

# Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.



[www.retiredattorneysarasota.org](http://www.retiredattorneysarasota.org)

January 2021

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## Next Zoom Meeting:

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Friday, January 29 at**  
**12 Noon.**

**Zoom meetings have been  
extended through March 2021.**

## January Speaker: Chief of Police, Bernadette DiPino

Chief of Police for Sarasota, Florida

### TOPIC: "Policing during COVID-19 and National Social Unrest"

**Bernadette A. DiPino** is a fourth-generation Law Enforcement Officer who began her career as a Police Officer with the Baltimore County Police in September of 1985. In April of 1988 she joined the Police Department for the Town of Ocean City, Maryland where she rose through the ranks from Narcotics Detective to Chief of Police; a position she held for nearly ten years. She served ten years on the SWAT Team in Ocean City, with 4 years as the Commander. She was also a Defensive Tactics, Firearms, and Community Oriented Police Instructor. In 2012, Chief DiPino was selected to serve as Chief of Police for the Sarasota, Florida Police Department. Chief DiPino has served on the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Executive Committee and Board of Directors and represented the State of Florida and State of Maryland for the IACP State Associations of Chiefs of Police (SACOP) and served as Secretary and Treasurer of the SACOP Executive Committee. She is an active member of the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) and has presented law enforcement best practices to IACP, SACOP, WLI, FPCA and numerous other professional and civic organizations and government panels. During her distinguished career, she received numerous Departmental awards and citations; and has been recognized as Police Officer of the Year in 1987, 1993 and 1997. Chief DiPino lives in the city of Sarasota with her poodle, Sea-Sea. She enjoys playing tennis and loves the beach. Chief DiPino has a daughter, Tabitha, who is a Baltimore County Police Officer and the fifth-generation law enforcement officer to carry on the family tradition.

*We hope that all ARAS members are remaining safe and healthy during this difficult time.*

Because of the wealth of talent and interesting lives led by our very diverse membership, we continue our series of stories focusing on the lives of our members. It is our hope to eventually cover every member.

**“Amicus Personae” – Judith I. Starr**  
**Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota**

**Judith R. Starr** retired from the Federal Government at the end of 2019, after a career arc that included mastering three different complex legal areas and moving from frontline litigation to the C-suite.

After graduating from Harvard Law School, Judith clerked for a federal district judge in San Francisco. When her husband obtained a fellowship at the Rand Corporation, she moved with him to Los Angeles where she began a career-long dedication to pro bono work and bar leadership as a volunteer with the Los Angeles’ Bar’s Hospice-AIDS project and a member of the Board of the Los Angeles County Barristers. After five years of private practice, she was ready to move to D.C, where her parents lived, and become the federal government lawyer that she had always wanted to be. Judith joined the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, working first as an appellate lawyer in the Office of General Counsel and then as an assistant chief litigation counsel in the Division of Enforcement. She also created and oversaw the agency’s Bankruptcy Enforcement Program to combat attempts by fraudsters to use bankruptcy as a shield from enforcement activities. In that capacity, Judith worked closely with federal and state prosecutors to obtain convictions for securities and bankruptcy fraud, most notably in the Robert E. Brennan/First Jersey case. As a result of her effort, Judith was honored with the Stanley Sporkin Award for outstanding contributions to securities law enforcement.

After 9/11, Judith left the SEC to become Chief Counsel to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), the bureau of the Treasury Department that administers the Bank Secrecy Act and provides tools to law enforcement to combat terrorist financing and financial crime. She oversaw the expansion of suspicious activity reporting to many new types of financial institutions, and the institution of penalties against lax financial institutions. She also helped expand outreach to FinCEN’s international counterparts to exchange information vital to prosecuting financial crime. For the last fourteen years of her legal career, Judith served as General Counsel of the Pension Benefit Corporation and Secretary to its Board of Directors (the Secretaries of Labor, Treasury and Commerce). She oversaw a full-service legal office that included the agency’s ERISA mission. Judith upgraded the ethics program, instituted a suspension and debarment program against misfeasance by government contractors, and reformed the agency’s regulatory practice. Her work was recognized with a presidential rank award, awarded to only 5% of senior executives. She is particularly proud of her institution of a mediation program for the agency’s ERISA cases.

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Shortly after moving to Florida, Judith obtained her mediator certification from the Florida Supreme Court and began volunteering as a mediator with the Manatee and Sarasota County courts. She recently taught a Bankruptcy for Mediators class and has just completed an article on Probability for Mediators. She serves as an arbitrator for the Financial Regulatory Authority and recently was awarded a federal contract to write a report on ADR practices in the federal government. Judith also is co-chair of the ABA Dispute Resolution Section's Mediation Committee.

### **Nominating Committee Recommendations**

The ARAS Board met on Wednesday, January 6 and unanimously supported the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to present to members at the Annual Meeting. There are six vacancies to be filled. The recommendations are:

Three incumbents: Steve Sturm, Harold Zabin and Michael Krasnow

Three new Board Members: Judith Starr, Joel Helmrich and Millie Collins

### **Thanks to departing Board members.**

We want to thank the following Board Members for their dedication and hard work on behalf of ARAS:

- Monica Cunningham
  - Marty Fried
  - Ivan Rubin

Each in their own way has greatly contributed to the overall continued success of our Association.

### **Ideas for Future Programs?**

The Program Committee is always receptive to ideas for future programs. If any member has a topic or a speaker to suggest, please contact Dick Bruning at [kayanddick66@gmail.com](mailto:kayanddick66@gmail.com).

### **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

If you have items of interest to the members, please forward them to Michael Krasnow at [mekraz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mekraz@sbcglobal.net).

*Many thanks to Marty Fried for his many years as the very capable Newsletter Editor.*