



## Brenda Joyce Russo

September 15, 1949 - October 9, 2019

Brenda Joyce Russo, an accomplished attorney, devoted friend, and loving mother, passed away peacefully on October 9, 2019. Brenda had an incredible work ethic. She overcame an extremely difficult childhood and put herself through college and law school while working full-time and supporting two young children. She passed the California State Bar exam and was sworn in as a lawyer in 1986 in San Francisco, California. Brenda's traumatic childhood became a driving force behind a career devoted to protecting children, women, and families. She began her career doing civil and personal injury work, but soon pursued her passion to protect and advocate for children in the foster care system. Brenda was a

fierce advocate for children and she developed the idea to establish a law practice focused specifically on children. In 1989, she co-founded Legal Services for Children in Solano County, and over the next several years, she fought tirelessly on behalf of thousands of children in the juvenile dependency system. In 1994, Brenda went on to co-found her second successful law practice with one of her closest friends, Leslie Prince; during this time, Brenda transitioned her practice to the area of family law. The Law Offices of Russo & Prince continues to serve the Solano County community 25 years later. Over the course of her long and distinguished legal career, Brenda became a Certified Family Law Specialist, an accomplished mediator, and was admitted to practice in the California Supreme Court.

Brenda's eldest daughter, Julie Russo Kumler, is a high school English teacher who shares her mother's enthusiasm for grammar, writing, and reading. Brenda had a penchant for correcting the grammar of everyone around her; Julie now continues that practice for her students. Brenda's first grandchild, Hannah Russo, also shares her grandmother's love of a good mystery, and is studying to be a teacher as well. Brenda's youngest daughter, Sarah Russo, shares her mother's legal acumen and has followed in her mother's professional footsteps. Sarah now practices family law at Russo & Prince in her mother's former office, beneath the same 30-year-old ficus tree.

Brenda was predeceased by her brother Rick, husband Kenneth Woolsey, grandson Brendan Woolsey, and two beloved dogs Molly and Charlie. She is survived by her loving daughters, Julie Russo Kumler and Sarah Russo, grandchildren Hannah Russo, Maya Kumler, Layla Kumler, Maeve

Rounds-Russo, and Aurora Rounds-Russo, ex-husband Andrew Russo, brother and sister-in-law Daniel Russo and Mary Lessa Russo, niece Miranda Russo, and nephew Nick Russo.

Brenda was deeply loved by the family she helped build, and her passing is a tremendous loss to all who loved her.

A memorial service to honor Brenda Russo's life will be held at the Rancho Solano Clubhouse on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

\*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Brenda Russo's honor to any of the following organizations: The Elizabeth Warren campaign at <http://www.elizabethwarren.com> ; Koinonia Family Services at <http://www.kfh.org> ; The Humane Society <http://www.humanesociety.org> .

# Events

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**NOV**   **Memorial Service**   04:00PM - 05:30PM

**2**

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Rancho Solano Clubhouse

3250 Rancho Solano Parkway, Fairfield, US, 94534

# Comments

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“ I am so sorry to hear of her passing. She helped advocate for our foster sons and helped us adopt them. She helped change our lives in a way we never knew possible. It's been 10 years since then. We will always hold a special place in our hearts. Our deepest condolences.

**Rachel Marcovitch** - December 14, 2019 at 09:06 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Hannah Russo** - November 03, 2019 at 05:57 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



**Dianna Gonzales** - November 02, 2019 at 11:34 AM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Brenda Joyce Russo.



November 02, 2019 at 11:27 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dianna Gonzales - November 02, 2019 at 11:20 AM

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“ Brenda

We are so eternally grateful to you and your family for the joy you brought to Ken's life, and ours. You were always so supportive, always willing to take the time to listen and console. You have such a quiet strength about you and are an incredible role model, for your daughters, your grandkids, Ken . . . all who were blessed to know you. I miss your smile, your twinkling blue eyes, and your hugs. I know you are with God and those who preceded you home. Our thoughts and prayers of comfort go out to Julie, Sarah, Leslie and your families. Your mom and law partner were amazing. And so are you!



Dianna Gonzales - November 02, 2019 at 11:08 AM

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“ So saddened to hear about Brenda. I met Brenda as a CPS Social Worker, but I really got to know her when she represented me for the custody of my son. She was quiet, observant, and a great listener. Brenda would use all those skills and then she would go for the attack like a lion in the court room. I'll never forget the way she represented me! The courtroom was quiet when she spoke! People put their heads down, because I think they felt my son's father's shame! The court reporter couldn't keep up! Brenda was on fire! No other like her. She will be missed dearly!

Charlotte Richardson - October 24, 2019 at 09:33 PM

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“ Sorry to hear of Brenda's passing. I didn't work with her a lot (or against her-as it happens in the lawyer world)- but saw her a lot. She was always soft spoken, but it seemed everyone listened to her. Kudos to her for all the good work she did. Her office, Russo & Prince is always very professional and pleasant to work with. Best wishes to all who are missing her.

Doris McCready SBN # 148832

Doris McCready - October 22, 2019 at 02:49 PM

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“ Brenda and I have made many memories together .She was my sister-in-law but really so much more. Over the years, we had many long , deep conversations about our lives , loves and children.One of my favorite memories is of us driving back from the ultrasound of my daughter , talking about motherhood and not knowing that she was pregnant with her daughter , too ! There are too many memories to share but they'll always remain in my heart . She'll be there every holiday , especially when we attempt to duplicate her red pepper soup . We'll feel her gentle , kind, generous spirit every day,

mary russo - October 19, 2019 at 01:38 PM