

A professional portrait of Gerald Glinsek, a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a white dress shirt and a blue patterned tie. He is seated and looking directly at the camera. The background shows a window with blinds and a textured wall.

# Gerald Glinsek

Written by  
Richard Weiner

Photo by Ashley C. Heeney

It is fortunate for the Akron Bar that Jerry Glinsek isn't very handy with tools.... As a student at Akron's Hower High School, which was a technical school at the time, he was being trained to be an automobile mechanic. Not to say that he wasn't up to snuff, but an English teacher at one point suggested to him that he may want to think about going to college rather than continue to try to fix other people's cars.

"I had never considered college until then," says Glinsek, who remains close to everyone he graduated with from Hower.

It is that Akron working-class attitude that has always been the basis of the life of Gerald J. Glinsek, the 2008 recipient of the Akron Bar Association Professionalism Award. He's really a blue-collar guy who uses his law degree the way that it should be used - to help improve the lives of everyone he touches.

The oldest of six children born into a working class Akron household, Glinsek grew up around the intersection of Market and Exchange.

Before he started college, Glinsek had joined the Army in a program that allowed a six-month stint in active duty and another seven years in the Reserves. He had never expected to do anything out of high school but work, and he joined because he saw a want ad for the Army while he was job hunting. He had almost quit high school for a job at Quaker Oats a few months before that, in fact, but that job fell through. Had he gotten that job, his life story would have been completely different.

After the Army, he got a job as an assistant manager in a car repair shop, but the Army had exposed him to guys who were going on to college, and, since he wasn't going to get anywhere in the automotive field anyway, he thought higher education would be worth a try.

"Akron was close and cheap," he says. He

majored in Political Science, still a keen interest, and after graduation, started taking the round of tests for the U.S. Foreign Service, where he was encouraged to go back to school for his Master's Degree.

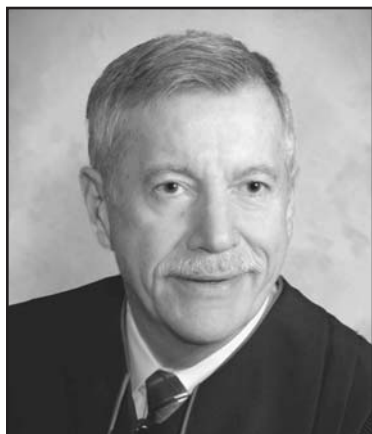
At the time, he was married with a couple of children, working part time at Goodyear, and finishing up his undergraduate degree. One of his Goodyear co-workers was in the same position as Jerry, and had decided to go to law school on top of everything else.

Again, that was an option that Glinsek had never considered until it was brought to him. But again, it looked like a good idea, and so he plunged in, graduating from the University of Akron School of Law, but never leaving his Akron working class roots.

While he was working on his undergrad degree, Glinsek pledged to Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, the first club he had ever joined ("We didn't have clubs in high school," he says). That association has brought him life-long friends, and allowed him to continue to mentor college students as he stays in close touch with his old House, mentoring and encouraging his newly-minted younger frat brothers. More than one person owes Jerry Glinsek the inspiration to go on to law school, and the fraternity still plays a central role in his life. As an undergraduate, he served as president of the fraternity, earning an award for character. He was an alumni advisor to the frat from 1982 to 2006, was awarded the outstanding advisor award for



*Phi Alpha Delta fraternity at the University of Akron School of Law: 1st row (left to right) Ed Parmis (2nd) and Bill Oldham (4th); 2nd row Bill Holder, Jim Burdon, Bob Young, George Clark, Bruce Metz; 3rd row Tim Murty (1st), Jim Williams (2nd), Jerry Glinsek (3rd) and Gus Nunez (5th).*



# ***Congratulations, Jerry!***

## ***Judge Bill Spicer***

1996-97, and received a presidential citation in 2005.

After graduating with his law degree from Akron in 1967, and passing the bar, Glinsek took a position in the Summit County Prosecutor's office, working there until entering private practice in 1971. Now approaching his 70 birthday, Jerry still practices with the vigor of youth, keeping Saturday hours if need be.

He is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association; his work with the Akron Bar Association has included serving as chair of the Criminal Law Committee, the Lawyers Assistance Committee, and the Bar Applicants

Committee. He was treasurer of the organization in 1981, and served on the Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2008. He is a member of the Akron Bar Foundation, and was board president of Summit County Legal Aid from 1978 to 1982.

He is a member of the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts. As a young lawyer, he was the president of the Summit County Young Democrats in 1971 and a member of the Ohio Young Democrats in the early 1970s.

Jerry is also a member of the Goodyear Ski

Club. In fact, he has skied in Aspen for so long that he has friends who have lived there since before all the celebrities moved in. He is a member of the Summit Athletic Running Club, and a 16-gallon blood donor to the Red Cross.

He still lives a stone's throw away from the old neighborhood, in a very modest home around Wallhaven, and you can still find him every morning reading the New York Times and drinking a cup of coffee at Angel Falls.

Jerry Glinsek's life revolves around his immediate and extended family - children (10, including step-children, although one is deceased), two grandchildren, and a large local family that can stay at his house any time that they need to.

Even approaching his 70th birthday, and as a cancer survivor, he is an avid and very good skier, and a competitive runner, consistently winning 5K races in his age group.

His extensive CD collection runs from country (about half) to rock 'n' roll (the other half, with a special emphasis on the Beatles and Neil Young).

Glinsek is constantly reading - about five different books at a time, mostly history, as well as newspapers and magazines. His keen interest in politics and history led him to work closely with the Akron Council on World Affairs, where he serves on the Board of Directors.

Jerry Glinsek's life is a perfect balance between the personal and professional, but you may not know that, or anything else about him, if you just meet him in the street. He is simply a man who has never left his humble Akron roots, described by everyone who knows him as the opposite of a self-aggrandizer.

If the Professionalism Award is an example to younger lawyers of how attorneys should lead their lives, they should pay close attention to Mr. Glinsek. Never turning down any request for help, he will return the favor.



After swearing-in as members of the bar, Cincinnati 1967: Tim Murty, Jerry Glinsek, Ron Yaist, Jim Burdon.



## *Congratulations!*

### *The Judges of the Summit County Court of Common Pleas*

**Judge Patricia A. Cosgrove**

**Judge Paul J. Gallagher**

**Judge Judy Hunter**

**Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer**

**Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio**

**Judge Brenda Burnham Unruh**

**Judge Carol Dezso**

**Judge Robert M. Gippin**

**Judge Mary Spicer**

**Judge Thomas A. Teodosio**

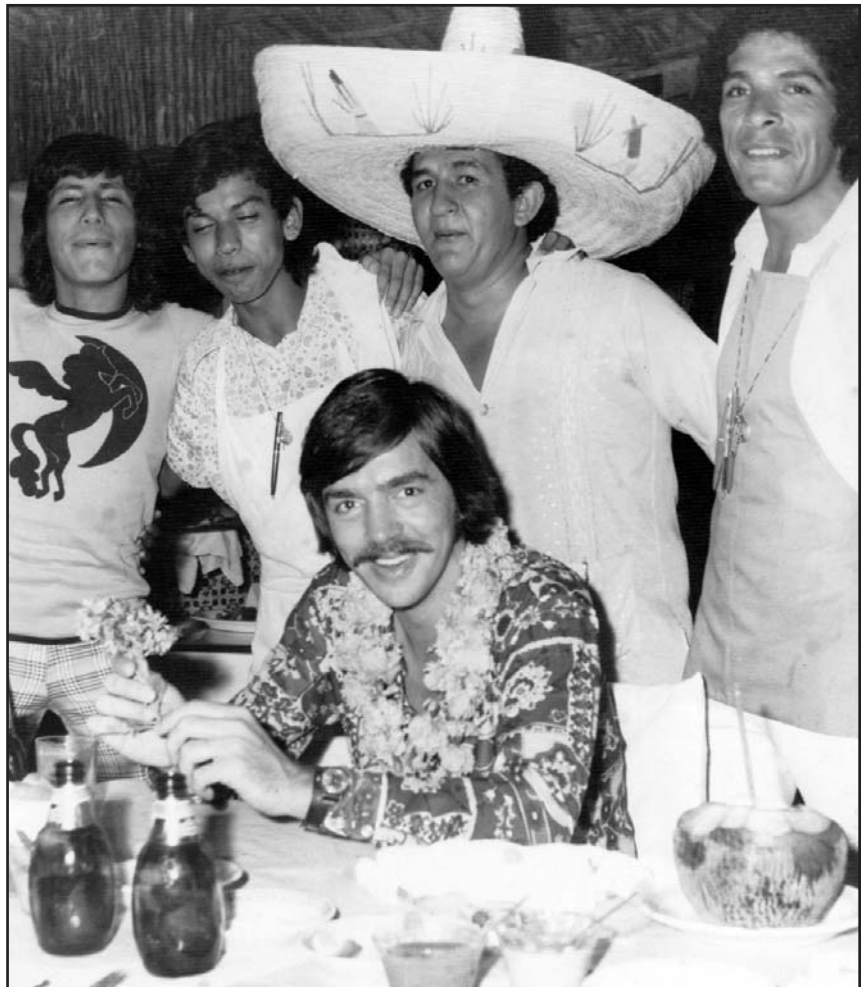
**Judge John P. Quinn**



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University of Akron School of Law Moot Court team: Professor Murphy, John Boynton, Pat Newman, Jerry Glinsek. 2. Daughter Becky's birthday: Dan Glinsek, Kelli Glinsek, Becky Glinsek and Jerry Glinsek. 3. Acapulco, 1970s: Jerry Glinsek. 4. Skiing in Whistler, BC, 1999: Mike Creveling, Wendy Creveling, Jerry Glinsek. 5. Busch Gardens, 1977: Becky Glinsek, nephew Toby Dattoma, Don Glinsek, Jerry, Kelli and David Glinsek. 6. Wedding, 2005: Krista Phillips and Jerry Glinsek. 7. Wedding, 2002: Jerry and Debi Glinsek.



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**ΦΚΤ**

Building Men  
Of Character

# *Congratulations Jerry!*

*The brothers from Phi Kappa Tau want to congratulate Jerry for being honored as the 2008 recipient of the Akron Bar Association Professionalism Award. No one is more deserving of this prestigious honor.*

*Jerry has always been and continues to be an exemplary role model and has earned the respect of all who know him. He is the true definition of unquestioned integrity and selflessness. This is a fitting tribute to Jerry's hard work, dedication and lifetime of outstanding achievements.*

*We are truly thankful for his many years of service to our chapter!*