

# Lay Committee Members: High School Project

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**Paul E. Griffin, III** is a fifth generation home-builder, 1979 UCLA graduate, and President of Griffin Industries. He is responsible for all company activities, including strategic planning, market analysis, site selection, entitlements, finance, and daily operations.

In 1985, he was responsible for the development of over 5,000 new homes, including a 324-unit condominium project in Pacoima, which won the Gold Nugget Award as the best affordable housing project in the Western United States at the 1990 Pacific Coast Builder's Conference. He has been recognized by his peers with several awards at the National Association of Home Builders and the Pacific Coast Builders Conference as a leader in customer service and quality assurance. He received the 1995 Gold Nugget Award for architecture with his development of Lang Ranch, a 369-lot, \$100 million joint venture in Thousand Oaks, and his 415-unit project in Simi Valley was named project of the year by local and regional marketing associations.

Mr. Griffin was named Building Industry Association's "Builder of the Year" in 1997, and has served on the boards of the LA/Ventura Building Industry Association, the Sales and Marketing Council, Habitat for Humanity, and the Urban Land Institute Affordable Housing Committee. He has also been active with the Christian Coalition, UCLA Chancellor's Associates, Catholic Big Brothers, the Heritage Foundation, and The Lord Acton Institute. Paul and his wife Marsha are very active in local charities and are members of Legatus, a national organization of Catholic business leaders.

"I am committed to making a new Catholic high school a reality and honored to work with such a professional and accomplished committee."

**Joseph P. Brown** has been active in marketing and developing real estate projects and communities for over 50 years. From 1958 to 1969, he was an officer of the Janss Corporation, which was developing its 13,000-acre holdings in the Conejo Valley into an area today known as Thousand Oaks. He was the President of their Real Estate Brokerage business and Vice President of Corporate Marketing. The company also developed projects in Sun Valley, Idaho, Snowmass at Aspen, the North Shore Lake Tahoe, Palm Desert, and Hawaii. Mr. Brown later became Vice President and General Manager of the Conejo Valley project and then Executive Vice President. His team created the Oaks Shopping Center and the site for Saint Paschal Baylon, which was planned and sold to Cardinal MacIntyre of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

In 1969 Joe Brown purchased the Janss Realty Co. and in 1974, the Westlake Realty Co. from American-Hawaiian, the developers of Westlake's 11,000 acre lake project. He owned and operated Brown Realtors Company, which served Ventura County through

its Home Resale Programs, New Homes, Commercial, Relocation, Escrow, and Mortgage divisions. A few of his projects in Westlake Village are, Triunfo West, Northgate and Westlake Island. Joe sold the business and retired in 1992.

Joe earned an engineering degree at Loyola Marymount University. In addition he holds memberships, licenses and certificates in; Real Estate from USC & UCLA, Real Estate Broker and General Contractor, Graduate Realtor Institute, National Association of Home Builders, Chairman of Ventura County Community Foundation, Regent for Cal-Lutheran University, Board of Mary Health of the Sick Hospital, and an honorary Doctor of Law Degree (LL.D) from California Lutheran University.

"I am totally dedicated to the development of our much needed new Catholic high school."

**Dieter Huckestein** has just finished a 35 year career with the Hilton Corporation and is a widely respected lodging industry leader. His career has included managing some of the world's leading Hilton Hotel properties and overseeing regional operations throughout the world. He most recently served as chairman and chief executive officer of Hilton's elite luxury brand of Conrad Hotels, and president of the Hilton Global Alliance. Mr. Huckestein plans to pursue a number of entrepreneurial opportunities and is a welcome addition to our high school committee.

As chairman and chief executive officer of Conrad Hotels, Mr. Huckestein was responsible for all operations, marketing and development of the Conrad brand of luxury hotels, which currently includes 19 world-class hotels in such countries as England, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, Belgium and the United States.

In his role as president of the Hilton Global Alliance, Mr. Huckestein had responsibility for all operational aspects of Hilton Hotels Corporation's strategic alliance with Hilton International, including worldwide implementation of Hilton Honors, the industry's leading guest loyalty program, and the Hilton Reservations System.

Before being appointed to his role with Conrad Hotels, Mr. Huckestein spent 10 years as Hilton's president of owned and managed hotel operations, with responsibility for many of the largest and most well-known properties in the U.S., including the Waldorf-Astoria, Hilton New York, Hilton Hawaiian Village and Hilton Chicago. During his tenure with Hilton Hotels Corporation, he was instrumental in the creation and development of the Hilton Garden Inn brand, currently the industry's fastest growing hotel brand. Prior to this, Mr. Huckestein was senior vice president for the Hawaii/California/Arizona region. He also served on Hilton's Board of Directors for 10 years. Mr. Huckestein's career at Hilton International, which spanned the years 1974 to 1988, included serving as vice president for the Caribbean and Latin America, as well as operating hotels in Israel, Greece and England. A leader in industry affairs, he served as chairman of the American Hotels & Lodging Association in 2004.

"Dieter's accomplishments and reputation in the hotel industry are second to none and our company has benefited significantly from his experience, enthusiasm and management skills," said Stephen F. Bollenbach, co-chairman and chief executive officer of Hilton Hotels Corporation. "We are fortunate to have had Dieter lead our owned and managed hotel business, operate some of our most important hotels and, most recently, spearhead the effort to expand the Conrad brand on a global basis.

Dieter and his wife Cynthia are active in local charities and are members of Legatus, a national organization of Catholic business leaders.

"The Conejo Valley area needs a new Catholic high school now more than ever"

**William E. Simon Jr.** Taking decisive action to solve problems and doing so with warmth and compassion are the hallmarks of Bill Simon's life. As the son of former Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, Sr., Bill Simon has seen first hand the importance that hard work and honesty both play in solving problems and earning respect. An unabashed success as a philanthropist, businessman, former prosecutor, social commentator, husband and father, Bill Simon is ready to take decisive action to help our local high school project.

Bill is co-founder in 1988 of the private investment firm of William E. Simon & Sons with assets now valued in excess of \$3 billion. In 1997 Bill recognized the lack of quality family entertainment so he helped raise funds for the launch of PAX TV network; a family-friendly network free of graphic violence, sex and inappropriate language in 1998. Today PAX TV reaches 80% of television households, and Bill serves as Vice Chairman of Paxson Communications, the parent company of PAX TV.

Bill served as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, under Rudolph Giuliani. Later, he joined the respected law firm of Davis, Markel, Dwyer & Edwards. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, a nonprofit public interest law organization.

Bill believes these achievements would not have been possible without a strong education and he seeks to ensure every child has the same opportunities he has been blessed with. Bill attended high school at Newark Academy and Williams College earning Dean's List Honors. He now serves on the Board of Trustees of Newark Academy and is a Lifetime Member of the Board of Trustees of Williams College. Bill attended Boston College Law School earning a Juris Doctorate and is a member of the National Moot Court Team

Bill Simon and his wife, Cindy, consider the blessings of family and faith to be of the highest importance and have dedicated their lives to sharing their good fortune with those who are in need. Bill serves as Vice Chairman of Catholic Charities: the largest private network of social services that support families and reduce poverty. He is Chairman Emeritus of Covenant House California: a crisis shelter for homeless youth and

is a member of the Board of Regents of Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. He and Cindy established the Cynthia L. & William E. Simon Jr. Foundation: for scholarships and physical fitness. He is on the Board of Directors of the Heritage Foundation, a public policy think tank that publishes Policy Review magazine. He and Cindy are also members of Legatus, a national organization of Catholic business leaders

Bill Simon has been blessed with the experiences and achievements few others will ever have: forged in values of honesty, decency, hard work and respect. Bill Simon has a lifetime of delivering on his promises and accomplishing those things that others only dream to accomplish.

"I am honored to join the committee and will do everything I can to make sure we are able to develop a new Catholic high school for the Conejo Valley area."

**Tom & Ted Mackel** Thomas Mackel, a Loyola High School and USC graduate, has been active in real estate development in Southern California for the past 39 years, was the co-founder of Mackel Construction, and today heads Mackel Realty. Tom's son, Ted, a Regis University graduate, joined Mackel Realty in 1985. Some of their commercial tenants include: Target Department Stores, Gold's Gym, Albertson's Super Markets, Pier 1 Imports, Domino's Pizza, Well's Fargo Bank, Bank of America, General Telephone, Fanners Insurance, Shell Oil, Washington Mutual., and many others. Mackel Realty is an aggressive and imaginative organization that creates activity and interest regardless of the overall conditions of the leasing market.

The Mackel's have extensive experience in developing site, economic, and retail competition data for all types of commercial uses. They have a good understanding of the commercial needs of communities; providing a complete package that encompasses all aspects of development, planning, construction, and leasing under a single unified direction.

Since 2003, Ted Mackel has joined Century 21 Real estate where he earned a Century 21 Ruby Award for 2004 sales and a Centurion Award for 2005 sales.

**Steve McEveety** Throughout his film production career, Steve has worked on a variety of locations, including Africa and Scotland. "You know, when I first started in this business as an assistant director and production manager, I didn't have much choice in the films I worked on. Fortunately, I haven't made any films I'm ashamed of." In addition to his projects at Icon Productions with Mel Gibson, other titles include *Anna Karenina*, with Sophie Marceau, and *Immortal Beloved*, with Gary Oldman as Ludwig von Beethoven. Recently, Steve has moved on from Mel Gibson's Icon Productions. "I'm in a position where I have more of a say about what projects I pursue," says Steve. "And I hope I will have a positive effect on the rest of the world by my choices. That's the power of the

media. There's a great deal of responsibility that one has when producing films. So being Catholic is now playing a larger role in how I approach projects." He credits his faith with other influences, too. "I'm really fascinated with the question of what is good or evil—in film and in life," he says. "And that definitely comes from being Catholic." McEveety has enlisted the support of a range of leaders in media, politics, and business to support our high school project.

"We are committed to building this school, because if you can inform the young Catholic mind about the possibilities of the media, they might just take that Catholic philosophy to work with them someday."

### **Filmography**

1. **Paparazzi** (2004) (producer)
2. **The Passion of the Christ** (2004) (producer)
3. **We Were Soldiers** (2002) (producer)
4. **What Women Want** (2000) (producer)
5. **Payback** (1999) (executive producer)
6. **One Eight Seven** (1997) (producer)
7. **Anna Karenina** (1997) (executive producer)
8. **Braveheart** (1995) (executive producer)
9. **Immortal Beloved** (1994) (executive producer)
10. **Airborne** (1993) (producer)
11. **The Man Without a Face** (1993) (executive producer)

### ***Consultation:***

**Dave Lolletta**, Shea Homes, former member of Moorpark Planning Commission