



**Phillip R. Nicholson -- In Memoriam
September 23, 2015**

Cox, Castle & Nicholson mourns the loss of one of our founding partners Phillip R. Nicholson who died on September 21, 2015. Phil was with the firm for over 47 years, since its inception in 1968.

Phil began his law career at Dillavou & Cox where he rose to become a senior partner. In 1968, he partnered with George Cox and Richard Castle to found Cox, Castle & Nicholson. As Managing Partner, Phil grew Cox, Castle & Nicholson to its present position as one of the largest real estate specialty firms in the United States.

Nationally recognized for his work in complex real estate transactions and litigation, Phil was skilled in representing developers and investors in real estate companies and projects, including entity structures and formation, project development, land use, equity and debt financing, participation and profit sharing arrangements, restructures, disputes, and strategic planning.

Phil was regularly honored as one of the nation's top lawyers, most recently on *Legal 500's* Real Estate list in 2015 and as one of California's leading attorneys in real estate by *Chambers USA* in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

An industry leader, Phil was active with the California Continuing Education of the Bar, a member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, a frequent speaker at real estate industry events, and a regular contributor of articles to various real estate publications.

Phil was widely known for his work ethic, discipline, integrity and true love of the law. That love and respect extended to everyone. He mentored scores of lawyers who walked through Cox, Castle & Nicholson's doors and was known for treating everyone, from board room to mail room, with an equally high level of respect, setting the tone for all that follow at the firm.

In addition to his passion for law, Phil was admired for his athleticism. He was an avid road, mountain and track cyclist for more than 40 years, riding nearly every day. Phil loved travel and exploring the world with his wife, often on bicycles or motorcycles. Another interest of Phil's was music, mostly classical and jazz. He was an accomplished saxophone, flute and clarinet player.

Phil graduated from the University of Southern California in 1957 and received his J.D., *Order of the Coif* from University of Southern California's Gould School of Law in 1961. The University of Southern California remained a constant in his life, through his involvement with the Lusk Center of Real Estate and his enthusiasm for rooting for the Trojans.

Phil is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joan; sister Lois Nicholson McCullough; four daughters: Jill Nicholson Samuel, Lauren Nicholson, Jennifer Nicholson Salke, and Amy Nicholson Zimmerman; and seven grandchildren: Niccolo, Charlie, Maisie, Henry, Kate, Georgia and Katherine.

He will be deeply missed.