



## Robert H. Alsdorf '67

### DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

A telling glimpse into Robert Alsdorf's character can be seen in his own words, written in response to his award notification: "Formal recognition and achievements are not as important as what kind of person you are to those around you."

A Washington State Superior Court Trial Judge since 1990, Alsdorf has thrice been named Judge of the Year: in 2002 by the King County Bar Association, in 2001 by the Washington State Trial Lawyers' Association, and in 2001 by the Washington Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Washington Women Lawyers gave him the Vanguard Award in 2000 for "courage on the bench and for promoting fair treatment of women and minorities in court." In the 2000 poll of the King County Bar Association, he tied with one other sitting judge for the highest percentage of "excellent" rankings in overall performance.

Further proof of Alsdorf's competence, principled behavior, and likability came in 2000, when he was re-elected to the bench only months after having declared unconstitutional a tax revolt initiative supported by more than a million voters.

Alsdorf was a *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa history major who served two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone before completing both a J.D. and an M.A. in American history in 1973 at Yale University. During graduate school, he spent evenings as a high school G.E.D. teacher in New Haven, Connecticut. From 1973-75, he was in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and from 1975-90, he was in private practice in Seattle.

A champion of international human rights, Alsdorf speaks Russian (among other languages) and has visited former Soviet republics to help draft their constitutions and laws.

Alsdorf served Carleton as chair of the Seattle Carleton Club from 1986-89. His Carleton connections include his brothers, Frederic Alsdorf '66 and John Alsdorf '63, niece Yuri Alsdorf '96 and nephew Stephen Alsdorf '92, and his wife, Sarah (Schlick) Alsdorf '68. The Alsdorfs have two sons and live in Seattle.