

Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.



www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

January 2022

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, January 28
at 12 Noon via Zoom.

January Speakers: Judith Starr & Elizabeth Spahn

Topic: Follow the Money -- Tracking the Criminal Money Trail

Grand corruption facilitated by the ensuing global money laundering is the most important human rights and environmental problem of our time. Any effort for progressive reform, whether domestic US or international, is thwarted by grand (elite oligarchs) corruption. Economists demonstrated nearly universally that grand corruption causes poverty. While moral outrage against greedy oligarchs is fun, it's more important to understand the very tough legal tools currently available to combat grand corruption. This talk will provide a quick overview of some of the more important legal tools.

See About Speakers on Page Two

*2022 \$55 dues payments
may be made at the bottom of our website
at www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org*

ABOUT JANUARY MEETING SPEAKERS

Judith Starr's career in the Federal Government included assistant chief litigation counsel at the Securities and Exchange Commission, chief counsel at the Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and general counsel at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. She received the Stanley Sporkin Award for outstanding contributions to securities law enforcement, and the Presidential Rank Award for meritorious executive, given only to the top 5% of all federal senior executives. Now a Florida Supreme Court-certified mediator, she volunteers with the local courts, serves on the Mediator Qualification and Disciplinary Review Board, co-founded and oversees a community mediation center for the underserved in the Manasota area, and co-authored a report on Federal Agency ADR published by the Administrative Conference of the U.S. on December 17, 2021, available at

<https://www.acus.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Final%20Report%20ALTERNATIVE%20DISPUTE%20RESOLUTION%20IN%20AGENCY%20ADMINISTRATIVE%20PROGRAMS%20%28Dec%202017%20-%202021%29.pdf>. Judith also serves on the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section's executive committee as membership chair and urges everyone to join!

Professor Elizabeth Spahn developed one of the first US law school courses on International and Comparative Anti-Corruption and Anti-Money Laundering law in 2000. She published widely in this field. Her articles can be found for free digital access on SSRN. Spahn served as a Senior Editor at the FCPA Blog, and as a Public Expert at the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, and taught at Interpol's Law Enforcement Academy in Vienna. She has lectured nationally and internationally on the topic, most recently in the Federated States of Micronesia.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board of Directors of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota has unanimously supported the recommendations of the Nominating Committee (Millie Collins, Joel Helmrich) to present the below nominations to the membership at its annual meeting on January 28, 2022. There are four vacancies to be filled. The recommendations are:

Three incumbents: Ben Berman, Dick Bruning and Jim Case

One new Board Member: Elizabeth Spahn

THANKS TO DEPARTING BOARD MEMBER

The entire Board thanks Karen Mason for her dedication and hard work on behalf of ARAS over the past many years. She has served as Secretary of our Association as well as a Board member, book reviewer-presenter, participant at the Booker Tornado Trials, member of the program committee and friend. She has greatly contributed to the overall success of our Association.

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” – Michael J. Polelle
Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Born and bred in Chicago, Michael J. Polelle graduated from Loyola University (Chicago) in 1959. Afterward he spent a year in Kiel, Germany as a Fulbright student. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1963 whereupon he practiced civil litigation in Chicago.

In 1969 he became a professor of law at De Paul University College of Law where he taught trial and appellate practice, environmental law, and tort law. Michael became a hearing officer for the Illinois Pollution Control Board and a member of the Hanover Park Zoning Board. He directed the Student Appellate Assistance Program for the office of the Cook County Public Defender.

In 1975 he joined John Marshall Law School, now the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, where he taught constitutional law, evidence, and torts. He became an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, a Special Commissioner of the U.S District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and a Special Assistant State’s Attorney for Cook County.

While at UIC School of Law, Michael also directed an annual Media Law Conference and a summer program in comparative law at the University of Parma, Italy. He taught a two-week course in comparative law as part of a student exchange program with Jilin University in China and coauthored the legal treatise, *Illinois Tort Law*.

He is now an emeritus professor of law for the UIC School of Law and a Sarasota resident where he developed a “second act” as a novelist. His novels are *The Mithras Conspiracy* (Lido Press: 2019), a history-based mystery similar to *The Da Vinci Code*, and *American Conspiracy* (Lido Press: 2021). *American Conspiracy* is a political thriller which arose from his concerns about the future stability of presidential elections based on his constitutional law studies and the fateful election of 2016. The novels are available on Amazon and Michael’s website:

www.mjpolelle.com

IT’S TIME TO PAY 2022 DUES

It’s that time of year again. 2022 annual dues are due. We have been able to maintain the same \$55 amount for the past 7 years.

Please mail your dues payment of \$55 payable to the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc. to Benjamin Berman, Esq., 4223 MacKay Falls Terrace, Sarasota, Florida 34243. We are pleased to accept your payment by check or through our online payment option.

Make payments on our website for \$55 dues using PayPal or your credit/debit card.
To make online payments at www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

Please disregard this notice if you have already remitted your dues.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our meetings will return to the last Friday of each month commencing January, 2022. Hopefully, favorable covid data will allow us to return to Marina Jack in 2022. We will keep you advised.

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 Michael Krasnow at mekraz@sbcglobal.net.