



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ruth Batson, CEO of the American Gem Society and AGS Laboratories, to Retire in June, 2017**

**Las Vegas, NV (February 8, 2016)** – The American Gem Society (AGS) and AGS Laboratories announced today that Ruth Batson, CEO of both organizations, will retire. The retirement is slated for the summer of 2017.

The AGS Board of Directors will be forming a committee to hire a new CEO. Louis Smith, AGS President, stated, "Ruth will participate in the search and onboarding process of the new CEO. We are confident that we will find a great successor to guide the organization forward. Ruth has generously provided us with ample time to make a seamless transition."

"I have been a part of AGS for 23 years, which has been my entire career in the jewelry industry," said Ms. Batson. "I am deeply passionate about the mission of AGS and AGS Laboratories. It is a privilege and honor to serve the membership. I will forever feel connected to the wonderful AGS and AGS Laboratories staff, the members, and my jewelry industry friends. We have an excellent team, and I know the Society and Laboratory will be in good hands." Ms. Batson plans to split her retirement between a ranch in Montana and her home in Las Vegas.

Scott Berg, President-Elect of the AGS Board of Directors, stated "Ruth will be greatly missed. She has protected the Society's many assets and ensured its long-term sustainability during her tenure. The Society is on a strong financial footing, which is directly related to her outstanding management."

AGS President Louis Smith said, "Ruth has dedicated herself to ensuring the mission of AGS is fulfilled. She has built a strong team and made a lasting impact on the history of AGS. We are forever grateful for her service and contribution to the American Gem Society and AGS Laboratories. She will always be part of the AGS family."

Ruth also serves on the boards of the Women's Jewelry Association, Jewelers Vigilance Committee, Jewelers for Children, U.S. Jewelry Council, JCK Show Advisory Board, and Chair of the Ethical Initiatives Committee for the Jewelers of America. Her recent achievements include the Excellence in Service Award from the Women's Jewelry Association (2010), the Jewelers for Children Facets of Hope honoree (2012), the Doyenne of the Year Award (2013) from the Indian Diamond & Colored Stone Association, and in 2014, Ruth won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Jewelry Association. For the last four years, since 2012, JCK magazine has included Ms. Batson in the "JCK Power List: Movers, Shakers and Tastemakers in the Jewelry Industry."

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### **About the American Gem Society**

*The American Gem Society, founded in 1934 by Robert M. Shipley, is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to proven ethics, knowledge, and consumer protection within the jewelry industry. The American Gem Society is a professional organization awarding credentials for its members, who are held to the highest ethical and professional standards in the industry and must pass annual recertification examinations to maintain their titles. Less than one in twenty jewelers in the country have chosen to meet the exacting standards necessary for membership.*

Website: [americangemsociety.org](http://americangemsociety.org)

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**CONTACT:** Donna Jolly  
Director of Marketing  
AGS and AGS Laboratories  
American Gem Society  
702.255.6500 Ext. 1018  
[djolly@ags.org](mailto:djolly@ags.org)