

Biography of Lowell E. Baier

Lowell E. Baier's intellectual curiosity during his 51 year career has taken him from a practicing attorney, to an entrepreneur, a tireless advocate for natural resources and wildlife conservation, and now a legal and environmental historian and author.

Baier received his B.A. in economics and political science from Valparaiso University in 1961 and completed his law degree in 1964 at the Indiana University School of Law where he earned a J.D. He also holds one honorary LL.D. degree awarded in 2010, and a L.H.D. awarded in 2015. After graduation he practiced law in Washington D.C., a city he'd grown to love when in 1956 his Congressman Charles A. Halleck (R-2nd IN) called him to be a Page Boy in the United States House of Representatives after becoming an Eagle Scout. During his early years in the practice of law, he formed Baier Properties, Inc., a Bethesda, Maryland based developer of warehouses, residential properties, and award winning office buildings and shopping centers.

Baier's lifelong passion for protecting the country's natural resources and wildlife conservation began during his childhood while being raised on a farm in northern Indiana, and spending time on his grandfather's homestead ranch in Montana. In the early 1970's, he was one of the original 14 founders of the Wild Sheep Foundation which has funded over \$2.4 million annually to re-establish historically extant habitat for the four species of wild sheep in North America. His exploratory work led to similar programs in both Russia and Mongolia.

Since 1975, Baier has been active in the Boone and Crockett Club, America's oldest wildlife conservation organization founded by Theodore Roosevelt in 1887, and is its first President Emeritus. A well-known advisor to elected officials and educators on environmental and conservation issues, Baier took the lead in drafting President George H.W. Bush's wildlife conservation agenda in 1989, and has been an advisor and counselor to all successive presidential administrations. Between 1992-2010, Baier led in the creation of Ph.D. programs at 5 separate universities dedicated to postgraduate studies in natural resources and wildlife conservation management. From 2004-2007, he led a national campaign to raise \$6.5 million to purchase for the federal government the last and largest remaining piece of privately held land (24,550 acres) that was initially Theodore Roosevelt's historic Elkhorn Ranch established in 1884 adjacent the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, also once part of the ranch, thus expanding the national park by one-third its size. The Elkhorn is popularly called the "Cradle of Conservation" and the "Walden Pond of the American West" since Theodore Roosevelt here conceived the cornerstones of the American conservation movement between 1884-1887 as we know it today.

Baier is the author of the book *Inside the Equal Access to Justice Act: Environmental Litigation and the Crippling Battle over America's Lands, Endangered Species, and Their Critical Habitat*, published in 2015, with a sequel to be released in 2017. He is currently at work on the book *Voices from the Wilderness: A Biography*, which celebrates America's wilderness preservation system and the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Throughout his career, Baier has tirelessly served on numerous boards and commissions for both the local and federal governments, associations and foundations. Presently, he serves on the Executive Committee of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, President's Council of the National Wildlife Federation, is Vice Chairman of the National Conservation Leadership Institute, is one of 12 members of the Conservation Leadership Council sponsored by the

Environmental Defense Fund, and is a member of the Roosevelt-Rockefeller Brothers Conservation Roundtable. He is a member of both the Explorers Club and the Cosmos Club.

Baier has been recognized many times for his extraordinary public service at the local level, and for his conservation work nationally. He was Rockville, Maryland's Citizen of the Year in 1986. In 2008, he was named Conservationist of the Year by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In 2010 *Outdoor Life* magazine selected Baier as the Conservationist of the Year, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies similarly recognized him in 2013. The Indiana University School of Law presented him with its Distinguished Service Award in 2007, and in 2014 he was inducted into the Academy of Law Alumni Fellows, the highest honor the School can bestow on an alumnus; and, in 2015 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters; thereafter, the law school building at Indiana University was named Baier Hall in his honor. Baier became an Eagle Scout at age 14, and received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award at age 76 from the National Boy Scouts of America.

Baier lives in suburban Washington, D.C., and contemporaneously continues to practice law specializing in wildlife conservation and natural resource policy, legislation and regulation, manages his commercial real estate development company, and writes extensively.