



MELVIN MARK | BROKERAGE | CAPITAL GROUP | CONSTRUCTION | DEVELOPMENT

Profile

MELVIN “PETE” MARK JR.



The first time Pete Mark saw Portland he was on his honeymoon. He fell in love with the city and knew almost instantly that this was going to be the place where he would build his career and raise his family.

INVESTING IN THE PORTLAND SKYLINE

The company started as a one-man shop in 1945 with the purchase of the Loyalty Building, The Cascade Building, Yeon Building and the now Oregon Pioneer Building. Just over a decade later, the company had purchased three more historic downtown Portland commercial office buildings. Pete's father didn't live to see the impact of his vision for Portland, but his investment in historic downtown buildings would form the cornerstone of the company for over five decades. As Pete took over leadership of the

company, he cultivated its growth into the region's largest independently-owned commercial real estate firm. With all of his innate talent, Pete believes teamwork and collaboration are essential to the company's success. He is quick to share credit for all that has been accomplished with the partners and employees he has worked with over the years. Portland's skyline is dotted with Class A office buildings developed or owned by Pete and his partners—all contributions to the health and vibrancy of downtown Portland.

From his early days in managing and leasing properties, Pete has held true to a core philosophy about cultivating tenant relationships: **regard tenants as more than a lease transaction, treat them with honesty and respect, and offer great service at a fair price.** He has earned a reputation among clients and colleagues for going the extra mile, and he instilled that belief throughout the rest of the company. Today, Melvin Mark's word and handshake still mean something in the community.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY BEGINS AT THE TOP

Pete is keenly aware that the health and vitality of Portland is a barometer of regional health, and his involvement in stimulating the area's growth and prosperity has made a notable impact. Pete's late wife, Mary Kridel Mark, was influential in expanding his leadership beyond business to serve the whole community. Together, they have been instrumental in advancing business development issues and cultural institutions that nurture downtown's rich work/live/play environment through leadership in countless organizations. Pete and his wife, Mary, were often the first to raise their hand to help an organization or cause in need. Their time and expertise made a difference to many nonprofits over the years, but never more so than at the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon Historical Society and Pioneer Courthouse Square.

As founding chair of the Pioneer Courthouse Square board, Pete navigated a difficult course to bring political, business and community interests together to support the development of Portland's Living Room. He chaired a \$1.5 million capital campaign and continues to provide stewardship to maintain this community treasure.

Urged on by Mary, their involvement with the Art Museum began in the 1990s, when the museum was deeply in debt and struggling with limited facilities. They joined the Board of Trustees and began a long-term love affair with the museum and staff. The couple chaired three fundraising campaigns, raising more than \$125 million for capital projects and an operating endowment, transforming this local institution into one with an international reputation. The couple was equally engaged at the Oregon Historical Society, leading the way with fundraising and generously contributing funds of their own for exhibits and capital projects.

Pete's business and community values have become the backbone of Melvin Mark Companies. He has passed this sense of responsibility onto the next generation of leadership. Pete's son, Jim, took the helm in 2000, and since then, the company has been regularly honored for its dedication to sustainability, corporate philanthropy and community engagement. In 2013, the company was named by the Business Journal as Oregon's Most Admired Company in the real estate category.

DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD

While client relationships have always served as the yardstick by which he measures success, he places a high value on the company's relationship with the community. In his words, "we believe we should take responsibility for reinvesting in the community that provides us with so much opportunity."