



Karolyn Vreeland Blume Esq.

July 16, 2024

Karolyn Vreeland Blume, Esq., 71 of Allentown, passed away peacefully at home on July 16, 2024.

Blume was a prominent member of the legal community in Allentown for over 45 years. She was a trail blazer who found great joy in opening doors for others. She was among the first women licensed to practice law in Lehigh County 1977 and was admitted to the United States Supreme Court in 1986. While in private practice, she became the first woman and youngest person to be elected President of the Bar Association of Lehigh County in 1990. In 1992, she became a Senior Law Clerk in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, before becoming counsel at the PPL Corporation in 2001. In 2004, Karolyn opened a mediation practice where she used her consensus building skills to help people resolve their disputes amicably. She continued this work for 20 years, publishing *Eat the Elephant: Overcoming Overwhelm* in 2015.

Naturally intelligent and possessed of a remarkable work ethic, she was extraordinarily generous with her time and expertise. She was an adjunct faculty member at Muhlenberg College and Cedar Crest College and starred in Channel 39's live call-in show *Lehigh Law Line*. She was affiliated with many local and national charitable organizations including *Mediators Beyond Borders*, the *United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley*, the *Allentown Rotary*

Club, the Girls Club of Allentown, the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Allentown Zoning Board of Appeals.

Blume was the daughter of Donald W. Vreeland and Margaretta Waller Vreeland. Born and raised in New York City, Blume later moved to Summit, New Jersey with her family. There she graduated from the Kent Place School, where she played goalie on the field hockey and lacrosse teams. She enjoyed her summers in Mantoloking, New Jersey, where she was an avid sailor. She earned a B.A. in Political Science with honors from Skidmore College where she was also the Student Body President, and a J.D. from Villanova University School of Law. After that she settled in Allentown to open her first law practice.

Beloved mother, sister, and aunt, Blume is survived by her daughter the Honorable Susanna Vreeland Blume, her sister Ticia Vreeland, her brother Garret Vreeland, and her nieces and nephews Whitney, Doug, Lucas, Annie, and Meg Vreeland. Blume is predeceased by her parents and her brother Douglas Vreeland.

A celebration of life will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 11 A.M. in the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home, 16th and Hamilton Sts. Allentown.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Blume's honor to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc
1601 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 433-5161
info@jsburkholder.com
<https://jsburkholder.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc created a Webcast in memory of Karolyn Vreeland Blume Esq.*



J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc - July 25, 2024 at 08:22 AM

DC

“ I just heard this news and I'm in shock and so sad. Karolyn was a business coaching client of mine for more than 10 years - that's how we became friends. I was there through the process of her writing her book and helped her market it. Oh, how she hated that word - "marketing". Lol - I can hear her voice in my head now.

She had a wicked sense of humor that was all her own. And she was always filled with great insight and advice.

I feel like I know Susanna even though I've never met her - the stories Karolyn told. She was so very proud of you.

I loved to listen to her talk and tell stories and give historical information on things. She was so smart.

I could go on and on but that would be more for me than anything else. I'm writing this with tears streaming down my face - I literally just heard the news of Karolyn's passing.

I guess I'll be celebrating our common birthday without you tomorrow.

The world lost a good one when you left this earth my friend.

(I wish I had known - I would have flown in for the service).

Shine your light bright my friend - I will carry a piece of you with me forever - and feel an emptiness from this loss for a long time to come.

Diane Conklin - August 15, 2024 at 11:33 AM

JB

“ Dear Sue, We were so sorry to read of your mom's passing. I still remember the November day when we were to go to Hopkins to see Alissa play and return you to school. When we were stopped by a sudden and severe snow squall, we no longer had a reason to go to Hopkins. I felt terrible taking you home and having your mom need to take you back to school. But she was very gracious! Of course she would drive you back. What's a little 5 hour round trip ride! You must have so many wonderful memories, Sue. It is my hope and prayer that those memories and God's great love for you will comfort you in these sad, sad times.
Most sincerely,
Judy and Tom Burkholder

Judy Burkholder - July 23, 2024 at 08:52 PM

DS

“ As a classmate at Villanova Law, I knew Karolyn as one of the wittiest, funniest members of our lunch table group. Yes, she was a great lawyer, but she was also someone who loved to laugh. I treasure those memories.

Dan Spengler - July 21, 2024 at 07:49 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Karolyn Vreeland Blume Esq..



July 21, 2024 at 04:13 PM

K1

“ Kent Place Class of 1970 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karolyn Vreeland Blume Esq..

Kent Place Class of 1970 - July 21, 2024 at 04:13 PM

CF

“ Condolences and prayers for the entire Blume family. What an incredible, inspiring woman!!

CFS - July 20, 2024 at 11:20 AM

DS

“ My deepest sympathy to the entire family at this time of loss. May the peace of God be with you.

Doctor Smith - July 19, 2024 at 09:23 AM