

## **Dick Thornburgh**

Dick Thornburgh served as Governor of Pennsylvania, Attorney General of the United States under two presidents and Under-Secretary General of the United Nations during a public career which spanned over 25 years. He is currently counsel to the international law firm of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis LLP, resident in its Washington, D.C. office.

Elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1978 and re-elected in 1982, Thornburgh was the first Republican ever to serve two successive terms in that office. During his service as Governor, Thornburgh balanced state budgets for eight consecutive years, reduced both personal and business tax rates, cut the state's record-high indebtedness and left a surplus of \$350 million. Under his leadership, 15,000 unnecessary positions were eliminated from a swollen state bureaucracy and widely recognized economic development, education and welfare reform programs were implemented. Pennsylvania's unemployment rate, among the ten highest in the nation when he was elected, was among the ten lowest when he left office.

Following the unprecedented Three Mile Island nuclear accident in 1979, he was described by observers as "one of the few authentic heroes of that episode as a calm voice against panic."

After his unanimous confirmation by the United States Senate, Thornburgh served three years as Attorney General of the United States (1988-1991) in the cabinets of Presidents Reagan and Bush. He mounted a vigorous attack on white-collar crime as the Department of Justice obtained a record number of convictions of savings and loan and securities officials, defense contractors and corrupt public officials. Thornburgh established strong ties with law enforcement agencies around the world to help combat drug trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and international white-collar crime. As Attorney General, Thornburgh played a leading role in the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He also took vigorous action against racial, religious and ethnic "hate crimes," and his office mounted a renewed effort to enforce the nation's antitrust and environmental laws.

During his service as Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations (1992-1993), Thornburgh was in charge of personnel, budget and finance matters. His report to the Secretary-General on reform, restructuring and streamlining efforts designed to make the United Nations peacekeeping, humanitarian and development programs more efficient and cost-effective was widely praised. He also has served as a consultant to the United Nations, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank on efforts to battle fraud and corruption.

A native of Pittsburgh, Thornburgh was educated at Yale University, where he obtained an engineering degree, and at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law where he served as an editor of the *Law Review*. He has been awarded honorary degrees by 31 other colleges and universities. Thornburgh served as Director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government (1987-1988) and has lectured on over 125 other campuses, (including Moscow State University), debated at the Oxford Union and has frequently appeared as a guest commentator on network news and talk shows.

Thornburgh serves on the boards of the University of Pittsburgh, the National Museum of Industrial History and the Gettysburg Foundation. He was previously a member of the boards of Merrill Lynch Incorporated, Rite-Aid Corporation, ARCO Chemical Corporation, Élan Corporation, plc, the Urban Institute and the National Academy of Public Administration. He was the founding Chairman of the State Science and Technology Institute and in 2001, was selected as a lifetime National Associate of the National Academies of Science and Engineering in recognition of his pro bono service to their programs, including the chairing of studies on science and technology and economic development; youth, pornography and the internet; and electronic voting.

Thornburgh, born July 16, 1932, is married to Ginny Judson Thornburgh, a former schoolteacher from New York, who holds degrees from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She presently serves as Vice President and Director of the Religion and Disability Program of the National Organization on Disability, based in Washington, D.C.

The Thornburghs have four sons and six grandchildren. As parents of a son with physical and intellectual disability, they have taken a special interest in the needs of persons with disabilities and, with their son, Peter, were named “Family of the Year” in 1985 by the Pennsylvania Association of Retarded Citizens.

Dick Thornburgh’s autobiography, “Where the Evidence Leads” was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in September 2003. Further details on his career are available online at [www.library.pitt.edu/thornburgh](http://www.library.pitt.edu/thornburgh).

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