

Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.



www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

September 2020

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**Due to Covid-19
The Association of Retired
Attorneys of Sarasota would like to
invite all its members to participate
in a teleconference meeting using
Zoom on our normal ARAS
membership date: Friday,
September 25th.**

***A Zoom link will be emailed to those
who RSVP to Ben Berman
via email here.***

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September Speaker: Margaret Good

The Democratic candidate for Florida's 16th Congressional District.

Good is facing the long-time Republican incumbent, Vern Buchanan. Good defeated Buchanan's son James in a closely watched special election for state representative in 2018.

Margaret Good, the Democratic challenger to 7 term U.S. Representative Vern Buchanan, will speak on the issues in our local race. Margaret is a local attorney who is currently our District 72 member to the Florida House of Representatives. The race is closely watched by both parties.

The Association has invited Representative Buchanan to speak to us in October. His office has not responded to our multiple calls. For that reason, we have scheduled a different speaker for next month.

We hope that all our ARAS members are staying 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” – Diana Lynn **Board Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota**

Diana was born in Panama City, FL and moved to Melbourne, FL soon after. While in kindergarten, she found out her older brother practiced law in Pittsburgh, PA and that drew her interest. Diana’s father was very supportive and told her that an ancestor was a lawyer for William Penn.... this sounded good to Diana. Re-runs of Perry Mason intrigued her from then on, and she was bitten by the bug to study law. She received her BS in criminology at FSU. During this period, she interned at the DA's office in San Francisco, CA, right after the DA had completed the sensational trial for the assassination of Harvey Milk by Dan White.

During her last quarter of school, she studied French, at a language school in Paris and Cannes. Her first job upon returning from Europe was at a correctional institution which strengthened her resolve to study law and further sparked her interest in criminal law. She took the LSAT but was lured away by a calling to join the U.S. Military. Law school had to wait.

Asked about what career, other than law, she would have considered, she says: “In addition to studying law, I had always been interested in writing and music. As a result of my employment in the correctional institution, I also became very interested in sociology and the reasons people take the wrong path and wind up in the legal system. I would have chosen to be involved in a counseling career in some way, since I always enjoyed helping the underdog.”

Her greatest challenge was using her law degree to assist her mother in dealing with real estate ventures for many years. Her background helped make good decisions and afforded her the ability to understand the many aspects of law in the world of real estate. This assistance allowed her to retire and live the life she had planned, as well as assist other family members, and their children.

Greatest accomplishments: When Diana interned for the DA in San Francisco, she was given a case under an experienced lawyer. It was a very exciting time for her as she was only 19 years old and the Streets of San Francisco were such an eye opener for a girl from a small town...but what an education for her. The team prevailed and the whole office congratulated Diana, and the lead attorney thanked her personally. Thinking back, she appreciates this event even more as she has become familiar with politics and ego. When she worked in contracting in the military, the overall achievements of that job, and being able to assist coworkers was a great feeling she will always remember and revere. Later in life, when Diana worked in Contracting in the Air Force, she was able to tap on skills learned in the DA’s office. These skills assisted her in awarding, and negotiating contracts, ensuring compliance with the terms of the contract, and safeguarding the interests of the United States to include acquisition planning, solicitation, cost/price analysis, evaluation of offers, and source selection, in contracts of over \$40 million annually.

Asked to describe something fellow ARAS member may not know about her, she replies: “I grew up in Florida with Cape Canaveral in my backyard. It was exciting to watch the rockets go off from the causeways but I never dreamed I would later be stationed at Patrick Air Force Base three times in my career. I made my first movie of the base, birthing a life-long hobby in the audio-visual world. I also worked for Atari Games & Computers in Silicon Valley (after Steve Jobs ☺).”

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If she could enact one law and/or eliminate one law, what would they be and why? Her answer: "Better laws for the unborn. And a law that would provide equal pay in careers women lean toward, as well as giving more respect to these occupations."

The most important thing the study and practice of law taught her: "To always consider all the sides of any argument and strive for a balanced approach."

Looking back what advice would she have given herself as a young attorney:
She says to practice law in a field you are passionate about so you will always enjoy it.

What wisdom would she impart to those considering the practice of law? "Study the many different types of law to discover what type of law excites you and makes you want to get up each morning and challenge the world. Also consider what you want to take away from practicing law and find a good fit for your dreams as well as your lifestyle." She continues, "If you like adventure, consider practicing law in the military. You can lead an exciting life and join a team of people who will celebrate your duty for a lifetime. You can also retire at a young age and continue to practice if you choose to do so."

Upcoming Meeting Lineup

ARAS will only resume our luncheons and programs when it is deemed safe to do so.

Upcoming 2020 programs are superb. Our goal for October 30th is to feature Frank Alcock B.A. M.A. Ph.D., Professor of Political Science at New College of Florida.

On Tuesday, November 17th, our speaker will be Sarasota Mayor and Commissioner Liz Alpert, who will discuss current Sarasota issues. Please make a special note that our November date is not on our usual fourth Friday.

And for our final 2020 meeting on Tuesday, December 8th, our speaker will be Herald Tribune Contributing Opinion editor, Carrie Seidman. If you have read Ms. Seidman's columns, you already know how interesting her topics and discussions can be. Again, please note that our December date is not on our usual fourth Friday.

We look forward to resuming our programs by bringing you discussions with interesting and topical speakers.

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.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have items of interest to the members, please forward them to Martin Fried at mlfried@syr.edu.

2021 Dues in the Covid-19 Era

Dues paid for 2020 will be applied to the year 2021.

