

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” – Burton L. Raimi
Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Burton Raimi was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He attended Brandeis University (1956-1960 -- B.A. degree) and then the University of Michigan Law School (1960-1963 -- JD degree and member of the Law Review). After law school he spent a year as a Teaching Fellow at George Washington University Law School (LL.M degree 1964; taught a legal writing course).

From 1964 to 1969 Raimi worked for the National Labor Relations Board in Washington D.C., first as an assistant to the Chairman of the Board writing Board opinions and then in the Appellate Court Section where he handled appeals from board decisions. As a result of this work, he was admitted to and briefed and argued cases in seven U.S. Courts of Appeal -- a fascinating experience for someone so recently out of law school.

By 1969 he realized that he was far more interested in financial law than in labor law. He found a position with the New York law firm of Berlack, Israels and Liberman where he learned securities law and commuted weekly between New York and the firm's Washington, D.C. office.

In 1971 Raimi was approached by the then General Counsel of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and offered a position as the Deputy Assistant General Counsel with responsibility for bank securities matters. Two years later he became the Assistant General Counsel of FDIC's Compliance and Enforcement Section, responsible for bank compliance matters, including all bank written agreements for compliance with examiner demands and litigation seeking enforcement of those demands. In 1975 he became Deputy General Counsel, the highest non-political legal position in the agency.

While he found the work he did at FDIC interesting and challenging, the most interesting and most difficult involved FDIC's role in assisting and closing troubled banks. Shortly after arriving at FDIC the agency engaged in its first direct financial assistance transaction with a bank in financial trouble – a large loan to Bank of the Commonwealth in Detroit, Michigan. Shortly thereafter the agency had to deal with the two largest bank failures to that time, the U.S. National Bank in San Diego, California and Franklin National Bank in New York. Franklin was also the first bank failure in which FDIC had to deal with a trust department and with splitting a bank between two different purchasers. Because Raimi had significant transactional experience in private practice, he was deeply involved in all of those transactions.

In 1978 he left the agency and became a partner in a small, boutique banking law firm in Washington, D.C. A couple of years after joining that firm it merged with and became the Washington, D.C. office of Rosenman and Colin, a mid-sized New York general practice firm. At the Rosenman firm he continued to practice bank regulation and securities law.

Raimi left the Rosenman firm in 1986 and became a partner in the Philadelphia firm of Dechert Price & Rhoads. He continued to practice in the areas of bank regulation and securities law. By 1994, after 32 years of law practice, he began to think about his future. His kids had finished college and swore to Raimi that they would never return to Washington. It did not take long to realize that there was nothing holding him in Washington.

A number of his relatives lived in Sarasota. They all seemed happy. They were working here, not just retired, and most important, they were enjoying their life in the sun. He decided to follow them, applied for admission to the Florida Bar and began to study for the bar exam.

He tried to keep his thoughts of moving to Florida to himself and did not share them with his partners at Dechert. However, the Florida Bar, being the very careful organization it is, and also not looking favorably on interlopers from other states, decided to write to all 110 of his Dechert Partners to check on his fitness to be a member of the Florida Bar. Having gotten by that bit of exposure, he then learned that he had been too honest on his bar application. When asked if he had ever been sued, he candidly answer "yes, numerous times but only in my capacity as a senior attorney at the FDIC, not personally." The Florida Bar then demanded the names of the cases, their docket numbers and the courts in which they were filed. Raimi had no records of those cases. The FDIC of course kept such records but in those days they were not computerized, and they were not filed under the names of the many named defendants in each case. There was thus no way to provide the information that was requested.

His inability to provide what the Bar considered to be pertinent information did not elicit a pleasant reaction by the Florida Bar. Eventually though they relented and decided it would be O.K. to admit Raimi to their sacred sanctum.

In 1995 he left the Dechert firm and moved to Sarasota. He found office space with a local firm and opened his own practice. Luckily, a number of Raimi's regular clients continued to send him their work. Eventually new clients arrived. He rented his own office and by 1997 was happily ensconced on the 7th floor of the red brick office building at 1800 Second Street. That was great fun and lasted until 2005. At that time a friend of his, also a former Dechert partner, had become president of a small mutual fund business management company in Washington, D.C. That firm was closely associated with the Capital Group (the advisor to the American Funds). He asked Raimi if he had any interest in returning to Washington for a couple of years as General Counsel of his company.

By that time both of his children, despite their earlier protestations to the contrary, had returned to Washington. So, he jumped at the opportunity to spend some time with them. He stayed the two years as promised, but realized how spoiled he was by Sarasota, where he could easily get around and no one required that he wear a suit and tie to the office.

He left Washington for the second time in 2007 and returned to Sarasota, almost fully retired and where he now contentedly resides.

Did you miss the September Meeting? If you missed the September meeting and would like to hear Elizabeth Spahn's presentation on Boston to Beijing: Teaching Rule of Law in China, you may view it [here](#).

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 click this button. ***

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER ZOOM DATES ARE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AND 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. 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.