

Debra Humphreys '84

Founder and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School, Joplin, Missouri

Upon graduation from law school, Debra joined Davis Polk & Wardwell where she served as an associate in the firm's corporate tax group for nearly eight years specializing in complex financial instruments and M&A transactions. In 1992, she relocated with her husband to Joplin, Missouri, where he became CEO of his family's building products business.

In 1993, she and her husband founded an independent school with a vision to provide children in the Joplin community with the opportunity to obtain world-class education to prepare them for success in college and in life. Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School (www.tjeffschool.org) is the first and only non-sectarian, independent college preparatory school in Joplin and today enrolls approximately 350 students in grades Pre-K through 12, with nearly 50 percent of the students receiving financial aid. Debra serves as chair of the Board of Trustees, and under her leadership, the school has experienced tremendous growth, with 100 percent of students graduating to 4-year colleges or universities, and has led numerous strategic initiatives and capital projects, including the addition of the school's new \$15 million Arts and Student Life Complex. Consistent with their commitment to making educational opportunities available to all, the Humphreys provide 12 full and 64 half tuition scholarships annually to students.

Humphreys' commitment to education and to ensuring opportunity for all children extends deep into her community and she leads the Humphreys family philanthropic efforts in support of secondary and higher education, free enterprise, individual liberty, and community enhancement.

Humphreys is also an ardent supporter of Brooklyn Law School. She is a member of the 1901 Society and endowed the Humphreys Family Scholarship, awarded annually to a deserving female student who has shown exceptional promise in the areas of either tax or corporate law. Humphreys also played an advisory role in the creation of the Law School's new Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE) and made a multi-year leadership gift to launch the Center. She was a recipient of the 2014 "Alumni of the Year" award.

In addition, Debra serves on the board of American Southern Homes LLC, a regional homebuilding company operating in the southeastern US.

Debra received her B.A in Classics from New York University and, in keeping with her lifelong commitment to learning, earned an LL.M. degree in Taxation from New York University in 2017.

She and her husband, David, have 5 adult children ages 24 to 34.