

ARIZONA PROFILE

Richard Mallery: Phoenix's untiring 'Man in the Arena'

By Jack L. August Jr.

Recently, a friend lamented that the road from Frank Snell and his enlightened public stewardship during the middle decades of the 20th century to Charles H Keating Jr. and his illegal excesses and profligacy in the late 1980s was not that long and that Phoenix somehow lacked a modern-day steward, a "Man in the Arena."

This reference, drawn from the famous Teddy Roosevelt speech at the Sorbonne in Paris in 1910, described a person "who strives valiantly; ... who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

In response to my friend's admonitions, I offered that Phoenix could claim "A Man in the Arena": Richard "Dick" Mallery, a senior partner at Snell & Wilmer and a major player in Phoenix civic affairs since the 1960s.

"Mallery" I countered, "fits that Rooseveltian profile — he has pushed the limits, failed, tried again and succeeded mightily." After pausing to consider my argument, my friend agreed.

Few Arizonans carry the trust, clout and influence of Dick Mallery; the doors of the most powerful open when he knocks. Uttering his name in conversation elicits a wide range of responses, and little, if any, middle ground exists.

His professional legal practice has focused on major business transactions, but his civic involvement has exemplified a life that can best be described as the philosophy of action.

Mallery rarely stops.

An incomplete list of Mallery's public leadership initiatives bewilders the most ambitious. In 1975, for example, he was a founding member of the Phoenix 40, later renamed Greater Phoenix Leadership. At the same time, he chaired the Arizona Organized Crime Task Force as well as the Charter Government Committee in Phoenix.

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And, throughout the 1980s, he played a central role in harnessing the energies of the legal, banking and business communities to work



Richard Mallery

with local and state elected officials to build the \$20 million Herberger Theater Center. It was in the context of this effort that Mallery experienced the downside of civic engagement.

Proposition 8, a failed bond-issue vote that played into the Herberger effort and which promised to remake downtown Phoenix, brought a temporary setback. But Mallery persevered and, in the end, Arizona Center sprang to life and the land between Fifth and Seventh Streets on the northern side of Van Buren Street boasts a new medical school and bioscience campus — a higher and better use for the proper-

ty than a domed stadium.

From the early 1990s to the present, Mallery has been omnipresent. In 1992, he helped organize a group of Arizona business leaders who raised \$15 million to bring Phoenix-based America West Airlines out of Chapter 11.

At the same time, his interests and energies ranged beyond Arizona.

To name a few, he chaired the board of visitors for the Stanford University Law School, has been an active member of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and was a founding member of the Pacific Council on International Policy in Los Angeles.

These commitments served as platforms to give back to the various communities and institutions that had provided him, his wife, Francie, and four children with what he calls "a remarkable quality of life in the place I love, Phoenix."

Recently, on May 5, 2009, Stanford Law School, where Mallery graduated in 1963, announced the appointment of Michael W. McConnell, a federal judge on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and a well-known constitutional-law scholar as the Richard and Francie Mallery Professor of Law. Mallery's gift stands as yet another form of giving back to those who helped him at an earlier stage of his life.

Perhaps his most enduring triumph will be rooted in the development of a bioscience, genomics and personalized-medicine initiative in Arizona.

As founding chairman and CEO of the International Ge-



nomics Consortium, which was the driving force for the creation of the Translational Genomics Research Institute and the Biodesign Institute of Arizona State University, Mallery championed the development of personalized medicine through genomics.

His efforts stemmed from tragedy. His wife, Francie, contracted cancer in 1999 and died of the disease in 2001.

From personal adversity, Mallery, in a stunningly short time, consolidated the political, scientific and philanthropic capital needed to create a bioscience core that will revolutionize personalized medicine and, by extension, Arizona's economy.

This new era of science, technology, and discovery — and Mallery's pivotal role in this new economy — represent perhaps a 21st-century version of Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena," and Dick Mallery's valiant strivings and defeats, have somehow led him to that unique place of "triumph and high achievement."

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Richard "Dick" Mallery

Age: 72.

Birth date: June 7, 1937.

Education: Stanford, J.D.; Cornell, M.A.; DePauw, B.A.

Career: Lawyer, Snell & Wilmer.

Home: Phoenix.

Family: Four children — Kathleen, Patty, Craig and David. Eleven grandchildren.

Passions: Family and work.

Mentor: Frank Snell.

Best advice (received):

There is no limit to the good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit.

If you weren't doing what you are doing:

There is nothing else I would rather be doing. I am quite happy.

Favorite movie: "Lawrence of Arabia."

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