



Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

March 2020

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Welcome New Members

Patrick A. Aseltyne
Joel M. Helmrich
Nancy E. Hoffman

**Friday, March 27, 2020
at 12 Noon**

Marina Jack
2 Marina Plaza / Bayfront Room
Sarasota, FL

Bring a prospective member (a retired attorney).
Their first lunch is complimentary.

Valet parking available: \$1 per car plus gratuity.

Officers

Stephen Sturm,
President
Richard Bruning,
Vice President
Benjamin I. Berman,
Treasurer
Karen Mason,
Secretary

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March Program:
“What is Happening in the City of Sarasota”

Presenter: Liz Alpert, City Commissioner

About Commissioner Liz Alpert

Liz Alpert is the Commissioner for District Two of the City of Sarasota. She recently served as Mayor. In addition to her civic duties, Liz is a family law attorney practicing in Sarasota. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of South Florida in 1995, with a degree in Mass Communications and received her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law in 2005. She was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2006. As a family law attorney, Liz served on the Florida Bar Support Issues Committee and, for a time, as the chair of a committee that was working on an alimony guideline formula. In 2003, Liz was appointed to the City of Sarasota's Human Relations Board, and, then, to the General Personnel/Civil Service Board, where she served until her election to the City Commission in May, 2015.

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” – Richard N. Stern
Member of The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Richard Stern was born and raised in New York City, and attended Junior and Senior High School in the Bronx. After graduating in 1942, with the economy still in a depression, he enrolled in City College of New York. At the same time, he took advantage of the U.S. Employment Service and landed a job in a law firm as an “office boy”. Subsequently, he worked in photo lab jobs with the N.Y. Public Library System.

In 1943 he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Military Police Prisoner of War Processing Center. He then served overseas for several years. When the War ended, he returned home in 1945 with an Honorable Discharge.

Under the GI Bill, he attended New York University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He was accepted to St. John’s Law School in Brooklyn, graduating in 1953. He received a scholarship from LIU, where he received a Master’s Degree in Public Service Administration. After a time, he took a series of real estate management exams and worked in that field for approximately 3 years. The ensuing 35 years of his career was with the City of New York (real estate), retiring at age 62.

Stern feels his greatest challenge was trying to stop politicians from undermining his work. Alternately, he feels his greatest accomplishment was acting as an attorney dealing with other attorneys who thought they were smart enough to go around the rules of the City of New York.

The most important thing the practice of law taught him was that of “common sense thinking – always be ready for dissents. The dissents of today are the focus of tomorrow.” Advice he would have given himself as a young attorney: “Keep your mouth shut and do not give out ‘wise guy’ remarks.”

He would impart to those considering the practice of law: “Don’t do it unless you get to work for a fabulous law firm, one which will give you a chance for promotion instead of doing research work for life.”

In conclusion, Richard asks us to “remember that you are just as smart as anyone else. Do not let other attorneys or politicians push you around.”



Steve Sturm and the ARAS members were honored recently for their dedication to the Booker Law Academy Program there and for Steve's years-long work on behalf of the students who participate in the program.

LAST CALL FOR ANNUAL DUES PAYMENTS – March 31 Deadline

If you have not done so, it is time to pay annual dues to ensure continuation of your membership and that you remain in the 2020 Directory. We have been able to maintain the same \$55.00 rate as in the past five years. Please remit your dues directly to Ben Berman at 4223 MacKay Falls Terrace, Sarasota, FL 34243, or through PayPal on our website. Your prompt payment is appreciated.

GET A HEAD START ON READING FOR THE JUNE MEETING

The book for the annual book discussion is "Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodward and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Watles Waring" by U. S. District Judge Richard Gergel (D. S.Car). The book can be purchased through Amazon.

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 Dick Bruning at kayanddick66@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS


If you have items of interest to the members, please forward them to Martin Fried at mlfried@syr.edu.

Luncheon reservations and pre-payment are required. Please mail your reservation to Benjamin Berman, Esq. 4223 MacKay Falls Terrace, Sarasota, FL 34243 by Monday, March 23, 2020. Or call Ben at 941-355-2469.

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

***Luncheon reservations may be made only by ARAS members
for themselves and for their guests.***

Make payments on our website for \$55 dues or \$21 luncheon fees using PayPal or your credit/debit card.

To make online reservations and payments click this button. 

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Mail this reservation form by the deadline in the amount of \$21 per person
(includes dessert, gratuity, and tax)

Include your \$55 dues payment.

Please make checks payable to "Association of Retired Attorneys".

Member's Name _____ Phone # _____

Total in Party _____ Guest(s) Name(s) _____

Dues of \$55 _____ Luncheon Payment of \$21 _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____