



## **Indiana's Salute to Women** **2008 Torchbearer Award Winners**

*January 22, 2008*

### **Agriculture: Elizabeth "Beth" Bechdol, Auburn**

Nominated by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Described as a devoted wife, mother, and daughter, Beth Bechdol is also recognized as a powerhouse who has established and organized Indiana's first State Department of Agriculture. Recruited back home to Indiana from Washington D.C. by the Daniels/Skillman administration, Beth has played a major role in shaping the economic development plan for Indiana's comeback with a big emphasis on agricultural efforts. Among Ms. Bechdol's many successes at ISDA are foreign trade missions which resulted in wine, hardwoods and food processing agreements, and in bringing federal conservation dollars to Indiana. Under Beth's guidance Indiana's first CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) agreement was signed with Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2006, which brings federal dollars directly to Indiana landowners. The rapport Beth has built with both agriculture stakeholders and state officials has made her a go-to person within the industry.

### **Architecture: Dianna Brenner, Indianapolis**

Nominated by Elayne May Designs

Author, lecturer, advocate and successful architect, Diana M.H. Brenner, AIA, is a passionate and persuasive advocate for her profession. As one of a handful of women who even own their own firms in Indiana, Diana has excelled at her profession and been recognized for her talent, service to her profession and work with the community. Her significant publications and presentations eschew high standards for architects and promote creative collaboration with allied professionals. Diana is founder and sole owner of Brenner Design, the largest 100% woman-owned architectural firm in the State of Indiana. Founded in 1992, Brenner Design ranks in the top 15 architectural firms (the first female architect to make the top 25) and the top 10 interior design firms in Indianapolis. Brenner was the first female architect to design a building for Purdue University and has recently been named as the associate architect for the Mackey Arena Expansion, the largest single project in Purdue's history. Diana has played a key role in crafting legislative policy and being an outspoken advocate for the architectural profession. For the past three years, Diana has worked tirelessly to inform legislators about proposed legislation which would have affected the health safety and welfare of the citizens of Indiana.

### **Business: Yvonne Shaheen, Carmel**

Nominated by the Arts Council of Indianapolis

In addition to being a trailblazer when it comes to her long, successful business career in construction, Yvonne Shaheen is a tireless, enthusiastic supporter of the arts. After retiring from 17 years as the CEO and President of Long Electric, Yvonne continues to be an active, integral part of the Indianapolis Arts scene contributing her time, energy and funds. She has served on the boards of many arts organization and has played an integral role in shaping Indianapolis' image as a city for arts and culture. Ms. Shaheen took over the family business in 1987, when her husband died suddenly of a heart attack. She was on the job the day after the funeral. She felt she had to prove that not only could she run the business, but she could make it more successful. She transformed Long Electric from a family-run business into one of Indianapolis' largest

electrical contractors, with three offices and 300 employees. Running a business in a male-dominated industry was easy for Yvonne. “Men in the construction industry did not want to accept a woman,” says Yvonne. So she walked the jobsites, negotiated contracts, dealt with workers and clients who crossed her and eventually gained their respect through hard work and a daily schedule that started at 4:30 a.m. and ended at 9 p.m. Under Yvonne’s leadership, Long Electric has grown from \$25 million in annual sales to \$40 million and has worked on some of Indianapolis’ most visible buildings. Ms. Shaheen is closely linked with civic and non-profit organizations such as the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, the Children’s Museum, Conner Prairie and the United Way. Her idea of retirement is “to give time and money and not be paid”!

### **Entrepreneurial Advocacy: Billie Dragoo**

Nominated by the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) Indianapolis Chapter

Billie Dragoo is an “outside the box”, entrepreneurial executive with 17 years experience in the healthcare services industry. Billie has started up two companies, successfully managed a major turn around and reorganization of her first company, and is now spear heading the growth of two successful companies. She is also recognized as one of the strongest mentors and role models for women in business in our State. Because of her close relationship to women-owned businesses, she is one of the best resources when a company or contractor is looking for a particular business expertise. Ms. Dragoo is currently the CEO of two companies; RepuCare and RepuStaff whose client lists contain of some of the largest Indiana employers. Her reputation for quality services has expanded her company opportunities from the private sector into the public sector to include the City of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Airport. A past president and “voice” of NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners, Indianapolis Chapter), Ms. Dragoo has created networking associations with other diversity organizations and government entities. Her efforts have resulted in raising the awareness of woman owned businesses in Indiana and raising the percentages of women-owned contracting goals for major construction projects including The Indianapolis Airport, Lucas Stadium and the Convention Center. She is often consulted by political and social leaders for her knowledge and expertise.

### **Health: Marjorie Soyugenc, Evansville**

Nominated by Old National Bancorp

Marjorie Soyugenc came to Evansville in 1970, when she began a career at Welborn Baptist Hospital that led her to serving as its president and CEO from 1986 – 1999. Upon the sale of the hospital, she became Executive Director and CEO of Welborn Baptist Foundation, Inc. The foundation’s mission is to support the improved community health, well-being and quality of life for persons in its 14-county service area. In addition to her personal career achievements, her leadership of the Welborn Baptist Foundation has led, in large measure, to that organization’s commitment to removing barriers that have historically prevented Hoosier children and young women from being able to compete equally with others. Through its emphasis on early childhood development and on health adolescent development, many Hoosier girls and young women have brighter and healthier futures in store for them than ever before. Ms. Soyugenc’s career in health care began at a time when women had not yet attained top leadership positions in the field. Her example stands today in our community as one of the finest examples of women in leadership, and she remains the only Evansville woman who serves on the board of a company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

### **International Community: Sister Marie Kevin Tighe, St. Mary of the Woods (Terre Haute)**

Nominated by Mayor’s Office, City of Terre Haute

Sister Marie Kevin Tighe played an important role in a historical moment for the state of Indiana, and she did so with humility. She was successful in guiding the 11 year effort to pave the way for the canonization of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, Indiana’s first saint in the Roman Catholic Church and only the 8<sup>th</sup> American saint. As the key representative for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods she met with The Vatican, with Governor Mitch Daniels and news media from around the world and made most of the travel arrangements and celebration plans for the ceremony in October 2006. Education is a key component and the historical value of Saint Mother Theodore’s legacy is valuable knowledge for all Hoosiers. Her canonization was truly a historical moment for the State and Sister Marie Kevin’s role has been to ensure that people of all faith traditions understand St Mother Theodore from a historical perspective and can learn from

her legacy. She has traveled throughout Indiana to give educational presentations on the historical meaning of sainthood for Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, and has welcomed many groups to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The canonization has been very important to Terre Haute and to the State of Indiana and Sister Marie Kevin has played an integral role in that long effort.

### **Journalism & Communications: Linda Rendleman**

Nominated by Ambassadors for Children

Through her past 25 years of focus on women's issues, Linda has initiated resources for women, which have improved the quality of their lives. Linda wrote, produced and hosted the weekly 30-minute television show, Business Women Connect on Sunday mornings and the hour-long radio show Business Women Connect on WXNT 1430 for several years, focusing on issues related to the development of women including resources for them in the city. Ms. Rendleman founded Business Women Connect, a organization which aims to connect business and professional women for sharing of resources, information and education in order to increase the quality of life for them and their families. BWC's online magazine include Linda's weekly editorials range from creating peace in your soul to standing up and promoting one another in the workplace. Read by a subscriber base of nearly 6,000, Linda uses stories of passion and commitment to motivate and support business and professional women as a reminder to all women to live their life "on their own terms". Currently writing a book, "Women Like Us", Ms. Rendleman highlights her own story and essays from outstanding women in the community. "She strives to help women professionally as well as personally to meet their fullest potential. Her inspiration has made a difference to hundreds of women", writes her nominator.

### **Labor Advocacy: Lettie Oliver, Indianapolis**

Nominated by AFSCME Local 3730

Lettie Oliver represents 10,000 public workers in central Indiana in her role as Associate Director of Council 62 of AFSCME (Association of Federal, State, County and Municipal Employees). Considered a "voice of organized labor" and a strong advocate for women workers, Ms. Oliver has been named to a number of prestigious boards and committees including Mayor Bart Peterson's blue-ribbon Advisory Panel to comment on Indianapolis works. Ms. Oliver serves currently on the Board of Directors of the Indianapolis Private Industry Council, a premier workforce development entity. While Lettie Oliver represents organized labor well in the Board room and committee table, she always has time for her members and is know for her inclusiveness of all persons. Ms. Oliver has continued to be a strong force in the labor union even during a personal family crisis. She has made it her life's work to educate the women of AFSCME Council 62 in the areas of politics and organizing and has been a powerful force in sharing her knowledge with others for the betterment of all. Ms. Oliver is on the steering committee of the Indiana Chapter of Women Work!, an organization dedicated to gaining equitable economic opportunities for women.

### **Law: Melissa Proffitt Reese**

Nominated by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Melissa Proffitt Reese, a partner at Ice Miller LLP is a visionary who has contributed much to Ice Miller, to her industry, her community and to the State of Indiana. The first female managing partner of a major Indiana law firm, she is described as a trailblazer in the legal profession (only 11% of Managing Partners in the U.S. are women). In addition to this achievement, Melissa helped grow Ice Miller's employee benefit practice from 3 attorneys to 27 professionals making this practice group one of the largest of its kind in the US. She was recently appointed Chair of Practice Development with responsibilities in the areas of major client practice initiatives, as well as a member of the Firm's Strategic Planning Committee, Personnel Committee and is Co-Chair of the Employee Benefit Group. With a full professional life and a wonderful family (she is married with 3 children) Melissa is actively involved in politics and various not-for-profit Boards which demonstrate her commitment to her community and state. At the request of the Governor Melissa has participated as a delegate in 6 state-led trade mission trips to help create business and economic development opportunities for the state. President for over 7 years of the Board of Governors of the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series, was recently named to Mayor-elect Greg Ballard's

transition team. Her nominator writes. “Melissa serves her fellow partners, her community and her state with principled leadership, integrity and enthusiasm.”

### **Law Enforcement: the Team of Elizabeth Robinson and Betty Blankenship (deceased),**

Nominated by the Indiana State Fraternal Order of Police and Representative Linda Lawson

The face of law enforcement across the country was forever changed in 1968 when Indianapolis Police Department policewomen Elizabeth Robinson and Betty Blankenship strapped on their guns and took control of Car 47. In a time when women were considered better social workers than police officers, these two women made it quite clear that women were capable of all aspects of law enforcement responsibilities. Full police duties were denied to women until these women showed the world that they were just as capable of patrolling the streets and ensuring safety as their male counterparts. The old mentality of gender specific responsibilities was changed by the dedication of these two women. Elizabeth Robinson and Betty Blankenship are nominated as a team because they successfully changed the face of law enforcement, which may be one of the last hold-outs for gender roles and inequality in the workplace. In 2001 this law enforcement duo was recognized by the Indiana General Assembly as pioneers in law enforcement and equality for women. The commitment, persistence and courage demonstrated in the professional careers of Elizabeth Robinson and Betty Blankenship have furthered the cause of equality for women within the public safety sector in Indiana and across the country.

### **Military: Kris Bertrand, Indianapolis**

Nominated by the Indiana Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Indiana’s 33,000 women veterans and 2,500 active duty military women are well served by their representative in the Indiana Department of Veterans’ Affairs, a determined young woman named Kris Bertrand. Kris, a Navy veteran, was dismayed when she met so many women veterans unable to connect with veterans benefits and services. She approached Tom Applegate, Director of the State Department of Veterans’ Affairs with a plan to establish a position to look after Indiana’s female veterans and active duty military women. Kris is now a State Service Officer and the Women Veterans Coordinator for the Indiana Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Following her Navy career where she achieved the rank of E-3, Fireman, Kris began her career serving others one-on-one as a veteran’s outreach coordinator for Workforce Development, but she is a “big-picture” person who saw a pressing need to reach larger numbers of women veterans across the state who were unaware of the assistance available to them and who were not being served. Kris has established an on-line registry for Hoosier women vets and in 2007 she hosted the first state-sponsored Women Veterans Conference ever held in the State of Indiana. Attended by over 300 women veterans and numerous service providers, this conference featured Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and Iraq war veteran Major Tammy Duckworth. “Kris Bertrand epitomizes the position of a woman veteran advocate and sets the example for all to follow.”

### **Non-Traditional Career: Christina Ernst, Vincennes**

Nominated by Good Samaritan Hospital, the Knox County Commissioners, Vincennes University Foundation and the City of Vincennes

As a CEO in a decidedly non-traditional field, Chris Ernst had no idea 25 years ago that she would one day be the president of a power line construction and maintenance contracting company, negotiating with utility companies and union workers on a daily basis. Successful in her early career as an admissions officer for Vincennes University, Ms. Ernst’s family was beset by tragedy and she left VU to become the third generation to assume leadership of her family’s business. Learning the business from the ground up, Chris has grown the company into an \$8M per year business, sending workers in on the heels of storms across the country to get transmission and power lines up and helping local utilities to restore power. Ms. Ernst stays on the cutting edge of management styles and has made the transition to “alliance concepts” with contractors, a risk-sharing relationship. Her achievements are slowly radiating through the electrical line construction business. Because of Chris’ hard work and barrier-breaking, more women are entering into electrical line construction and related industries. A breast cancer survivor, Chris has a fierce determination to educate

women about breast cancer and speaks frequently to groups about the benefits of early mammography and the importance of self-exam.

**Religion: Rabbi Susan Laikin Shifron, Bloomington**

Nominated by the Helene G. Simon Hillel Center at Indiana University

Born in Gary, Indiana University graduate Rabbi Susan Laikin Shifron has committed her life to establishing a nationally known center for Jewish life on the IU Bloomington campus that serves the Jewish community and the community at large. In her 17 years on the Bloomington campus, “Rabbi Sue” has transformed the Hillel from a program that served a handful of the then 1000 Jewish students on campus to a bustling center that reaches most of the now almost 4000 Jewish students who attend IU every year. Her Hillel has made IU a destination for students from around the world. And while IU Hillel’s mission is to serve as a “Home Away from Home” for Jewish students, through her partnerships with campus ministers, university staff, professors and the Bloomington community, Rabbi Sue has made certain that the Helene G. Simon Hillel Center is a beacon of understanding and respect for diversity and a safe space for all members of the IU community. The hate crimes and activities that bombarded Bloomington and Hillel Center in 1998-99 escalated to the racially motivated murder of a Korean. Rabbi Sue organized “Bloomington United”, an anti-hate organization, to fight racism and bigotry on campus and in the community. One of few women in a senior position in the Hillel system, Rabbi Sue is seen as a role model for students and fellow professionals. The field of Jewish communal service has many IU alumni in its ranks, many of whom got their start as student leaders working with Rabbi Sue.

**Science & Technology: Janna Foxx, French Lick**

Nominated by Hoosier Hills Chapter 45 of Federally Employed Women

An electrical engineer at Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, for over 25 years Janna Foxx is currently the only female Department Director at Crane and is also a member of the Crane Board of Directors. She is responsible for a support organization enabling the mission of a federal government activity (Navy) that is directly supporting today’s Warfighter (soldier) in the areas of Strategic Missions, Special Missions, and Electronic Warfare / Information Operations. Under Janna’s leadership, contracting purchases close to \$1.7 billion worth of products annually, and she and her managers work continuously to improve processes through the Continuous Improvement Program using primarily LEAN tools and reduce costs. Until 2007 Janna oversaw the community outreach and communications office and she focused on developing active school partnership programs with a focus on science and engineering in the local junior/high schools. Ms. Foxx also gives back through mentoring. She reaches back to others coming up through the ranks through Crane’s formal mentoring program and does a great deal of informal mentoring as well. “She is making a difference in the lives of those she works with, comes in contact with, and with the Warfighter for whom she and her staff are purchasing the services and products on a daily basis. I am sure that she does not begin to know the difference she is making”.

**Social Services: Beth Stein, Lamar**

Nominated by the Crisis Connection and the Crawford County Prosecutors Office

Twenty three years ago Beth Stein, dismayed at the prevalence of domestic violence in Spencer County, established a volunteer toll-free hotline operated out of volunteer’s homes in the evenings and overnight. Fifty calls that first month from victims of domestic violence and sexual assault convinced Ms. Stein that a more services and an advocacy center were needed. She embarked on the task of building Crisis Connection. Headquartered in Jasper and serving a nine county area, Crisis Connection is one of the most respected advocacy centers in the state. Has Beth Stein made an impact? Just ask the thousands of families in Southern Indiana who have been assisted in breaking the chains of shame and abuse and beginning anew, as a direct result of Beth’s commitment to them. Under Beth’s guidance and leadership, the Crisis Connection staff continues to make significant inroads in exposing our region’s disgraceful secrets while offering the opportunity for peace and justice to the survivors.

### **Sports & Fitness: Andrea Myers, Terre Haute**

Nominated by Indiana State University

As the first female athletic director at Indiana State University, Andrea “Andi” Myers had to work in a male-dominated profession throughout her career. She demonstrated that athletics administration is not something at which only men can succeed and has been an exemplary role model for both male and female students, faculty, staff and others. Since her retirement as ISU’s athletic director two years ago, Andi has served as a consultant in areas of NCAA compliance and is currently assisting Indiana State with its athletics accreditation process. She has also been a driving force in ensuring that females have equitable athletic opportunities and her leadership led to the addition of a women’s soccer program and a woman’s golf program at ISU. (not easily accomplished in an era of constrained budgets). A native of Dana, IN, Andi’s desire was always to become a teacher. After earning her undergrad and master’s degree from ISU she went on to teach and then coach at Vincennes University. There she guided the Lady Trailblazers to an a 15 year record of 209-95. Andi returned to ISU eventually being named Athletic Director. Under Andi’s guidance, ISU’s student athletes achieved an unprecedented level of academic excellence with several of our teams leading the nation in grade point average. Ms. Myer has consulted with the NCAA on compliance and is currently assisting ISU with its athletics accreditation process. Her stellar career as a teacher, coach, administrator, and advocate serves as a role model and will continue to have an impact on future generations.

### **Woman in Government: Susan Crosby, Roachdale**

Nominated by East Central Indiana CASA

Susan Crosby served in the Indiana House of Representatives for 12 years and is now President of Women in Government, a national non-profit, bi-partisan organization of women state legislators. Ms. Crosby was the first woman elected to the Indiana House from District 44. A Democrat, she was re-elected time and time again from the largely Republican district and served this district until she decided to retire in 2002. In addition, Ms. Crosby served for six years as the first woman Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore and Vice Chair of the Rules and Legislative procedures Committee. For a long period, Susan was the highest ranking woman serving in the Indiana General Assembly. Serving with mostly men, Susan became well respected and a trusted leader. An advocate for women’s issues, she lobbied for the Indiana Commission for Women among her fellow legislators (mostly men) to ensure successful passage of enabling legislation and was responsible for establishing the Indiana Office of Women’s Health at the Indiana State Department of Health. In 2002, Ms. Crosby left to accept the position of Deputy Executive Director of the Washington DC based Women in Government Organization where she could more fully pursue her goals of mentoring other women legislators, and working on issues that affect women. Having a Hoosier woman in this position is a definite asset for our state.

### **Youth Mentor: Ellen Moore, Elkhart**

Nominated by the Mayor’s Office of the City of Elkhart

Ellen Moore, seeing that the Elkhart schools faced continual funding challenges; that teachers were asked to do more with less; the families in disarray, and 80 different languages being spoken in the schools, decided on her own to make things better. She built a bridge to connect kids to caring, patient and helpful adult tutors, transforming the lives of many struggling students. Just six years ago Ms. Moore envisioned and created CARES (Citizens Actively Reviewing Educational Strategies) which now has 1,700 adult volunteers representing over 200 different businesses, congregations, and service assisting individual students as tutors and mentors. CARES became an official volunteer arm of the Elkhart school system and Ellen was hired to head up coordinating the many willing volunteer tutors. For some of students, their tutor is the single adult, besides their teacher, who pays the most attention to them. Mayor Dave Miller writes “She reminds me of that Olympic runner lighting the way, carrying the Olympic flame to start the games”. Ellen Moore is truly a torchbearer to Elkhart, its students, its teachers, and to the many adult volunteers who are making a difference each and every day.

### **Youth Mentor: Erin Slater, Indianapolis**

Nominated by the staff of College Mentors for Kids

Mentoring changed Erin Slater's life. Orphaned and facing many emotional and educational challenges she thought her waitress job at the steakhouse was her only future. But fortune crossed her path when a fellow waitress, a Purdue student, encouraged her to go to college make some life goals. Following a stint at a community college Erin was finally accepted by Purdue, and there her friend encouraged her toward a new goal; mentoring kids and founding a chapter of College Mentors for Kids at Purdue. She was named Purdue's Outstanding Senior Woman in 2002 and following graduation pursued a career with College Mentors for Kids. As a staff member and, more recently, CEO, Ms. Slater is able to give at-risk Indiana children this same inspiration and harness a growing number of college students in service to their communities. Her resourcefulness and perseverance in pursuing her degree and supporting herself financially during college is proof that college can be made a reality for Hoosier women and others from underprivileged backgrounds. Erin infuses mentoring into every interaction with her family, staff, board, college students, and community leaders. She empowers each person she encounters to make positive life choices by identifying their strengths and providing them opportunities for growth. She is a living example of College Mentors for Kids' mission to inspire, educate, and connect.

### ***2008 Special Awards***

#### **Community Spirit: Gazella Summitt, Vincennes**

Nominated by Vincennes University (Board of Trustees)

Gazella Summitt's contributions to her community and to the State of Indiana are significant and far-reaching. In addition to a 45 year career with Vincennes University, Ms. Summitt has been extensively involved in state, regional and national activities for the American Association for Affirmative Action (AAAA) for many years. The AA Officer for Vincennes University (VU) for 25 years, she also served one term as the national president of AAAA. Gazella was named a Sagamore of the Wabash by former Governor Evan Bayh, and Distinguished Hoosier by Governor Mitch Daniels in recognition to her service to the state of Indiana. She has served her State and local community in a myriad of ways from the United Way, ABWA, FEMA, the Vincennes Women's Health Retreat, as an Elder in her church, and as a former Commissioner and Chair of the Indiana Commission for Women. "Gazella Summitt is the epitome of a successful businesswoman who has overcome many barriers to equality. The manner in which she has succeeded is the most noteworthy of all...through kindness, encouragement, generosity and a strong faith. She was always the proponent of those who were defenseless, and aggressively supported those who she deemed to be mistreated in the workplace. Her style and grace disarmed even the most voracious opposition. Indiana is a better place because of Gazella Summitt – her contributions to the betterment of the state are apparent through those she has touched and mentored through the years."

#### **Heart of Indiana: Fay H. Williams, Indianapolis**

Nominated by Krieg DeVault LLP

Born in Texas in 1933, Indianapolis attorney Fay Williams is nominated for not only for her contributions to the profession of Law, but for her significant and far reaching contributions to women's rights, the advancement and protection of the rights of people of color, and also, for her significant contributions in protecting the rights of the disenfranchised and the most vulnerable of our citizens, the mentally ill. Still in private practice, Ms. Williams focuses on Family, Consumer, and Probate Law, as well as the representation of Small Business Owners and Non-Profit Organizations. She continues to serve as adjunct faculty member at both Butler University and I.U.P.U.I. and is a writer-trainer on legal and political issues. Her civic and volunteer activities are varied and continue to local, national and international organizations. Locally, she has been a member of the board of Directors of the United Way of Central Indiana, Red Cross, Children's Museum, Indianapolis Economic Development Corporation and Past President of the Indianapolis Chapter of Coalition of 100 Black Women. Her nominator writes, "Fay Williams is an intelligent, committed and enterprising woman who has made our community and our world a better place for everyone. We owe her a debt of gratitude and a huge thank-you for her very significant contributions".

### **Keeper of the Light: Judge V. Sue Shields, Indianapolis**

Nominated by DeLaney & DeLaney LLC

From the only woman in her law school class, to one of the first female lawyers to successfully balance dedication to career and family, to the first female trial judge, appellate judge, and federal magistrate judge in the State of Indiana, Judge Shields has paved the way for generations of women. Elected Judge of Hamilton Superior Court in 1964, she became the first female trial court judge in the history of the State of Indiana. In 1978, Governor Bowen promoted Judge Shields to the Indiana Court of Appeals (another first). Her high profile work on that court included deciding the appeals by Boxer Mike Tyson of his rape convictions. In 1993, Judge Shields was appointed Federal Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court of the Southern District of Indiana. Again, she was the first woman in Indiana history to serve in this role. After more than forty years as a judicial officer in the state trial court, state appellate court, and federal district court systems, Judge Shields retired from the bench in January 2007. Judge Shields has paved the way for women lawyers by being an outstanding role model and by mentoring many female lawyers. A personal cause for the Judge has been civility in the legal profession and she worked hard to promote civility in her court rooms, treating individuals with dignity and respect, and offering a friendly audience for people who felt they had been the victims of inequality.

### **Lifetime Achievement: Carole Stein, Indianapolis**

Nominated by Tracie Wells & Company

For the past 30 Carole Stein has been a tireless advocate for Indiana's children. In both the nonprofit community and in executive-level positions within Indiana state government, her efforts have focused on early childhood education (early childhood, child care provider and teacher education) and the health and safety of infants and toddlers at risk of abuse and neglect. While the list of her accomplishments on behalf of children and child care providers is lengthy, of particular note are; her successful fight (against significant legislative opposition) for the passage of 8 minimum standards for childcare facilities (including indoor bathrooms and smoke detectors and running water); and, along with Charlene Lugar, the establishment of the Indiana Symposium on Child Care Financing. This led to an innovative new public-private venture, the Indiana Child Care fund which promotes private sector investments in early childhood initiatives. Her nominator writes, "Ms. Stein encountered a body politic and public who seemed more concerned about public works projects than children. Stein worked tirelessly to raise these beliefs and perceptions to higher levels of thinking, and ultimately pushed people to act. She reached across the aisle by focusing on the issue of children, not on party politics. Stein seized the one issue she really cared about -- the welfare of children and families -- and set out to make a difference". Now at age 75 she continues every day to urge people to revise their thinking about the importance of child care in a civil and developed society, to its economic health, and finally, because it's simply the right thing to do. Ms. Stein is a Sagamore of the Wabash.

### **Spirit of Hope: Bren Simon, Carmel**

Nominated by the I.U. Foundation, I.U. School of Medicine

Bren Simon has long been dedicated to improving the lives of other Hoosiers. Her philanthropic, civic and political contributions have enhanced all facets of life in our state, most recently – and perhaps most significantly – in the areas of health and medicine. In addition to directing both the Mel and Bren Simon Charitable Trust and the Max Simon Charitable Trust, Ms. Simon is co-founder of The Family Support Center, a 24-hour child abuse care center and serves on the Board of Advisors for the Indiana Children's Wish Fund and the Heartland Film Festival. She is a trustee of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Indiana Museum of African American History and the Indianapolis Zoo Executive Prize Committee. She is also a former member of the board of directors of CHIP, the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention, and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation. Bren Simon and the Simon family have made extraordinary philanthropic contributions to Indiana medical facilities in the past year that are certain to have profound effects on the quality of healthcare throughout the state. In late 2006, Mrs. Simon and her husband, Melvin, committed \$50 million to the Indiana University Cancer Center to support cancer research and patient-care initiatives. More recently, in November 2007, the extended Simon family, including Bren



Simon, announced a \$40 million gift toward the completion of a new 10-story inpatient tower at Riley Hospital for Children. Thanks to her exceptional generosity, strides are being made in cancer care and research, the state's only comprehensive children's hospital is improving its facilities and expanding its reach, and needy Hoosiers are benefiting from increased access to medical care.

**Trailblazer: Judge Sarah Evans Barker, Indianapolis**

Nominated by Ice Miller LLP

In the 20 plus years since becoming Indiana's first female federal judge, The Honorable Sarah Evans Barker has presided over some of the state's biggest cases in her inimitable style. Judge Barker's lists of honors and awards; present professional and academic affiliations; present civic and religious affiliations; and her prior affiliations, appointments and offices held is astounding. Her commitment to Indiana is apparent through - but not limited to - those accomplishments, appointments, honors and awards. Judge Barker received her bachelor's degree from IU and her J.D. from American University. She was appointed Judge of the U.S. District of Southern Indiana in March 1984, serving as chief judge from 1994 to 2001. Between 1981 and 1984, she served as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. Active in judicial and legal organizations, Judge Barker was recently elected president of the Federal Judges Association. In 2004, she was appointed by the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, William Rehnquist, to the Special Study Committee on Judicial Conduct and Disability. Since 1998, Judge Barker has worked with the education of judges (international) in the fields of science, technology and health and currently serves as a director of the Advanced Science & Technology Adjudication Center.