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**Lucas County Prosecutor**  
**Julia R. Bates**  
**Biography**

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Julia R. Bates began her professional career in the Prosecutor's Office under Prosecutor Anthony G. Pizza in 1976. In 1996 she was elected as the first female prosecutor for Lucas County and has dedicated her career to serving the members of Lucas County in this role.

As Lucas County Prosecutor Mrs. Bates oversees numerous prosecutorial divisions including criminal, civil, appellate, juvenile, foreclosure, grand jury and victim assistance. She maintains an open door policy with all staff. It is her belief that in combination with knowledge and experience, having an approachable, positive attitude is key. The result has been a multitude of new programs and processes geared toward justice and the support of victims.

Mrs. Bates contribution to the citizens of Lucas County is substantial due in part to her willingness to facilitate and participate in community groups and events. She consistently seeks opportunities to connect with the residents of Lucas County by serving on a variety of boards and volunteering her time and resources to local events, charities, and organizations. This service is not only gratifying and humbling but keeps her in tune with the needs and concerns of its members.

As an educated woman, Julia R. Bates has experienced the sting of injustice. She recognizes she has been blessed with intelligence, opportunity and support. As Lucas County Prosecutor she is committed to using those tools and resources to represent, protect and support Lucas County residents, the constitution of the United State and the constitution of the state of Ohio with integrity and civility. The oath she took in 1996 coupled with her faith remain as core values.

### **Education**

- Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, B.A. (1972)
- University of Toledo, College of Law, Toledo, Ohio, J.D. (1976)
- Admitted to Ohio Bar (1977)

### **Professional**

- Lucas County Children Services Board, Legal Intern (1976-1977)
- Lucas County Prosecutor, Legal Intern Juvenile Court (1976-1977)
- Lucas County Prosecutor, Assistant Prosecutor (1977-1997)
- Lucas County Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorney (1997-Present)

### **Elections**

- 1996 (elected to succeed Prosecutor Anthony G. Pizza)
- 2000 (unopposed)
- 2004 (unopposed)
- 2008 (unopposed)
- 2012 (unopposed)
- 2016 (unopposed)
- 2020 (unopposed)

## **Programs Initiated during tenure as Lucas County Prosecutor**

- 24-hour Crisis Response Team
- Anti Bullying Prevention Program
- Child Support Prosecution Unit
- Cold Case Unit
- Domestic Violence High Risk Team
- Economic Crime Task Force
- Environmental and Utilities law specialization
- Ezra - full time comfort dog through Trinity Lutheran Church Charities
- Felony Diversion Program
- In-School Mentoring
- Kids Space
- Labor and Employment law specialization
- Notification and Tracking Advocates
- Public Records and Election law specialization
- SANE/SART (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner / Sexual Assault Response Team)
- Senior Protection Unit
- Speaker's Bureau
- Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program
- Victim's Forum

## **Cold Case Unit Highlights**

- 2000 conviction of Anthony and Nathaniel Cook for 1980 murder of Thomas Gordon
- 2006 conviction of Father Gerald Robinson for 1980 murder of Sister Margaret Ann Pahl
- 2011 conviction of Robert Bowman for the 1967 murder of 14 year old Eileen Adams
- 2014 conviction of Andrew Gustafson for the 1983 murder of nurse's aide Janean Brown
- 2016 conviction of Melvin Warren for the 1981 murder of Mark Wiler
- 2020 conviction of Jenna Cisneros for the 2017 to 2020 murders of her two infant children

## **Office Recognition**

- Association of Government Attorneys involved in Capital Litigation
- Hadassah
- Ohio Victim's of Crime Compensation Program
- Sylvania Police Department
- Toledo Police Department
- United States Department of Justice
- United States Department of Treasury
- Zonta Club of Toledo I and II

## **Membership (past and present)**

- Children's Hunger Alliance board member
- Citizen's Dispute Settlement Program mediator
- Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Board of Regents
- Crime Stoppers of Toledo board member
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Counsel board member
- Lourdes College, Criminal Justice Advisory Board
- Lucas County Democratic Party (Executive Committee)
- National District Attorneys Association (Vice President, Director at Large, State Director)
- Ohio Organized Crime and Investigation Commission (appointed by Governor)
- Ohio Prosecuting Attorney's Association (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer)
- Police Athletic League board member

- Read for Literacy board member
- St John's Jesuit High School board member
- Toledo, Ohio and Lucas County Bar Association member
- Toledo and Ohio Women's Bar Association member
- University of Toledo Dean's Advisory Board member

### **Outreach/Support**

- Child Abuse Awareness pinwheel participant
- Children's Hunger Alliance support
- Connecting Kids to Meals support
- Fight Crime Invest in Kids
- Life Connections of Ohio "Green Chair" - raise awareness re: organ, eye and tissue donation
- Mobile Simulation and Education Ambulance/Bus support
- Mom's House support - guides at risk single parents to achieve education and parenting goals
- Read for Literacy Spelling Bee team
- Senior Protection Fair participant
- Tammy Walk participant - walk against domestic violence
- Toledo Zoo support
- Toledo Museum of Art support
- YMCA support

### **Awards**

- 1996 Certificate of Exemplary Service by the Ohio Court of Claims Victims of Crime Compensation Program / Certificate of Recognition from the Ohio Attorney General
- 2001 Gold Heart Award - ACES - for assisting children owed child support
- 2001 Arabella Babb Mansfield Award - Toledo Women's Bar Association
- 2002 Milestone Honoree B Government Award - YWCA
- 2003 Community Service Award - Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority
- 2003 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Ohio - AHERO Award
- 2005 Induction into The American College of Trial Lawyers
- 2006 Outstanding Prosecution Award from Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association for the conviction of Thomas Noe for multi-million dollar theft from BWC
- 2007 Doctor of Laws, Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 2007 Home Run Hitter's Award - National District Attorneys Association for the conviction of Father Gerald Robinson
- 2009 Eleanor M. Kahle Award - TRIAD
- 2011 Campaign for Equal Justice Contributor
- 2013 University of Toledo College of Law Distinguished Alumni
- 2016 Champion for Human Rights and Social Justice
- 2017 American College of Trial Lawyers Outstanding Leadership as Chair of Prosecuting Attorneys Committee

### **Personal**

- Lucas County resident since 1973
- Married to Judge James D. Bates, mother of four
- Member of Trinity Lutheran Church since 1982, Sunday School teacher for ten years, past Chair of Board of Parish Education, past Chair of Trinity School Board
- Hole in One at South Toledo Golf Club August 12, 2014