

Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.



www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

December 2020

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Next Zoom Meeting:

Tuesday, December 8 at 12 Noon.
Please note earlier date.

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

December Speaker: Carrie Seidman
Herald Tribune Contributing Opinion Editor

TOPIC: "Where Do We Go From Here?"

After a tumultuous four years and an election that has left almost half the country unhappy, what responsibilities do the government, media and individuals bear in trying to heal our national divide and how can it be accomplished?

Carrie Seidman is the lead columnist for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, where she has been a staff writer since 2010. A graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism, Seidman has been a reporter, critic, and columnist for more than 40 years. Previously she worked at the New York Times, Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, Albuquerque Journal and Albuquerque Tribune. She also serves as the Herald Tribune's dance critic.

Seidman addresses a variety of community, state and national issues in her three-times-a-week column, focusing on social equity, underserved populations and civic responsibility. A former fellow of The Carter Center for Mental Health Journalism, and winner of Mental Health America's 2016 national media award, she has a particular interest in the areas of mental health and the impact of trauma on individuals and communities. She is the single mother of an adult son with a mental health condition and is a two-time breast cancer survivor who enjoys ballroom dancing, walking the beach and engaging with her readers.

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” – The Honorable Ethel Revels

Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Judge Ethel Revels knew from the time she was 6 or 7 years old that she wanted to be a lawyer. That was when she met and listened to “the Freedom Riders.” Ethel’s mother provided shelter and meals for this group. They were young students coming to her small hometown of Thomasville, Georgia, pushing for the right to vote for the black community. It was clear to her that these young people, champions of the Civil Rights Movement, were law students. The young black students she met were putting their lives on the line to fight for the rights of others.

She realized later that her mother was also putting herself in danger by housing those young civil rights workers. This fact became real when a cross was burned on a neighbor’s lawn. She refers to her mother, her neighbors, and those civil rights workers, as the unsung heroes of the Movement.

After high school, Ms. Revels received a full scholarship to attend Alma College in Alma, Michigan. Knowing that she would have to pay her own way through law school, with foresight, she accepted a full scholarship to attend the University of Michigan School of Social Work. After receiving her Master’s in Social Work (MSW), she worked as a school social worker and in other social work positions. This included becoming Deputy Director of the Detroit Institute of Addiction Research and Training, a program to train former drug addicts and various professional caregivers to become certified addiction counselors. She was also instrumental in gaining accreditation for the classes, leading to the DIART training becoming a degree program at a local Junior college.

During this time, she entered law school, graduating from the University of Detroit (now U of D Mercy). Her law career included private practice as a tax attorney and later, staff attorney with the UAW Legal Services Plan; Administrative Law Judge in the Michigan State Property Tax Court, and finally as a United State Federal Administrative Law Judge with the Social Security Administration, a position from which she retired after 21 years.

Judge Revels stated: “Although I never did anything as outstanding as engaging in protest marches for our civil rights, or put my life on the line for equal justice, as did those young students who inspired me to go into law, I was always cognizant of a basic principle learned from their bravery. No matter if I were in private practice or sitting on the bench, I had an obligation to always protect the rights of others and no sacrifice is too great to that end. That is the only way to safeguard all our rights.”

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Judge Revels now spends time between Michigan and Florida. She is happy to be a member of ARAS, an organization which offers its members an opportunity to stay active in the legal community and engage in a variety of volunteer activities.

Upcoming Meeting Lineup

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

In January, our speaker will be Chief of Police Bernadette DiPino who will speak about current policing issues in Sarasota.

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

Expiring Board Terms

The terms of the following Board members expire in January: Monica Cunningham, Martin Fried, Michael Krasnow, Ivan Rubin, Stephen Sturm and Harold Zabin. Monica Cunningham and Martin Fried have announced they do not seek re-election. A nominating committee consisting of Karen Mason and Jim Case has been appointed. If you are interested in serving a two-year term as a member of the Board, please contact either Karen or Jim.

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 Michael Krasnow at mekraz@sbcglobal.net.

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