

# Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.



[www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org](http://www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org)

November 2021

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## Table of Contents

Page	
1	.....Monthly Meeting Topic
1	..... About our Monthly Speaker
2	..... Amicus Personae Elizabeth Cload
3	.....It's time for 2022 Dues Payments
3	..... News on Upcoming Meetings
3	..... Ideas for Future Programs
3	.....Newsletter Ideas Welcome

## NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, November 16  
at 12 Noon via Zoom.

**Please note early date.**

**November Speaker: Michael Barfield  
President of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida**

**Topic: The Ruling Oligarchy: Dark \$\$ and the 2020 Florida Ghost Candidate Scheme**

**Michael Barfield** is a paralegal consultant focusing on the enforcement of open government laws and serves as the Director of Public Access at the Florida Center for Government Accountability. Michael is an expert and frequent lecturer on Florida's Public Records Act and Sunshine Law. He is President of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, a Life Member of the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and Associate Member of the American Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section. Michael received the President's Extra Mile award in 2008 for work related to indigent criminal defense. Recognized by Sarasota Magazine as one of the 25 most influential individuals in his community, Michael lives with his wife in Sarasota, Florida.

We invite all members and guests to join our November 16 Zoom program featuring this sometimes controversial but always charismatic Sarasotan.

**2022 \$55 dues payments  
may be made at the bottom of our website at  
[www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org](http://www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org)**

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” – Elizabeth “Liz” Cload**  
**Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota**

Liz Cload retired from the practice of law in the summer of 2019 after a 32-year career in commercial litigation. At the beginning she could not have anticipated how long and rewarding this career would be. Her three years of law school were spent sharing homework time at the kitchen table with her young children, (mostly cooperative and indulgent); employment as a first- and second-year summer associate; and after graduation, a judicial clerkship with a New Jersey Superior Court judge.

Liz graduated from Boston University with a degree in Government after spending a year at the University of Lyons, France during the tumultuous season of student strikes in Paris. A short stint in Washington, D.C. was followed by marriage and children, eventually settling in Bergen County, New Jersey. While always interested in the law, the opportunity to pursue that interest did not arrive until 1983, when she enrolled in Pace School of Law in White Plains, New York (now the Elizabeth Haub School of Law of Pace University). Liz is admitted to practice in the state and federal courts of New Jersey, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Ms. Cload began her legal career at a small boutique law firm in northern New Jersey, where the variety of clients and complexity of cases served to hone her legal skills beyond that established in the lecture hall. She approached each case as a puzzle to be solved by applying the best legal argument available to the circumstances, and found great satisfaction in completing the puzzle, even when the results were not as expected. As a young lawyer, she was sometimes bemused by an opponent’s argument and surprised by a court’s decision, but with time learned to anticipate and neutralize such disappointments.

The small northern New Jersey law firm eventually merged with a bigger firm, which ultimately grew to become the largest law firm in New Jersey, with multiple offices around the country. Liz initially serviced the firm’s insurance clients by defending against and pursuing coverage under general liability policies written in the U.S. and foreign countries. There can be no greater instruction in contract law than construing insurance policy language!

Liz was able to use her ability to interpret contract language to assist large financial services corporations in their interactions with their commercial borrowers. Liz represented these corporations in a number of U.S. District Courts outside of New Jersey, admitted *pro hac vice*. Liz also defended companies in class action suits brought in state and federal courts. She greatly enjoyed applying her puzzle-solving skills to brief writing at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state courts, and was frequently rewarded by the results.

Well before the pandemic, Liz was able to work remotely from rental properties while she explored Sarasota and its gifts. She became a certified Literacy Council ESL teacher, which has persisted on Zoom. Liz also became a Mentor at the Booker Law Academy, which service was unfortunately cut short by the pandemic. She finally purchased a condo in 2021 in the Rosemary District, and looks forward to resuming her interests, including attending ARAS meetings, in the fall.

### **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 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](http://www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org)***

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

### **DECEMBER MEETING**

PLEASE NOTE THAT DECEMBER ZOOM DATE IS  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14.

We will return to meeting on the last Friday of each month beginning in January, 2022. Hopefully, favorable covid data will allow us to return to Marina Jack early in 2022.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:mekraz@sbcglobal.net).