the Washoe County Bar Association where he served as president, and member of the American Bar Association and the State Bar of Nevada. Hall has served as chairman of the Washoe Valley Citizens' Advisory Board, cofounder of Nevada Rock Art Foundation, president of the Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council, president of the West Washoe Association, president of the Reno-Stead Airport Association, president of the Reno Air Racing Foundation, and president of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada.

Hall has been a key participant in the academic, public service and social life of the University of Nevada, Reno campus for 60 years, including serving as trustee and chairman of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and as three-term president of the University of Nevada Alumni Association. Hall has been a dedicated supporter of fine arts in northern Nevada and of Nevada athletics, scholarships and other programs at the University. The Thomas J. Hall Endowment at the University was established in honor of his many accomplishments and contributions to the University. Hall was honored by the University of Nevada Alumni Association with its Service Award in 1980 and Exceptional Achievement Award in 2018. He was inducted into the University's Honor Court as a Silver Benefactor in 1997 and received the University's President's Medal in 2000.

Through his involvement with the Reno Air Racing Foundation, Hall has blended his passions for education and aviation. While he served as trustee and chairman of the Reno Air Racing Foundation, he co-founded Pathways to Aviation, the educational outreach program designed to inspire youth through aviation education. Hall is president and board chair for the George W. Gillemot Foundation, which was founded in 2003 to honor the legacy of aviator, inventor, entrepreneur and philanthropist, George W. Gillemot, who pursued his passions for aviation, aerospace, engineering, education, research, workforce development, and economic renewal for northern Nevada. Among other support to northern Nevada, the George W. Gillemot Foundation provided more than \$1

million to the Washoe County School District to transform facilities at the Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology (AACT) into a state-of-the-art learning center focused on aviation technology and gifted \$36 million, the largest-ever contribution to the University of Nevada, Reno, to establish the Geroge W. Gillemot Aerospace Program within its College of Engineering.

### **Other NSHE Awards**

Hall has not been previously recognized with any NSHE awards.