

## Richard D. Mahoney '79

Any effort to write about a man of many talents must start by deciding which talent best fits the book. Dick Mahoney is a scholar, author, politician, elected official, international business consultant, professor, and entrepreneur *par excellence*. The man many in Arizona knew well thirty years ago eventually earned all those titles.

He went to high school in Phoenix at *Brophy College Preparatory*,<sup>1</sup> college at *Princeton University* (*magna cum laude*),<sup>2</sup> earned a Ph.D at *Johns Hopkins University*,<sup>3</sup> and a J.D. at the *Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law*.<sup>4</sup> He was an honor student at all four. He received a C.E.P. in economics from the *Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris*, which is recognized as one of the world's most prestigious institutions for social sciences and one of the top ranked French Universities.<sup>5</sup>

### Academia

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<sup>1</sup> Brophy College Preparatory is a Jesuit high school in Phoenix, Arizona, founded in 1928. The school has an all-male enrollment of approximately 1,200 students. It is operated independently of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix. <https://www.brophyprep.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Princeton University is a private Ivy League research university in Princeton, New Jersey. Founded in 1746 in Elizabeth as the College of New Jersey, Princeton is the fourth-oldest institution of higher education in the United States and one of the nine colonial colleges chartered before the American Revolution. The institution moved to Newark in 1747, then to the current site nine years later, and renamed itself Princeton University in 1896. It was ranked #1 in 2019 in national universities. <https://www.princeton.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> Johns Hopkins University is a private research university in Baltimore, Maryland. Founded in 1876, the university was named for its first benefactor, the American entrepreneur, abolitionist, and philanthropist Johns Hopkins. It's ranked #10 in national universities in 2019. <https://www.jhu.edu/>

<sup>4</sup> If you're reading this book, you likely know that it is ranked #18 in national law schools in 2019. <https://law.asu.edu/>

<sup>5</sup> The Paris Institute of Political Studies, commonly referred to as Sciences Po, is the primary institution of higher learning for the French political and administrative elite, and one of the most prestigious and selective European schools in the social sciences. It was founded in 1872 to promote a new class of French politicians in the aftermath of the French defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, and has since educated, among others, 32 heads of state or government, 7 of the past 8 French Presidents, 3 past heads of the International Monetary Fund, heads of international organizations, and 6 of sitting CAC 40 CEOs. The school is also the alma mater of numerous intellectual and cultural figures, such as Marcel Proust, René Rémond, Paul Claudel, and Raymond Aron. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sciences\\_Po](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sciences_Po)

His Wikipedia page<sup>6</sup> confirms his academic credentials. He lectured as a visiting professor at *Templeton College* (Oxford University),<sup>7</sup> the *JFK School of Government* (Harvard University),<sup>8</sup> the *Beijing Institute of Foreign Trade*,<sup>9</sup> and the *Universidad Del Pacifico - Ecuador* (Quito campus).<sup>10</sup> He is professor emeritus at the *Thunderbird School of Global Management*.<sup>11</sup> He was head of the *Baker Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies* at Juniata College.<sup>12</sup> In 2012, he became the director of the *School of Public Affairs at North Carolina State University*.<sup>13</sup> He retired from that position in 2018, saying he “I’m going to Barcelona to teach at an international institute of national security.”<sup>14</sup>

### Author

He wrote two books on the Kennedy administration. In 1983, *Oxford University Press* published his “*Ordeal in Africa*.”<sup>15</sup> It garnered strong reviews: “There is a tragically small subset of scholarship that focuses on American foreign relations with Africa, but Richard Mahoney's *JFK: Ordeal in Africa* surely ranks among the best of the bunch. . . . Mahoney presents an incredibly insightful and well-written

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<sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Mahoney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Mahoney)

<sup>7</sup> Templeton College was one of the constituent colleges of the University of Oxford, England. It was an all-graduate college, concentrating on the recruitment of students in business and management studies. In 2008, the college merged with Green College to form Green Templeton College, based on the existing Green College site. The college was founded in 1965 as the Oxford Centre for Management Studies. The College was based at Egrove Park in Kennington, south of Oxford. Its buildings were opened in 1969, and were awarded listed status in 1999. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Templeton\\_College,\\_Oxford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Templeton_College,_Oxford)

<sup>8</sup> The John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (also known as Harvard Kennedy School and HKS) is a public policy and public administration school, of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States. <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/>

<sup>9</sup> The university was founded in 1951 as the Beijing Institute of Foreign Trade. It provided education and training for government officials responsible for China’s economic and international business administration under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation and Ministry of Education. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University\\_of\\_International\\_Business\\_and\\_Economics\\_\(Beijing\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_International_Business_and_Economics_(Beijing))

<sup>10</sup> The Universidad Del Pacifico – Ecuador: Escuela de Negocios (UPACIFICO) is an Ecuadorian non-profit private university. It focuses on its student’s ability to undertake business, to turn initiatives into economic realities, to organize activities, to assure development and stability of business, to locate resources and employ effective methods of production, development of risk-management capabilities and a working knowledge of the economic and political environment are some of the areas of instruction offered to students. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universidad\\_Del\\_Pacifico\\_-\\_Ecuador](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universidad_Del_Pacifico_-_Ecuador)

<sup>11</sup> Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University is a global management school located in Phoenix, Arizona. Founded 1946 as an independent, private institution, it was acquired by Arizona State University in 2014. <https://thunderbird.asu.edu/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.juniata.edu/academics/departments/peace-and-conflict/baker-institute/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://spia.news.chass.ncsu.edu/2018/04/20/honoring-6-years-of-service-farewell-director-mahoney/>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Reconstructs the role of John Kennedy in American foreign policy toward the African nations, following his career from 1951 through his presidency and documenting the momentous political and social events of the period. <https://www.amazon.com/JFK-Ordeal-Richard-D-Mahoney/dp/0195033418>

account of Kennedy's engagement with Sub-Saharan Africa, specifically the major flash points of Ghana, the Portuguese colonies, primarily Angola, and the Congo. Through access to classified documents, interviews with participants, and a firm handle on the secondary literature that existed at the time, *Ordeal in Africa* effectively depicts the American strategy that often walked a fine line between anti-colonial idealism and practical Cold War strategy. The results were often problematic and occasionally contradictory, but by 1963 American policy seemed headed in the direction of a more liberal strategy that could benefit African nationalists."<sup>16</sup> His second Kennedy book was the 1999, "*Sons and Brothers, The Days of Jack and Bobby Kennedy*."<sup>17</sup>

He also wrote numerous articles and monographs on presidential history, foreign policy, international trade, and political risk. And a volume of poetry in Spanish, *Pétalos*.<sup>18</sup>

### Politics & Public Office

As has become the 21<sup>st</sup> Century standard for American politicians, his record is deftly summarized on his wiki page.<sup>19</sup> "A member of the Democratic Party, Mahoney served as chief speechwriter in the presidential campaigns of Senators Gary Hart,<sup>20</sup> and Paul Simon<sup>21</sup> in 1988. He was elected by a landslide<sup>22</sup> as the 14th Secretary of State of Arizona in 1990, alongside the narrow election

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<sup>16</sup> The book is out of print. The review is on Amazon. <https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R1QWW01WANDROS?ASIN=0195033418>

<sup>17</sup> Arcade Publishing. The Amazon review is excellent: "This intriguing book brings a fresh perspective to bear on the intimate, charged partnership of John and Robert Kennedy. The author, Richard D. Mahoney, whose father was a friend of Bobby's and an appointee of Jack's, has both the academic and political experience necessary to evaluate evidence of the Kennedys' relations with the Mafia, anti-Castro rebels, and other groups lurking in the shadows of American life. He also has a sharp eye for the brothers' differing yet complementary personalities. Jack was intellectual and cheerfully cynical, with a zest for pleasure increased by a life-threatening illness concealed from the public. He looked to passionate, partisan Bobby for bulldog-like political support and used his brother as a "moral compass" when planning his administration's actions on civil rights, the corruption of organized labor, and the containment of Communism. Their powerful father, Joseph--whose deep pockets basically bought Jack the presidency and at the same time compromised it because of Joseph's links to organized crime--looms over the brothers as the author of a Faustian bargain that may well have played a role in JFK's assassination. Mahoney's vivid, compulsively readable text offers suggestive questions rather than definitive answers, but it certainly succeeds as a bracing corrective to "America's inability to see its history as tragedy," a failure Jack and Bobby emphatically did not share. --Wendy Smith." <https://www.amazon.com/Sons-Brothers-Days-Bobby-Kennedy/dp/1559704802>

<sup>18</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Mahoney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Mahoney)

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary\\_Hart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Hart)

<sup>21</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul\\_Simon\\_\(politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Simon_(politician))

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.ourcampaigns.com/RaceDetail.html?RaceID=263993>

of Republican Governor Fife Symington.<sup>23</sup> Mahoney led gubernatorial Democrat Terry Goddard by 50,000 votes, and beat Republican Treasurer Ray Rottas by over 170,000 votes, taking every county in the state. . . Mahoney was the last Democrat to hold the office of Arizona Secretary of State until the election of Katie Hobbs in 2018. He ran for the United States Senate in 1994, narrowly losing the primary to Sam Coppersmith by 132 votes (or 0.05% of all votes cast in the Democratic Primary). He ran as an independent for Governor of Arizona in 2002, but polled under 7%.”<sup>24</sup>

He formed the *Nuestra Familia* Foundation in 1998 to foster social entrepreneurship projects to fund social justice and human development programs in two Latin America countries.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> John Fife Symington III is an American businessman and politician. In 1990, he was elected to serve the first of two consecutive terms as the 19th governor of Arizona. During his second term, Symington resigned from the office of governor, following a conviction on charges of extortion and bank fraud – a conviction which, was later overturned. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fife\\_Symington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fife_Symington)

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_Mahoney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Mahoney)