

# Executive Profile

## Jean Ledwith King Attorney, Ann Arbor

Jean Ledwith King puts a lot of energy into work as an attorney and as a member of several organizations.

Interested in politics, she attended law school at the University of Michigan. In 1968, there were 10 women attending the school in a class of 344. "There was so much sex discrimination," said King, 84. "There was discrimination everywhere, in every occupation and in every setting."

King opened her own law office in 1972, which she continues today. In the beginning, she had many sex discrimination cases. She still handles discrimination and civil rights cases but also works with clients on divorce and family law, sports and employment.

In 1970, she co-founded Focus on Equal Employment for Women and the Michigan Democratic Party Women's Caucus, which remedied the severe gender imbalance in Michigan's delegation to the 1972 Democratic National Convention.

She also filed a detailed administrative complaint against the U-M with the Department of Labor. The complaint challenged university practices under a footnote in the Order that prohibited sex discrimination by federal contractors and ultimately got U-M women faculty double their salaries by 1971.

She was a founding member of the National Women's Political Caucus, and she co-chaired Michigan's abortion referendum. In 1974, she began work with Title IX to offer equal sports opportunities to women in high schools and colleges.

She is a member of the Ann Arbor Public Library Board and also is on the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission.

The Veteran Feminists of America honored King on June 9 for her years of advocating for women's civil rights.

King said she serves 100 to 150 clients

a year and has seen transformations in sex discrimination cases, with the bias now coming in subtler forms.

money.

**Word that best describes you:** Bombthrower.

### BACKGROUND

**Education:** University of Michigan: B.A. in English, master's in history, law degree.

**Family:** Husband; three children; four grandchildren.

**Residence:** Scio Township.

### INSIGHTS

**Best way to keep competitive edge:** Frequent change in kind of activity.

**Personal hero:** I can't think of anybody.

**How do you motivate people?** By example.

**How do you motivate yourself?** Keep doing a variety of things.

**Greatest passion:** History.

**Most unique office décor:** Film carrier from old Orpheum Theater.

**Favorite hobby:** Reading.

### JUDGMENT CALLS

**Best business decision:** Private practice in 1972.

**What advice would you give to yourself 10 years ago?** Save more

### CONFESSIONS

**What keeps you up at night?** Worrying about cases or clients.

**Pet peeve:** Aggressive defense attorneys in deposition.

**Guilty pleasure:** Eating.

**First job:** At age 6 selling magazines door to door.

**First choice for a new career:** History teacher or author.

### TREASURES

**Favorite cause:** Athletic opportunity for females.

**Favorite book:** "Games Mother Never Taught You," by Betty Lehan Harragan.

**Favorite movie:** "Casablanca."

**What's on your iPod/car radio dial?** NPR.

**What do you do to recharge the batteries?** Sleep.

**Favorite restaurant:** Afternoon Delight.

**Wheels:** Ford Focus.

■ Christina Field is a freelance writer.

