



St. Pete's a Better Community Because of Louie Adcock

Heroes Among Us

Louie suggests that community service is a "very good fit" for lawyers. He feels that lawyers, with their special training and skills, are very well qualified to lead community organizations. The need to "pay your dues" is still another reason attorneys need to be involved out of the office, according to Louie.

There is probably no better example of a lawyer who has served and continues to serve his profession and his community than Louie N. Adcock, Jr. If there was ever such a thing as a professional and community service MVP, Louie would be a strong contender for that award.

He has been not just a member, but president, chair or executive committee member of at least ten major bar organizations. Likewise, he has been president, chair, vice-president, or director of at least fifteen Community Service organizations over his 48 years of lawyering. He is not finished yet.

For example, he continues to be active as a trustee of the All Children's Hospital Foundation and he is on the Board of Directors of All Children's Health System. In addition, he is on the Board of Directors of Bay Area Legal Services. The "Professional Affiliations, Offices and Activities" part of his resume spans three pages (single-spaced). A few highlights of Louie's bar services include St. Petersburg Bar President 1977-1978; Executive Committee, Board of Governors 1983-1985; Convention Chairman, The Florida Bar Annual Meeting 1984; Candidate for President of The Florida Bar; Chair of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section, 1992-1993, and President of The Florida Bar Foundation 1990-1991.

My father, a retired general surgeon and founder of Suncoast Hospital in Largo, has asked me why lawyers are so involved in community service organizations and community affairs. My stock answer has been that community service has its "business development benefits." Louie does not deny these benefits. Furthermore, he believes the friends you make in the community do not always want to be your clients because they may not wish to disclose their private matters to you. However, Louie's experience is that they will refer their friends and acquaintances to you. Besides serving on a number of Ethics and Professionalism Committees, Louie has been a Board of Governor's Liaison to The Economics and Management of Law Practice Section of The Florida Bar. Thus, he is qualified to comment on the business side of the practice of law.

In addition, Louie suggests that community service is a "very good fit" for lawyers. He feels that lawyers, with their special training and skills, are very well qualified to lead community organizations. The need to "pay your dues" is still another reason attorneys need to be involved out of the office, according to Louie.

One side of Louie's family moved to St. Petersburg in 1913. The other side of the family moved to St. Petersburg in the 1920's. Louie graduated from St. Petersburg High in 1948. He has worked for Fisher and Sauls, P.A. since obtaining his law degree from the University of Florida in 1956. Louie loves St. Petersburg, so giving back to his community has not been hard for him. Louie points out that St. Petersburg has been a good place to raise his three children and it has many desirable attractions, namely, cultural events, museums, stadiums and airports. Mary, his bride of 47 years, has also been active in the community. Louie just plain loves people and desires to serve them. While, his love for community may have been fostered by his deep family roots, his involvement in Boy Scouting came from a desire to be involved with his two sons. Both sons achieved "Eagle Scout" status. He also has raised a daughter. His three children have provided him with seven grandchil-

Brant Bailey

dren.

When asked what initially influenced his decision to get involved in the community, he admits that Mr. Fisher and Mr. Sauls both made "strong suggestions." For instance, in the early stages of his career he was "volunteered" to work on a political campaign for someone he did not even know. Also, Louie mentioned the late Judge Anderson as an attorney who was a good community service model.

Louie denies any real scheme or method to his out of the office involvement, but his resume reveals some patterns. First, one of his initial presidencies came in 1961-1962 as the St. Petersburg Chapter President of the University of Florida Alumni Association. In 1965-1966, he served as President of the Sertoma Club of St. Petersburg. He said he chose to serve in this club because he felt he fit in well with the other members and they did not have a lawyer "quota" or restriction as to the number of lawyer members. Second, his leadership activities with the St. Petersburg Bar began in the 1970's and culminated in his becoming President in 1977-1978. Though he began a few of his state bar activities in the 1970's, most of his state bar work took place in the 1980's. For example, his Board of Governor's Service took place in the 1980's. However, his Real Property, Probate and Trust law section work began in the 1980's and continued through the 1990's. His Florida Bar Foundation leadership took place in the early 90's.

Louie saw military service in Korea and the Army Reserves. His tenure with the military lasted 22 years. He also taught Real Property as an adjunct professor at Stetson from 1988-1991. In addition, he was a "My View" columnist for the St. Petersburg Evening Independent and the St. Petersburg Times. Furthermore, he became Board Certified in Wills, Trust and Estates in 1986. He credits certification with producing clients referred to him by out of state lawyers.

In conclusion, St. Petersburg is a better place because of men like Louie N. Adcock, Jr. It is easy for Louie, to give back to the community because he loves St. Petersburg. He does not seem to mind fellow lawyers too much either. Most of us will never volunteer as much as Louie Adcock but all of us can learn from, and be inspired by his legendary record of service to the legal profession and the local community.

Brant Bailey has practiced in St. Petersburg since 1985. He received his J.D. from Cumberland School of Law and an L.L.M. in Taxation from Washington University School of Law. Mr. Bailey's practice includes adoption law, tax, estate planning, trusts and guardianship.



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