

# CREATING A LEGACY IN SUN VALLEY WITH ERIK BOE

Robertson Stephens Wealth Management Managing Director, Principal Erik Boe assists high-net-worth families, charitable foundations, and business owners navigate every corner of wealth preservation and growth. In an in-depth Q&A, Erik offers *SVPN Magazine* readers some insight into today's investment management and his own thoughts on the Wood River Valley and its future.

**SVPN:** What brought you to Sun Valley, and when did you move here?

**EB:** I moved here in 1993, the day after my college graduation. Ketchum has always been a natural extension for many folks from Seattle, and our family was no exception. My parents came here for their honeymoon in 1965, and while growing up, we continued to come to the area. When my dad passed away from cancer before my senior year of college, my sister was already living in Ketchum, starting the famous KB's Burritos, and my mom decided to move here shortly after. I was on my way to Telluride, Colorado, but only made it as far as Ketchum and never left!

**SVPN:** What have you been doing professionally over the nearly 30 years that you've been living here?

**EB:** My theory was, and still is, to pick where you want to be and THEN figure out your career path. This was always my approach, and I have zero regrets. My first job out of college was timber framing for Storey Construction, building amazing houses in the Valley with a fantastic crew. One weekend, I was camping up in Iron Creek and met some people conducting a biological evaluation on the Sawtooth National Forest. I explained that I had taken some forestry



classes for my environmental science minor, and the next thing I knew, I had a job offer. Using aerial photography, our job was to find a pinhole every 2,000 acres over the entire forest and conduct a 360-degree biological survey of the area. We walked from Fairfield to The Frank Church over the course of six months, which got me into the best shape of my life.

Afterward, I landed a job at Power Engineers in Hailey in their environmental division. I spent the next five years doing environmental compliance and permitting

huge linear projects across everything from federal lands, highway rights-of-way, private land, etc. For example, we designed, permitted, and built a fiber-optic network from Dallas to Seattle. By the late '90s, around the dot.com bubble era, I became interested in the stocks of the publicly traded companies who were our clients. It was then that I made the jump to wealth management, and the rest is history.

**SVPN:** Why did you join Robertson Stephens at this point in your career?

**EB:** It's simple. Our clients and my team outgrew the previous platform. Many of our clients demand a more sophisticated approach to investments and a more robust technology platform all executed within a fiduciary manner. Robertson Stephens came to the table with a very simple but important premise 'as customers of wealth management, there simply HAS to be a better solution.' For example, if a client owns things like real estate, private equity, even art, why shouldn't they be able to track these assets as I do my traditional equity and fixed income investments? Well, the answer is they should! So when I was presented with Robertson Stephens' approach to address the changing needs of high net worth clientele, the decision wasn't hard.

**SVPN:** What are you most proud of that you do outside of work?

**EB:** Outside of family, I am passionate about philanthropy, particularly in the areas surrounding the Wood River Valley and Stanley Basin. This Valley is facing some real headwinds regarding certain unprecedented, secular trends. This not only includes issues such as affordable housing but also other issues that have yet to be understood more broadly. For example, in my view, water will be one of the most significant issues that we face in the future. The Wood River is not a large enough watershed to support an undeniably rising population. Remember, we are a 'high desert' community, as evidenced by the fact that when

you look out the window, you see more sagebrush than sub-alpine firs, which comes with significant challenges as global warming increases. We need to come together as a community to understand and address these issues head-on.

**SVPN:** How are you involved in the Valley's philanthropy?

**EB:** It was always a dream of mine to be a part of creating a community foundation that could help support the great services that many of our non-profits provide. I remember someone from Aspen once said, 'you guys are so far behind in Sun Valley, you're ahead! You're almost RETRO up there.' He was referring to the fact that we hadn't screwed up Sun Valley yet. In my opinion, ensuring that our non-profit sector is robust gives us the best chance to not screw it up.

A friend approached me about the foundation he was creating called the Spur Community Foundation. When he asked me to be the founding Treasurer of Spur, I jumped at the opportunity. We're in the process of raising millions of dollars for Blaine County non-profits, further emphasizing measurable results from the contributions our donors make. I'm very proud of our accomplishments. I would encourage folks to check out [spurfoundation.org](http://spurfoundation.org) or give a call. Simply put, if you are spending, for example, 50% of your time here, would you consider giving 50% of your philanthropic dollars to our local non-profit sector? It's essential to the long-term sustainability of our community.

**SVPN:** Any parting shots?

**EB:** Sure! For most of us, we moved or visited here from somewhere. I recall when I was 23, I was walking into one of our legendary watering holes, and two tough-looking cowboys walked up to me and said, 'where you from, kid?' I looked at them and said, 'Seattle.' They said, 'well, have a good time ... just don't be a punk. See what you can bring to this place other than take from it.' That always stuck with me. If we all think about what we can give versus what we can get, this place will always be special. ■

**Erik Boe**  
Robertson Stephens Wealth Management  
Managing Director & Principal  
208.506.7301  
[Erik.boe@rscapital.com](mailto:Erik.boe@rscapital.com)  
[rscapital.com](http://rscapital.com)