



## **R. James Nicholson**

### **Senior Counsel**

**[jnicholson@bhfs.com](mailto:jnicholson@bhfs.com)**

**202.652.2344**

**Washington, DC**

Jim Nicholson's practice includes counseling clients in public policy, health care, state and federal regulatory law, international relations, real estate, oil & gas, and alternative energy. Jim served as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs from 2005 to 2007. Prior to his tenure at the VA, he served as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. Pope John Paul II knighted him for his leadership on human rights issues. He was the chairman of the Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness. Jim was a director of New Community Development Corporation and Commissioner of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), both Presidential appointments.

Jim has led an active political life, which includes serving as chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1997-2001. He has worked on a number of political campaigns at every level, from county commissioner to U.S. President. As Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Jim set records for fundraising, and in 2000 presided over winning the Presidency and majorities in the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House, state houses and state legislatures.

In 1978, he established Nicholson Enterprises, Inc., a nationally recognized land development and home building company. He has been inducted into the National Housing Hall of Fame. Jim served as a commissioner on the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission. He was a director of St. Mary Land and Exploration Company, a director of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Colorado, Inc., and chairman of the board of the Volunteers of America of Colorado. He serves as director of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc.; The Daniels Fund; Federated Funds; New Day USA; and is a fellow of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

### **Practices**

Government Relations, Congressional Oversight & Investigations, Energy, Health Care, State & Local Legislation & Policy

### **News & Events**

- Jim Nicholson co-chairs effort to bring RNC to Denver
- James Nicholson Receives the 2013 Adam Smith Award from the Colorado Council for Economic Education
- Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck Shareholder Jim Nicholson Honored With Champion of Veterans Award
- Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Centennial Celebration
- Jim Nicholson tapped to head the NRSC's major donor program
- Nicholson pleased with new VA hospital plans
- Construction SuperConference Keynote Speech
- INTERVIEW with Ambassador James Nicholson
- Nicholson Honored by Colorado Nonprofit Association
- Jim Nicholson, Former Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Joins Brownstein

### **Community**

---

Director, The National Red Cross

Chairman, Board of Trustees, Open World Leadership Center

Chairman, National Republican Senatorial Committee's Majority Makers program

Director, Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc.

Co-Chairman, Catholic Leadership Institute, Board of Advisors

Director, The Daniels Fund

Director, Catholic Leadership Institute

Director, Consortium of Catholic Academics

### **Publications & Presentations**

- 2015 Washington Outlook, *Brownstein Client Alert*, Feb. 2, 2015
- Republicans Won Control of the U.S. Senate—Now What?, *Brownstein Client Alert*, November 6, 2014
- 2014 Washington Outlook, *Brownstein Client Alert*, January 30, 2014
- A Mystifying U.S. Diplomatic Pullback from the Vatican, Co-Author, *Wall Street Journal*, Opinion, December 26, 2013
- Increasing Educational and Career Opportunities, Panel, hosted by The Western Governor's Association, June 29, 2011
- The United States and the Holy See: The Long Road, Author, 30 Days Publishing, Rome, Italy, 2003
- World Youth Day, Presenter, Toronto, Canada, July 2002

### **Education**

- J.D., 1972, University of Denver Sturm College of Law
- M.A., 1969, Columbia University
- B.S., 1961, United States Military Academy at West Point

### **Admissions**

- Colorado

### **Recognition**

2013 Adam Smith Award, Colorado Council for Economic Education

Board of Directors, Chrysalis Holdings, LLC

Board of Directors, NewDay USA, LLC

Board of Directors, Federated Investors Fund

Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve (retired)

Lifetime Public Service Award, Colorado Nonprofit Association

Knighthood by Pope John Paul II, Rome, 2003

Who's Who in American Politics

Hall of Fame, National Association of Housing and Building

Champion of Veterans Award, Paralyzed Veterans of America

InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington's InterFaith Leadership Award

### **Membership**

Fellow, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Congressional Country Club, University Club of Washington D.C.