



Jon Blue '70

## Distinguished Achievement Award

Connecticut Superior Court Judge Jon Blue's public service career began soon after his graduation from Stanford Law School in 1973. "Three years at a corporate tax firm convinced him he wanted to devote his professional abilities to a different goal," wrote one nominator. For the next 13 years Blue worked as a legal assistance attorney and public defender arguing cases on behalf of indigent clients.

One of his cases, *Little v. Streater*, put him before the U.S. Supreme Court and in the pages of *American Lawyer*. His client, Walter Little, was being sued in a paternity case, but Little couldn't afford to take the blood test to prove the claim was groundless. Blue won the case, arguing that a defendant in a paternity case couldn't be denied a blood test on grounds of indigence.

Noting "the national importance of his dogged pursuit of the rights of indigent defendants," his 25 years as a judge, his appearances before the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and his continued contributions to his profession through lectures, publications, and professional associations, "Jon's achievements and distinguished career are a credit to the legal and judicial professions and to Carleton," says one nominator.

Among the civil and criminal trials over which Blue presided was a high-profile case in which the wife and two daughters of a Cheshire, Connecticut, doctor were viciously attacked and murdered during a home invasion. Despite the complexity of separate trials for the two co-defendants, a flurry of motions on each side, and a voracious press, Blue handled each situation "skillfully and thoughtfully," one of his nominators writes.

Blue maintains an interest in the history of law as well as its practice. Later this year, his book *The Case of the Piglet's Paternity* will be released. Using original records, Blue chronicled legal life in the New Haven Colony from 1638 to 1665. "Only a trial judge could have written this book—and only a trial judge with a love of history," writes one reviewer.

Blue is married to Jean Elmblad Blue '71, and is the father of Eleanor Blue and Miranda Blue '06. He also notes that he is a "fortunate member of a close-knit group of Carleton friends that has shared adventures, happiness, and adversity for more than 45 years."