



AJA MEMBER PROFILE

Elizabeth ("Libby") Pollard Hines
15th Judicial District, Ann Arbor, Michigan

We often hear about "judicial burnout," but this is definitely not the case with Judge Elizabeth ("Libby") Hines of Michigan. "I know a lot of attorneys who hate their jobs," she said. "I have always found law, especially criminal cases, fascinating and feel it's a privilege to be elected judge."

A legal career came naturally to Libby. Her father, John B. Osgood, served as a district judge and as a lawyer in private practice. "I always had an interest in the law," she said. "My favorite TV show was *Perry Mason*, which I used to watch with my Dad. Since his death, I discovered he was a member of AJA, too. My father loved the law, and I do, too."

She received a bachelor of arts degree, with great distinction, from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) in 1974, and worked for 15 years as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Washtenaw County after receiving a juris doctor from the University of Michigan Law School in 1977. As first assistant prosecuting attorney in charge of juvenile and probate courts, she specialized in cases involving crimes against children and child protection. She served on the board of directors for the local shelter for battered women and their children, Domestic Violence Project (DVP)/SAFE House, for six years and received DVP's *Distinguished Service Award* in 1991.

Libby's interest in helping the victims of domestic violence continued when she was elected as a judge in 1992. After serving as chief judge of the 15th Judicial District from 1997 to 2001, she requested not to be appointed to that position again so that she could concentrate on her role in a

multimillion-dollar federal grant to reduce domestic violence in Washtenaw County.

"I have the privilege of being the judge appointed by my fellow judges in the seven district courts in the county to represent them on the executive team that manages the grant," she said. "We act as a laboratory of sorts to see what works and what doesn't work in DV (domestic violence) cases when they are closely monitored by judges." Washtenaw County provides a variety of services to counter domestic violence, including a special pretrial and probation unit, with agents that specialize in domestic violence cases; government advocates who help victims get through the court process; and a batterers intervention program for incarcerated defendants.

So, what works and what doesn't in Washtenaw County? The U.S. Department of Justice is evaluating the county's programs. "Are victims safer when the court more closely enforces its orders? Is recidivism lower?" asks Libby. "Those of us on the grant team believe the answer is 'yes' to both questions."

She also believes that AJA has an important role to play in countering domestic violence. Libby has served as chair of AJA's Domestic Violence Committee and has helped arrange for speakers on the topic at AJA's conferences. "This is one of the reasons I'm proud to be a member of AJA," she said. "The AJA has made a commitment to have at least one hour of our annual educational conferences address some issue of family violence. We have heard from some 'cutting edge' speakers. I always learn a great deal from the programs and other AJA members." 