

Newsmaker - Debra H. Goldstein



The most recent Governor's Newsletter featured Judge Debra Goldstein. If you did not get a chance to read the article, here is a brief recap. Zonta is a wonderful way to meet some very interesting and successful people. Debra is one of those! A Zonta Club of Birmingham Past President and 30 year member, she is a Judge, author, litigator, wife, step-mom, mother of twins, civic volunteer, University of Michigan alum, and Southern woman writer. When her debut novel, *Maze in Blue*, a mystery set on the University of Michigan's campus in the 1970's, was published, it seemed natural for Zonta and Goldstein to partner to help women and children.

In September 2011, the Zonta Club of Birmingham and Goldstein sponsored a *Maze in Blue* live book signing and a two week online and local book sale to benefit the Birmingham YWCA's domestic violence program. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the books that evening, plus sales through other venues for several weeks, resulted in a gift of \$1,000 to the YW's domestic violence programs in Jefferson and St. Clair counties. The book signing event also helped to raise awareness throughout the community about domestic violence issues. In addition to partnering with Zonta to benefit the YWCA domestic violence programs, Goldstein has donated a portion of the proceeds from *Maze in Blue* sales to Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama, tornado relief through the American Red Cross, and other charitable groups whose work benefits women and children.

A senior trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Labor when she joined Zonta, Goldstein became one of the youngest appointees as a federal Administrative Law Judge in 1990. She received a Department of Labor Meritorious Achievement Award for her work on *Marshall vs. Georgia Southwestern College*, an equal pay case of first impression.

Goldstein's experience at the University of Michigan influenced her book from title to end. "As a writer and lifelong fan of mysteries, I want to share my memories of the University of the Michigan through the fun and escape that comes from books like *Maze in Blue*. *Maze in Blue*, the first of a series of Denney Silber mysteries published by Chalet Publishers, LLC, became available in paperback and e-book form on May 1 from many independent bookstores and from online sources including Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Books-A- Million. Since its publication, *Maze in Blue* has been a Top 5 Local Bestseller for twelve weeks. More information can be found at www.DebraHGoldstein.com .