

Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.



www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

June 2022

Table of Contents

Page	
1	Monthly Meeting Topic
1	About our Monthly Speaker
2	Amicus Personae
..	Roberta Morton
2	Book Club
2-3	In Memoriam
...	Bernard H. Ehrlich
3	Change this month Luncheon Payments
4	Upcoming Meeting Schedule
4	Ideas for Future Programs

Welcome New Members

Gail Buchman
Michael O. Marquette
Richard Meade
Stuart Sinai

NEXT MEETING

Friday, June 24 at 12 Noon
at Marina Jack

Please note that our next luncheon on June 24 will be our last one prior to the summer hiatus. We return on Friday, September 30 at Marina Jack. Our speaker will be, by popular demand, our ARAS member George Peirce speaking about "The Powers of War and Peace, The President, Congress and The Courts."

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June Speaker: Pamela Fields, Esq.
Pro Bono Coordinator of Legal Aid of Manasota, Inc.

Topic: Legal Aid of Manasota: What We Do and How You Can Become A Vital Part of Our Team

Legal Aid of Manasota just celebrated its 30th year providing free civil legal assistance to Sarasota and Manatee low-income clients. Come hear Pam Fields, Legal Aid's Pro Bono Coordinator, talk about the services that Legal Aid of Manasota provides, how Covid affected their services and the trends they are seeing today. She will also discuss ways our members can assist Legal Aid in its mission.

Pamela Fields, Esq. graduated from Stetson University College of Law and joined Legal Aid of Manasota in 2009 as a staff attorney. She practiced in the Venice office for 5 years serving income eligible clients who needed legal assistance with foreclosure lawsuits on their personal residences. In 2014, Pam became the Pro Bono Coordinator and moved to the main office of Legal Aid of Manasota in downtown Sarasota. As the Pro Bono Coordinator, Pam is responsible for placing qualifying cases with volunteer pro bono attorneys, developing new pro bono projects, and recruiting volunteers. Ms. Fields is the current Board Chair of the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness and is also a member of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, a joint Sarasota County and City of Sarasota consortium.

Email: PamelaF@legalaidofmanasota.org

Phone: 941-366-0038 ext. 101

We invite all members and their guests to join us for another educational and enjoyable gathering of retired attorneys on beautiful Sarasota Bay.

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” – Roberta Morton
Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Roberta Morton was born and bred in New York. She graduated from Harvard University in Cambridge Massachusetts. Afterward, she attended Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York.

She was admitted to the New York State bar, the Southern District of New York and the Eastern District of New York. She then practiced felony defense litigation in Westchester County New York.

Upon retirement she became a Sarasota resident.

Book Club

Any members interested in joining a book club focused on history (maybe some legal history) to meet once a month at a place or places in Sarasota to be arranged, please send an indication of interest, suggestions for books, possible venues and other thoughts to Tom Dubbs at tdubbs@labaton.com.

Current thinking is to decide on book or two to be read over the summer with a meeting after Labor Day.

In Memoriam

Bernard H. Ehrlich

Bernie Ehrlich, a former President of ARAS, died on May 16th at age 95. A native of Washington, DC, Bernie graduated from high school at age 15 and began his undergraduate studies at Harvard. He left school to join the Navy during World War II and returned at the end of the War to complete his studies at Harvard. Perhaps inspired by the career of his Uncle Jake Ehrlich, who represented famous Hollywood figures -- including Billie Holiday, Errol Flynn, and Gene Krupa -- Bernie went on to earn a law degree at George Washington University.

Early in his legal career Bernie received an invitation to join then President Harry S Truman's speech writing team, where he served for a year before entering private practice in DC. Among his proudest moments was his participation in the drafting of the legislation which became the GI Bill along with the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Olin Teague (R.Texas). Bernie considered it one of the greatest pieces of legislation in US history, comparable to the much-later Affordable Care Act.

In an illustrious career that followed, Bernie's accomplishments included, among other things, serving as Chief Counsel to seven agencies that provide accreditation to over 1,000 post-secondary schools and the creation of an Executive Management Institute for the textile industry.

After retiring and moving to Sarasota in 2001 Bernie remained active in community affairs. In addition to organizing, with Rabbi Howard Simon, many holocaust memorial programs, Bernie worked with local religious and civic figures to establish an initiative called Humanity Working to End Genocide.

In 2012 Bernie became president of our own Association, serving until 2016. Joining at a time when the organization was at a low ebb with about 40 members, Bernie worked tirelessly to revitalize ARAS. He spearheaded an effort to revise our By-laws and put the organization on a firm financial footing. He also established some of our most important projects, such as our work with the Booker High School Pre-Law Academy, the Booker High Tornado Trials for campus scofflaws, Sarasota's teen court program, and the local Guardian Ad Litem programs

ARAS extends its deepest condolences to Carol Kopelman, Bernie's devoted companion of many years, and to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bernie's life and achievements serve as the gold standard for all of us, a beacon showing us the way to use our talents and training to make our world better.

CHANGE FOR THIS MONTH ONLY! HOW TO PAY FOR LUNCHEONS

Please mail your luncheon payment of \$28 payable to the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc. (ARAS) to **Michael Krasnow, Esq. 7035 Owls Nest Terrace, Bradenton, Florida 34203**. We are pleased to accept your payment by check or through our online payment option. Please get your luncheon payment in to Michael Krasnow prior to Wednesday of the luncheon week. After that Wednesday, no refunds can be given since the venue will have been notified of your intention to attend.

Make payments on our website: \$28 for lunch using PayPal or your credit/debit card at www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

Please note the following luncheon dates for the next six months:

Friday, June 24
Friday, September 30
Friday, October 28
Monday November 14
Monday, December 12
Friday, January 27

We look forward to seeing you at Marina Jack at noon on the above dates, subject, of course, to Covid data.

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 Judith Starr at jrstarr@tampabay.rr.com. Any member interested in participating in the Program Committee should notify Judith Starr, Chair of the committee. Her contact information is in our Directory.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have items of interest to the members, please forward them to

Milly Collins at milly4747@live.com or

Joel Helmrich at jhelmrich1@gmail.com