The Hon. Tatjana Schwendinger is a 1969 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a double major in French and history and a 1972 graduate of Washington University School of Law. An expert on actions by employers and managers that lead to problems for the employer and to complaints that come before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), she has processed more than 2,000 cases. She has been an Administrative Judge with the EEOC since 1983 and has been the Supervisory Administrative Judge since 1995. Prior to her work at the EEOC, Judge Schwendinger worked in private practice and with the National Labor Relations Board.

Judge Schwendinger understands the challenges of overcoming adversity, not only in the workplace, but also as part of her family history. She was born in Holland, the eldest of four children. Her mother, a Polish Jew, survived the Holocaust by assuming false identities and working as a non-Jewish slave laborer in Germany. After the war she met and married Johannes Martinus Arnold (Hans) van der Horst. They immigrated to the United States and spent their lives supporting organizations that promote public education, civil rights, religious freedom, and Jewish culture. Schwendinger’s mother received Holocaust reparations and carefully invested them over many years. Following their mother’s death in 2006, Schwendinger, her two brothers, and sister used their mother’s investment to create an endowed professorship of Jewish Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to honor their parents.

Judge Schwendinger has served on the board of the Forsyth School and on either the board or a committee of the Grace Hill Settlement House since 1991. She and her husband, Bob, JD ’71, are members of Washington University’s Law Eliot Society and Scholarship Initiative Committees as well as annual scholarship donors, and they have established a bequest commitment to fund an endowed scholarship at the law school.