



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

# Evelyn Lundberg Stratton

## *Justice*



*March 7, 1996 - Evelyn Lundberg Stratton became the 147<sup>th</sup> Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Her current term ends Jan. 1, 2015.*

Justice **Evelyn Lundberg Stratton**, of the Supreme Court of Ohio, came to the bench by a very different route.

Born to missionary parents in Bangkok, Thailand, Justice Stratton spent her childhood in Southeast Asia. She attended boarding school in South Vietnam at the height of the Vietnam War and later in Malaysia, visiting America on occasion with her parents.

At age 18, she returned to America alone with only a few hundred dollars in her pocket. Working her way through school, she earned a Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University College of Law.

She began her legal career as a trial lawyer in the courtrooms of Central Ohio. In 1989, she was the first woman to be elected Judge of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, where she became known as “The Velvet Hammer” for her approach to sentencing in serious felony cases. Her success on the trial bench led to an appointment in 1996 to the Supreme Court of Ohio, where she was elected to a third term in 2008.

Justice Stratton also believes that the courts, in partnership with the mental health system, can affect positive change in the lives of many defendants whose mental illness has led to criminal activity. To that end, she formed The Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Mental Illness & the Courts, which is composed of mental health, law enforcement and criminal justice professionals who are dedicated to mental health initiatives in the court system.

Nationally, Justice Stratton is co-founder and former co-chair of the Judges’ Leadership Initiative, a professional association that supports cooperative mental health programs in the criminal justice system. Her latest focus in Ohio and nationally is on establishing veterans courts to help those returning veterans with PTSD and other issues, whose problems may lead to involvement in the criminal justice system.

Among her many honors are the Congressional Coalition on Adoption’s Angels Award, as well as the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Adoption Excellence Award.

Additionally, in May 2008, Justice Stratton received an Ellis Island Medal of Honor at a ceremony in New York City. Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to American citizens of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their communities, their nation and the world. Ranking among the nation’s most prestigious awards, recipients are listed in the Congressional Record.

Justice Stratton is the wife of John A. Lundberg III, and the mother of two adult sons. She enjoys painting, Thai cooking, and fly fishing with her husband. But surely her most interesting accomplishment was her first-place finish in a college Stampede Girls Goat Tying Competition — a talent she later put to good use as a trial lawyer.

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

March 7, 1996 - present - Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio

Jan. 3, 1989 - March 4, 1996 - Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Franklin County, Ohio

1985 - 1988 - Principal Partner, Wesp, Osterkamp & Stratton

1979 - 1985 - Associate Attorney, Hamilton, Kramer, Myers & Cheek

## **EDUCATION**

Juris Doctor, The Ohio State University College of Law, Columbus, Ohio, 1978

Bachelor of Arts, History, 1976; Honorary Doctor of Laws, 1998;  
The University of Akron, Akron, Ohio

Honorary Doctor of Laws, Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio, 1999

LeTourneau College, Longview, Texas, 1971-1973, 1974

Associate of Arts, The University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 1973

Mission Boarding School, Dalat School, Tanah Rata, Malaysia, 1971

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

Supreme Court of Ohio

United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division

United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

## **CURRENT LAW-RELATED MEMBERSHIPS**

American Bar Association

Columbus Bar Association (Board of Governors, 1984-1988, 1990-1992)

Columbus Bar Foundation (Board of Trustees, 1986-1991)

Ohio State Bar Association (Council of Delegates, 1992-1996)

Ohio State Bar Foundation (Board of Trustees, 2005-2006)

Women Lawyers of Franklin County

## **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Author of several law review and other articles on legal issues  
Lecturer for Ohio Judicial College and numerous other organizations

## **TRIAL PRACTICE ASSOCIATIONS**

American Arbitration Association, 1979-1988  
Association of Trial Lawyers of America, 1985-1988  
Columbus Defense Association, 1980-1985  
Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, 1980-1986

### ***Honors***

Ohio House of Representatives Commendation for Service, 1984

## **COMMON PLEAS JUDGE ASSOCIATIONS**

American Inns of Court, 1990-1992 (President, 1991-1992)  
Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association, 1989-1996  
Ohio Judicial Conference, 1989-1996

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COURT ADMINISTRATION**

Court Officers and Services, Inc. (Honorary Member, 1996-Present)  
Franklin County Community Corrections Planning Board (Board of Trustees, 1992-1996)  
Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (OJACC) (Board of Trustees, 1995-Present)  
Supreme Court/Judicial Conference Committee on Court Security, 1993-2003 (Co-chair, 1993-1999)

### ***Honors***

Central Ohio Crime Stoppers (Appreciation Award, 2002)  
Cleveland Heights Fraternal Order of Police (Judicial Excellence Award, 1996)  
Ohio Bailiffs and Court Officers Association (Outstanding Achievement Award, 2000)  
Ohio Community Corrections Association (President's Award, 2003)  
Ohio Community Corrections Organization (C.J. McLin Award, 1998)  
Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections (James Wichtman Award, 2006)  
Ohio Judicial Conference (Thinking Outside the Box Award for Court Security Project, 1999)  
United States Marshals Service (Certification of Appreciation For Ohio Court Security Project, 1997)  
Women's Political Caucus, Mahoning Valley (Judicial Excellence Award, 2008)

## **ADOPTION REFORM**

Dave Thomas Center for Adoption Law at Capital University (Advisory Board, 1998-2001)  
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption (Board of Trustees, 1996-2008)  
League Against Child Abuse (Women's Board, 1989-1994)  
National Center for State Courts (Expedited Adoption Committee, Chair, 2000-2003)  
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (The Permanency Planning for Children Committee, 1996-1999)  
National Judicial College (Termination and Adoption Planning Committee, 1996)

### ***Honors***

Congressional Coalition on Adoption (Angels in Adoption Award, 2001)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Adoption Excellence Award, 2001)  
St. Joseph's Orphanage (Scholar of Life Award, 1998)

## **MENTAL HEALTH REFORMS**

Corporation for Supportive Housing (National Board of Trustees, 2005-Present)  
National Judge's Criminal Justice/Mental Health Leadership Initiative (JLI) (2004-Present, Co-Chair, 2004-2008)  
Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Mental Illness and the Courts (Chair, 2001-Present)

### ***Honors***

Delaware Morrow Mental Health and Recovery Service Board (Helping Hands Award, 2006)  
Fred Frese Advocacy Award, 2004  
Harding-Evans Foundation (Academy for Leadership Award, 2005)  
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Ohio Chapter (Mental Health Champion Award, 2002)  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (Distinguished Service Award, 2004)  
Nord Center (Distinguished Service Award, 2003)  
Ohio Advocates for Mental Health (Elected Official of the Year, 2002; National Mental Health Education/Advocacy Award, 2004)  
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (President's Award, 2009)  
Ohio Community Corrections Association (President's Award, 2003)  
Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (Partners in Justice Angel Award, 2004)  
Ohio Department of Mental Health (Award of Appreciation, 2004)  
Ohio Psychiatric Society of Central Ohio (Flame Award for Service in Diversion of Patients from Court to Care, 2007)  
Southeast Inc. ("Recovery" Award, 2003)  
Tri County Board (Nelson Advocacy Award, 2006)

## **OTHER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

ArtSafe Foundation/Memorial To Our Lost Children (Board of Trustees, 1997-2003; Advisory Council, 2003-Present)

Columbus Council on World Affairs (Board of Trustees, 1990-1999; Honorary Trustee, 1999-Present)

Prevent Blindness Ohio, 1988-2003 (Chairman of the Board of Trustees, 1999-2001; Honorary Trustee, 2004-present)

### ***Honors***

ArtSafe (Service Award, 2003)

Prevent Blindness America (Award for Volunteer Leadership, 2000)

Prevent Blindness Ohio (People of Vision Award, 2005)

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (Alumni Public Service Award, 2002)

The Ohio State Bar Foundation (Public or Government Service Award, 2004)

The University of Akron (Alumni Honor Award, 2000)

## **OTHER HONORS**

National Ethnic Coalition Organization, Ellis Island Medal of Honor 2008

LeTourneau Stampede, Girls Goat Tying, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 1972

Outstanding Young Women of America, 1983, 1985

American Biographical Institute, Woman of the Year, 1992

Who's Who of American Women, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Editions

Who's Who in American Law, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Editions

## **PERSONAL**

Birthplace: Bangkok, Thailand (parents were American Missionaries)

Work Address

Supreme Court of Ohio

65 South Front Street

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Family

Husband, John A. Lundberg, III

Two adult sons