

Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College

Alumnae Achievement Award 2018

Presented to

Susan Rieger '68

SUSAN RIEGER, CLASS OF 1968, the Alumnae Association of Mount Holyoke College is pleased to honor you with the Alumnae Achievement Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments and service to society exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

Susan, you have dedicated your professional life to the advancement of women and minorities as a lawyer and a leader in higher education. Most recently, you have harnessed the power of fiction writing to examine the complicated waters of family and work in the early twenty-first century.

You intended to practice civil rights law after graduating from Columbia Law School. But marriage and the birth of your daughter took you to England and then back to the United States, where you worked part time at a law firm and lectured at Brooklyn Law School. You later worked as a freelance journalist—writing about the legal aspects of abortion, divorce, and health care—and as a lecturer in legal studies throughout the Pioneer Valley, including at Mount Holyoke. In 1992 you were named dean of Ezra Stiles College at Yale and a lecturer in English and women's studies. Beginning in 2002, and for the next eleven years, you served as Columbia University's associate provost for equal opportunity and affirmative action, coordinating programs that promoted diversity and creating a working and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. In 2014 you published your first full-length novel, *The Divorce Papers*, which *All Things Considered* called "a smart and wonderfully entertaining domestic comedy." NPR listed your second novel, *The Heirs*, among the best books of 2017. You have seamlessly woven your personal narrative and experiences into every aspect of your public work.

SUSAN, for your outstanding accomplishments, the Alumnae Association is honored to present you with the Alumnae Achievement Award, on this, your fiftieth reunion.