

A Heartfelt Tribute to Sue Greenberg

–from–
Katie Wagner
Alma Robinson
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We three are the Executive Directors of the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts organizations in New York (Katie), California (Alma), and Chicago (Jan). More importantly, we are–proudly–Buds of Sue (or “BOS’s” for short, pronounced just the way it reads).

As bosses and BOS’s, we’re used to making our opinions known–and we couldn’t let this celebration pass without adding our collective .02’s on how we feel about Sue on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of St. Louis’s VLAA.

We’ve each known Sue for varying multiples of decades. We met through our participation in a national consortium of VLA groups from across the country working to strengthen our shared mission of supporting the arts. Our annual meetings are usually filled with lawyers representing their respective organizations.

And as everyone knows, whenever lawyers congregate, they create a stunning blend of the highest human virtues – decorum, respectfulness, patience, moderation, of course logic, welcoming speaking styles, and so much more.

And then there’s Sue. Not a lawyer and therefore incapable of acting nice. Brassy. Yes, bossy. Imposing her views through volume rather than logic. Favoring shock-and-awe over Emily Post. Leaving the rest of us slack-jawed and utterly incapable of getting anything done.

But we're lawyers. So of course, we never complain.

Okay. Okay. We've got that exactly backward.

The truth is quite the opposite—at least the part about Sue (we're still holding onto the essential goodness of all lawyers...).

The group—and we three especially—are Sue's biggest fans. She is our colleague, and our friend. We count on her intelligence, her subtle sense of humor, and especially her sense of the absurd. Everyone trusts Sue, even when she's "working the room," because we always know her heart is in the right place.

We each have our Sue Stories we could tell here, but maybe not well enough without being there. Suffice it to say that we've all benefited greatly from her history of accomplishments in St. Louis, her appreciation and knowledge of the challenges facing those in the arts, and her skills in reaching consensus among strong-willed folks. You deserve every ounce of praise and appreciation you are receiving today, and we're happy to add our thoughts as well.

Sue has been nothing short of effusive in her praise for Nathaniel. Since she shared the news of his appointment, we've received an uninterrupted stream of positive reports—and a sense of genuine, relaxed satisfaction. Best of luck to you, Nathaniel. We all look forward to working with you.

Sue, we are sad to see you retire. But we look forward to learning about what you're doing tomorrow, and the next day...

With all our affection and gratitude—

Your BOS's,

Jan Leticia Alma