

Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.



www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

September 2021

Friday, September 24
at 12 Noon at Marina Jack

The ARAS Board of Directors is looking forward to having our September luncheon at Marina Jack for all fully vaccinated members and guests. If this plan changes, we will email members.

To enhance the safety of our members and guests, we ask all attendees to arrive fully vaccinated and masked. Please only remove your mask while eating. For those choosing to remain masked during the entire meeting, your server will box your lunch for delivery to you at the conclusion of the meeting. We will also ask Marina Jack to limit each table to no more than six persons. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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Welcome New Members

James Prozzi
Joseph Shainess

September Speaker: Elizabeth Spahn

Topic: Boston to Beijing: Teaching Rule of Law in China

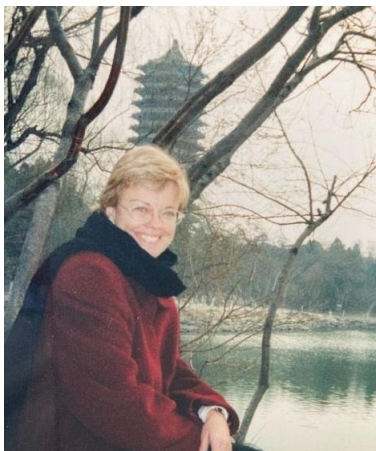
"My students attacked the U.S. Embassy in Beijing protesting U.S. bombing the Chinese Embassy in Kosovo. I had a chance to teach non-violence and demonstrate crowd control tactics, while I learned from them about cultural differences involved in effective apologies which I was able to communicate to the Clinton administration. I debated China's leading human rights scholar on a nationally broadcast TV show. I was threatened with deportation by a sinister US expat for writing an article about women's oppression in Afghanistan under the Taliban and was able to finger him to the station chief at the US Embassy. I was locked into my apartment and threatened after I taught a nation-wide live webcast inside the Chinese firewall on on-line legal research (and how to evade the firewall) to law schools across China. In 2004 - 2005 I accompanied U.S. AID delegations of U.S. judges and prosecutors on several rule of law demonstration trial trips throughout very remote parts of Western and South-Western China. In 2008 I served as Senior Fulbright Scholar at XiNanDaXue (Southwestern University of Political Science and Law) in Chongqing, which trains about one third of all prosecutors in the PRC. I've been to places in China that Chinese people have never heard of. I was not successful in bringing rule of law to China. China, however, changed me profoundly, from my areas of scholarship to my deep appreciation for tai chi. The proverb – Teach, Learn, Increase Each Other – truly expresses my experiences with China."

Luncheon payments in the amount of \$21, and \$55 dues payments may be made at the bottom of our website or [here](#).

Elizabeth Spahn is Professor of Law *Emerita* at New England Law/Boston where she taught U.S. Constitutional Law for 37 years. She developed one of the first law school courses in the U.S. covering international and comparative anti-corruption law including anti-bribery, anti-money laundering and asset recovery issues. She is the author of numerous articles on anti-corruption law. She is a senior contributing editor for the fcablog.com, and served as a public expert to the OECD Anti-Corruption Convention Working Group and the UN Convention Against Corruption public education working group. She has also worked with bar associations, judicial and business groups developing international rule of law training programs.

Professor Spahn served as a Fulbright Scholar and Senior Specialist in China for a total of about 2 years at three different law schools including Peking University Law School, Chongqing University of Politics and Law and Beijing Foreign Studies University from 1999 - 2008. She accompanied several trips of judges for the Massachusetts Judicial Institute/ U.S. AID to conduct training sessions for Chinese judges and prosecutors at remote locations in North and Western China. It was during her time in China that she developed an interest in anti-corruption law. Prior to 1999, Professor Spahn's public service and scholarship concentrated on domestic US and international human rights issues with a special emphasis on women's rights, reproductive freedom, and age discrimination.

Professor Spahn graduated *cum laude* from Yale College in 1972 as one of the "First Women" to coeducate Yale. *Yale Needs Women*, published in 2019, chronicles five of these women in depth, including Professor Spahn. Her most recent judicial training program was in the Federated States of Micronesia (sponsored by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals). She reports that the scuba diving there is magnificent.



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” – Alan Jonas

Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Alan Jonas attended high school in Chicago, IL. He went to the University of Illinois and DePaul University. He was in the private practice of law, focused on personal Injury. He defended several casualty insurance companies and pursued consumer fraud class action litigation.

He received an appointment to be an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration, a position he held for 25 years until his retirement in 2006. Alan has been an active member of our Association for many years.

ARAS Member Authors

We are happy to inform you that two of our members, Michael J. Polelle and Robert F. Klueger, have each recently had books published that deal with topics we believe will be of interest to lawyers as well as others. Following is a brief description of each of the books.

Michael J. Polelle has published his second novel, *American Conspiracy* (Lido Press: by M.J. Polelle) on July 23, 2021. This political thriller is available on Amazon and also through his website: www.mjpolelle.com. The novel explores the potential constitutional booby traps of presidential elections. The presidential elections of 2016 and 2020 as well as his years of teaching constitutional law inspired *American Conspiracy*.

When a presidential election is thrown into Congress for resolution after the assassination of a candidate, Det. Jim Murphy uncovers a threatened coup against the “backdoor” president elected by the House of Representatives while investigating the disappearance and grisly murders of gangbangers from the streets of Chicago.

“A stellar novel of action, adventure, and intrigue. The twists of betrayal unravel at a perfect pace, and Polelle nails the details of this high caliber political drama.”---Steve Berry, *New York Times* bestselling author.

“. . . [A] novel with twists and turns that will keep readers hooked.”---*Kirkus Reviews*

Robert F. Klueger: The three men who met in Paris for the most consequential summit conference of the twentieth century were very different men: Georges Clemenceau, 77, “The Tiger” who had spent five decades fighting for the ideals of the French Republic, David Lloyd George, who grew up in poverty in rural Wales, had entered the House of Commons at twenty-seven, had stood alone in his opposition to the South African War, and who rose to become prime minister and become the face of Britain’s defiance to the Kaiser, and Woodrow Wilson, the lifelong academic who went from president of Princeton University to the president of the United States in the span of two years. They were, in many ways, much alike: They were three of the most brilliant men of their age. Each had the ability to charm and sway an audience, whether in the House of Commons, the French Chamber of Deputies or in a Princeton classroom. Yet, the document they produced, the Treaty of Versailles, was the “Carthaginian” peace that sowed the seeds of the Second World War. How did these brilliant men – who knew better -- let it happen? Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George and the Roads to Paris, written by our member Robert F. Klueger, traces their tumultuous histories until they reach Paris in 1919. Wilson determined to remake international law based upon the ideals of his Fourteen Points, Clemenceau every bit as determined to make France secure against another German invasion, and Lloyd George, leading a coalition government and a people determined to “make Germany pay,” until, at the very last, he tried and failed to reverse what he saw would be a tragic result.

Our June speaker, attorney, mediator, and author Michael Lang, at our request has provided us with a promotional copy of his new e-book, *Family Conflict During a Pandemic: Stories of Struggle and Hope*. It is posted on our website, or you may view it [here](#). The book includes contributions from 93 people in 17 countries, with stories from individuals about their journey from struggle to hope, as well as from mediators who helped them on their journey. While the book is being distributed free, when possible, it is also listed on Amazon at the lowest prices allowed in order to maximize its distribution. Any proceeds are being donated to charities involved in pandemic relief for families. We hope you enjoy it.

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. The committee is planning to meet by zoom sometime in September or October.

Judith Starr is a member of the Board of Directors of our Association, and is excited to announce the formation of Suncoast Community Mediation, Inc. (SCM), a Florida non-profit with the mission to provide dispute resolution services to underserved people and communities in the Sarasota and Manatee County area. SCM is one of five community mediation centers being formed with a grant from the National Association for Community Mediation, and, with a fellow center being formed in West Palm Beach, will be the first non-court community mediation centers in Florida. Community mediation centers provide dispute resolution at the earliest stage of conflict, offer an alternative to the judicial system, help to increase collaborative community relationships, and engage in educational activities about dispute resolution.

Judith is serving as a director and Secretary to SCM. The Peace Education and Action Center of Sarasota has agreed to serve as SCM's fiscal sponsor, which means that it will be responsible for tax-deductible fundraising so SCM can focus on becoming operational before applying for its own federal tax exemption. We will continue to focus on developing a pilot project to provide mediation through one or more service organizations. Once Suncoast is operational, Judith will be seeking volunteer mediators and hopes to find some among our members.

Luncheon reservations and pre-payment are required. Please mail your reservation to Benjamin Berman, Esq. 4223 MacKay Falls Terrace, Sarasota, FL 34243 by Monday, September 20th. Or call Ben at 941-355-2469.

We are pleased to accept your payment by check, or through our online payment option.

Make payments on our website for \$55 dues or luncheon fees using PayPal or your credit/debit card.

To make online reservations and payments click this button. 

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have items of interest to the members, please forward them to Michael Krasnow at mekraz@sbcglobal.net.