

MEMORIAL  
THE HONORABLE BOBBI ALPERS

Bobbi Alpers was born on September 10, 1951, to Harold and Dorothy Alpers, in Vinton, Iowa. Due to her father's frequent transfers with his employer, Bobbi attended several schools in Eastern Iowa before graduating from Maquoketa High School in 1969.

Four short years later she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Dubuque with a double major in English and French and a minor in History. In 2013 she was named an Alumna of Distinction by the University.

Bobbi taught middle school English for a year before enrolling at the University of Iowa where she earned a Master's Degree in English in 1975. She then accepted a position as a high school English teacher in the Pleasant Valley School District, where she taught until 1980.

Bobbi then decided to undertake a new challenge and was accepted as a student at the University of Iowa College of Law. She graduated and passed the Iowa Bar in 1983 and then promptly began work as a judicial law clerk for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Davenport, Iowa. 1983 was also a momentous year for Bobbi in that she then married the enduring love of her life, Kurt Ullrich.

After fulfilling her clerkship term Bobbi worked as a Scott County Assistant County Attorney, before opening a private practice. In 1987 Bobbi was selected to serve as a Judicial Magistrate in Scott County and in 1992 the Governor appointed her as a District Court Judge for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. In 2006 the Iowa Supreme Court appointed her to serve as Chief Judge of the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Judge Alpers retired in 2013 and served as a senior judge until 2014. She passed away on December 24, 2020.

Judge Alpers broke new ground for women in the Iowa Judiciary. She made history as the first female to be appointed as the chief judge of a judicial district. Bobbi was also an strong advocate for children throughout her career and in 2006 she received the Advocate of the Year Award from Bethany for Children and Families.

Bobbi was the consummate district court judge and chief judge. She was thoughtful, compassionate and decisive when required. She was also quite frequently the smartest and often the wisest person in the room. Perhaps most importantly, Bobbi was simply a first-class human being. She will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to get to know her.

Judge Alpers is survived by her husband Kurt; her sister Peggy of Oak Lawn, Illinois; her brother Mikel of Wood Dale, Illinois; and by a niece and two nephews.