



# Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

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

March 2023

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## Table of Contents

Page

- 1.....March Speakers
- 2.....About our Monthly Speakers
- 3.....Amicus Personae  
Nicholas L. Coch
- 4.....Dues and Luncheon Payments
- 5.....Upcoming Meeting Schedule
- 5.....Ideas for Future Programs
- 5.....Newsletter Ideas Welcome

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Friday, March 24**  
**12 Noon**  
**at Marina Jack**

## Welcome New Members

Christina Schwinn  
Michael Golden



## March Speakers: Michael Marquette & Tom Shults, A Double header on Voting Rights

### **An Election During Combat in Iraq – Michael Marquette**

The presentation will examine the election process in Fallujah, Iraq, in January, 2005, specifically addressing Election Security, Election Integrity, and Election Process. It will review the Marine's mission to protect the Iraqi voting public, and the methods used by Iraqi officials to ensure a free and honest election in the midst of an ongoing war.

### **Creating an Election Law Practice – Tom Shults**

The day after the November 2000 presidential election the Democrat and Republican parties declared an "all lawyers on deck" alarm to deal with the ballot recounts in each of Florida's 67 counties. That morning Tom's law firm was retained by the GOP, and he was asked to report immediately to a remote Florida county to observe and pose objections if necessary to the recount. Knowing nothing about election law, or even where in the statutes the election code was located, Tom threw the entire set of the Florida Statutes in his trunk, grabbed his toothbrush and sped off on a journey into election law that lasted the rest of his career.

## **March Speakers: Michael Marquette & Tom Shults**

### **About Michael Marquette:**

Michael O. Marquette is a 1986 graduate of the University of Oregon, Political Science / Pre-Law, and a 1999 Graduate of Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was a scholarship student in the U.S. Army R.O.T.C. while at the U of O, and during this time graduated from the Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon getting his degree he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Military Police and was stationed as a paratrooper at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in the 503 rd Military Police Battalion (Airborne). While at Ft. Bragg he was deployed on operational missions overseas three times, including combat operations during the invasion of Panama in December, 1989. By 2004, Michael was also a veteran of Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia (1996). At that time he was practicing real estate and business law at a small firm in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and was also a Major in the Army Reserves, branched Civil Affairs. In September, 2004, he was mobilized to go to Iraq and arrived in Baghdad, later that year, on Christmas Eve. He was then assigned to the Army Civil Affairs Detachment that was supporting Regimental Combat Team 6, of the Marine Corps 1 st Division, operating in downtown Fallujah, Iraq. At that time his unit was tasked with conducting the first election in Fallujah, concurrent with the first Iraqi National Elections.

### **About Tom Shults:**

Tom grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida and attended Florida State University where he graduated with a B.S. in 1977. After serving in the Army, he obtained his J.D. cum laude from Washburn University of Topeka in 1982. He began practicing law in Sarasota in 1984 with specialties in election law and the Florida public records and open meetings laws. In 2000 Tom represented the GOP during the presidential election recount. He later represented the Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections in a case which confirmed the right of the people by referendum to require the use of paper ballots in Sarasota County. Tom is a Board-Certified Civil Trial Lawyer and is the past chairman of the Code and Rules of Evidence Committee of the Florida Bar and served on the Bar's Professional Ethics Committee. In 2013 he was nominated for the position of circuit court judge by the 12th Circuit Judicial Nominating Committee. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Community Service Award of the Sarasota County Bar Association for his work with Mental Health Community Centers. After his recent retirement Tom devotes much of his time to photography and travels with his wife of 44 years, Debbie. Tom and Debbie have 2 sons who live in Tampa.

Both Michael Marquette and Tom Shults are ARAS Members.

## **Amicus Personae - Nicholas L. Coch**

### **Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota**

Nick was born in Greece and came to the US at age two and grew up on a peninsula jutting into the Atlantic Ocean within the limits of NYC. He attended City public schools and graduated from Columbia University with an A.B. and B.Sc. in Engineering Degrees in 1956 and 1957. After serving two years as a US Naval Officer, he attended New York University Law School and received an LLB Degree in 1962.

Upon graduation from Law School, Nick applied for and was accepted in the Honors Program of the U.S. Dep't of Justice as an attorney in the Antitrust Division. After being involved in grand jury investigations and a major trial during his three years in the Division, Nick decided it was time to start practicing law at a private law firm. At first, because of his engineering background, he decided that Patent Litigation might be an interesting area of practice and joined a Specialty Firm to litigate patent infringement cases. After a number of years in Specialty Firms, including his own known as White & Coch, Nick decided that Patent Practice was too limiting and tried to introduce his practice into a General Law Firm. While there were a few General Firms around the Country that had Patent Practices, there were none in NYC. Nick eventually found a smaller general firm that accepted such a practice. As the years progressed, eventually the major firms in NYC invited patent practices and Nick and his group were invited to join Shea & Gould. When Shea & Gould decided to dissolve, Nick's group moved to Rogers and Wells and finally Nick's group joined Kramer Levin.

In his more than forty years of practice, Nick has handled numerous complex trials, argued appellate issues and has significant experience in global and U.S. transactions involving technology matters. Since not being involved in the full-time active practice of law, Nick continues to be involved in global and U.S. transactions on a pro-bono basis.

## It's Time to Pay 2023 Dues

The Board of Directors has been able to maintain the \$55 annual amount for the past 8 years. Please mail your 2023 dues payment and/or your luncheon payment of \$28 payable to the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc. If choosing to mail your payments, please send to Ben Berman, 4223 Mackay Falls Terrace, Sarasota, Florida 34243. We are pleased to accept your payment by check or through our online payment option. Please get your luncheon payment to Ben 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 and/or \$55 for 2023 dues using PayPal at [www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org](http://www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org)

**Reminder:** Anyone who has not paid 2023 dues by March 31 will be dropped from the membership rota.

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## 2023 Dues Paid

As of March 17, 2023

Alexander, John M.	Kochenderfer, Kay
Aselyne, Patrick	Krasnow, Michael E.
Barthold, Gaele M.	Krause, Benjamin D.
Bass, Stanley	Kushen, Allan S.
Bennett, James H.	Liner, David
Berman, Benjamin I.	Lundy, Daniel F.
Berry, Steven C.	Lynn, Diana N.
Bruning, Richard	Malawsky, Donald N.
Bryant, Margaret B.	Marquette, Michael
Case, James W.	Mason, Karen
Chase, Gary	McClure, Ann
Cload, Lisbeth	Meade, Richard C.
Coch, Nicholas L.	Meltzer, Philip
Cohen, David Martin	Miller, Candice
Cohen, David Michael	Miller, David G.
Collins, Mildred S.	Moltz, Ira
Crowley, Joan C.	Moses, Charles
Dawson, Diana	Nefussy, Eli M.
Dubbs, Thomas A.	Nicolais, John
Dugan, Janet R.	Perlmutter, Irving H.
Eliasberg, Jr., Edward D.	Polelle, Michael
Fried, Martin L.	Prozzi, James A.
Frigo, Victoria	Raimi, Burton L.
Galica, Kathleen	Rice, G. Mark
Golden, Michael	Schneider, Tobi L.
Gordon, Stanley A.	Schnieder, Joan
Gopstein, Israel	Schwinn, Christina
Greenberg, Carl	Shults, Thomas D.
Heckman, Chris	Sinai, Stuart
Helmrich, Joel	Snyder, David S.
Henning, Joel F.	Spahn, Elizabeth
Herring, William W.	Starr, Judith R.
Hill-Harvey, Karimu	Stulberg, E. Barry
Hoffman, Nancy	Sturm, Steve
Humphreys, Philip	Tilles, C. Evans
Hurd, Gordon B.	Weingarten, Richard L.
Hyatt, Ronald	Wolf, Charles R.
Jonas, Alan L.	Wolfe, Robert
Katz, Barbara	Zabin, Harold
Kidd, John E.	
Kline, David	

**Please note the following dates for the next luncheons:**

Friday, March 24  
Friday, April 28  
Monday, May 22  
Friday, June 23  
Friday, September 22  
Friday, October 27

We look forward to seeing you at Marina Jack at noon on the above dates.

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**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 Harold Zabin at [hpzabin@aol.com](mailto:hpzabin@aol.com) or Jim Case at [JamesWCase1968@gmail.com](mailto:JamesWCase1968@gmail.com) .

Any member interested in participating in the Program Committee should contact Harold Zabin or Jim Case at the addresses above.

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**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

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

Milly Collins at [millyc054@gmail.com](mailto:millyc054@gmail.com) or

Joel Helmrich at [jhelmrich1@gmail.com](mailto:jhelmrich1@gmail.com)