

Upon graduating from Stanford University and Lewis & Clark Law School, Judge Julie Frantz began her legal career at the Metropolitan Public Defender, where she represented and tried cases on behalf of indigent clients. Five years later she joined the civil litigation firm known today as Schulte Anderson Downes Aronson & Bittner, where she became the firm's first female shareholder. In 1992 she became the first woman president of the Oregon State Bar.

Judge Frantz left private practice in 1993, when she was appointed to the Multnomah County District Court. The following year she was appointed to the Multnomah County Circuit Court, where she served as chief criminal judge for 18 years and continues to promote access to justice. In 2014-2015 she was president of the National Association of Women Judges. Like Justice Betty Roberts, Judge Frantz is a trailblazer for women in the legal profession.

Judge Frantz continues Justice Roberts's tradition of serving as a role model and mentor for female lawyers. Her peers say that she has never said no to young female lawyers and law students when they ask for advice and support. Those who have appeared before her describe her as fair, caring, and respectful, as well as a judge who works tirelessly to open doors of opportunity for female lawyers. They admire her ability to balance her professional life while being fully present as a mother of two children. Outside the legal community, Judge Frantz serves on the boards of Habit for Humanity and the I Have a Dream Foundation. She has delivered meals for Meals on Wheels for almost 20 years.

Judge Frantz is described as passionate, devoted, and inspiring, traits that were also admired in Justice Betty Roberts. Thus, it is with great honor that OWLS presents Judge Julie Frantz with the 2017 Justice Betty Roberts Award.