

HANNA HOLBORN GRAY, Doctor of Humane Letters (LHD)

Hanna Holborn Gray is the Harry Pratt Judson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of History and president emeritus, University of Chicago. She led the University from 1978 to 1993, and was the first woman to be full president of a major university in the United States. Born in Germany, she and her family fled Nazi Germany to America. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College, was a Fulbright Scholar at Oxford, and earned a PhD from Harvard. Dr. Gray is a distinguished scholar of humanism, political and historical thought, and the history and politics of the Renaissance and Reformation, and she has been an outstanding leader and administrator as a dean, a provost, and university president. She has been a director, board member, or trustee for many institutions, including Harvard, Yale, the Smithsonian Institution, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and many others, and she served as the board chair for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. In 1986 she received a Medal of Liberty award from President Ronald Reagan, and in 1991 she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President George H.W. Bush.