

## Craig Hall

Craig Hall is chairman and founder of Dallas-based Hall Financial Group and along with his wife Kathryn, is owner of HALL Wines, a premier vineyard and winery company in the Napa Valley. Craig Hall's distinguished career in business and as an author, civic leader and philanthropist reflects the highest qualities of entrepreneurship. He formed Hall Financial Group in 1968 at age 18 with \$4,000 saved from small ventures begun at age 10. Today, the company's diversified business interests include real estate ownership, development and management; software application development, principally for the insurance industry; structured finance lending for real estate and other areas; vineyards and wineries; and oil and gas. In addition, Hall Financial Group maintains a portfolio of more than \$1 billion of stocks, bonds and venture capital in a broad range of industries currently including a large ownership position in American Airlines (AMR).

Previously, Hall was a part owner of the Dallas Cowboys; formed one of the first stock savings and loans in Michigan; founded one of the first for-profit HMOs in the country; and participated, along with Time, Inc., in growing the nation's largest chain of health and sports clubs.

Hall actively supports new entrepreneurs and often speaks publicly about the importance of encouraging entrepreneurship worldwide. He lends his entrepreneurial expertise to nurture young companies, including affiliate Skywire Software. Together with his wife, The Honorable Kathryn Hall, former Ambassador to Austria, he funded the Fulbright – Kathryn and Craig Hall Distinguished Chair for Entrepreneurship to teach entrepreneurship in Eastern Europe. Hall also recently founded the Dallas Regional Office of NFTE (National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship).

Craig Hall has consistently contributed time and resources at local, national and international levels to support a variety of community causes with an emphasis on art, education and entrepreneurship. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the American University in Bulgaria and the American-Austrian Fulbright Board and as a member of the World Presidents Organization and the Social Venture Network. Hall, his company, and his charitable foundation have provided millions of dollars in funding to a wide range of non-profit organizations. He encourages a philanthropic spirit within his companies by matching employee contributions and providing corporate employees up to 40 hours of paid time off per year to volunteer with the nonprofits of their choosing. Hall, Hall Financial Group and affiliated entities have received numerous awards for both business and community excellence.

A lifelong art collector, Craig Hall believes art nourishes the human spirit and can make a profound difference in people's lives. Throughout his businesses, Hall displays portions of his extensive, personal contemporary art collection for the public's enjoyment. At Hall Office Park in Frisco, Texas, more than 165 works of art can be found throughout development grounds and within building lobbies. Part of The Hall Collection is the Texas Sculpture Garden, containing 40 contemporary works by living Texas artists. The Texas Sculpture Garden is the largest collection of private contemporary Texas sculpture ever assembled and made available to the public.

Hall is a past-recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of America award (1979), the Outstanding Business Leader award from Northwood University (1989) and the U.S.C. Jayson Ammons Free Enterprise award (1992). He received the 2002 Obelisk Award from the Dallas Business Committee for the Arts for his long-time support of Texas artists and was honored with the 2002 Ernst & Young Real Estate Entrepreneur of the Year award. Most recently, Hall was named a member of the Horatio Algiers Association for Distinguished Americans, was inducted into the North Texas Commercial Real Estate Hall of Fame, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Mortgage Bankers Association, received the Institute of Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Committee, and was inducted into the Ring of Honor by the Entrepreneurs Foundation of North Texas. Craig Hall is the author of five books, most notably *The Responsible Entrepreneur*.