

Last week the legal community lost one of our favorite friends and mentors, Gail Ruopp. Gail joined the legal industry in 1993 when she started at Bennett, Bricklin and Saltzburg. After that, her career took her to Flaster Greenberg and Panitch Schwarze. Gail served as President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA) in 2015 and 2016 and was also heavily involved in the International Legal Technology Association (ILTA), the Legal Resource Network and countless other legal industry groups. She was a pioneer in developing the Director of Administration or Executive Director role at a law firm.

Rose O'Drain, Director of Philadelphia Administrative Services at Cozen O'Connor, says of Gail, "When I think of her, inclusiveness comes to mind more than anything! It never mattered to Gail who you are, what you do, what firm you worked for, because she treated everyone the same. She was a true leader who had a wealth of knowledge and was more than happy to generously help anyone who needed it."

Beyond knowing everyone in the community, Gail truly cared about each person. The stories about the impact she made on people are countless. She helped many land a job, lifted them up when they were sick, drove countless charitable efforts and really lived a life of service to our legal community. "She was always the first person to jump in to answer questions, share information, and offer solutions," shares Diane Burkhardt, Office Administrator at Lewis Brisbois. "Her energy was contagious. She was a constant cheerleader, always encouraging everyone to move out of their comfort zones."

In addition to her contributions to our profession, "she will be lovingly remembered for so many '*Gailisms*' including her full-bodied and distinctive laugh, her encouraging friends/colleagues to not be afraid to take a risk because 'she always carried bail money with her,' and her welcoming nature to ensure that everyone felt included at all networking events/social occasions," shares Ann Gorr, legal consultant. She truly was one of those people that lit up a room regardless of size. "Gail was a smart and sassy woman. She had a wonderful sense of humor. She always encouraged me to "go for it" when a professional growth opportunity/challenge presented itself," adds Carmela Ginsberg, Director of Operations at Horn Williamson.

The legal community lost a great one in Gail and all of us will miss her dearly. Thank you, Gail for being a friend, mentor, leader and confidante. Thank you for making us laugh with your unique style and class all these years. We will save you a spot at every ALA event, forever.