



Amicus Curiae

The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

June 2025

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NEXT MEETING

Friday, June 27

12 Noon
At Marina Jack

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June Program:

Fifty Years in the Lion's Den.

A Life Behind the Scenes in Government, Civic Advocacy and the Practice of Law.

Sarasota Practicing Attorney Dan Lobeck will entertain us while informing us about a topic in which he has recognized expertise-land use, condominium and homeowner association law and the shady practices in Florida which he has encountered.

About Our Speaker – Dan Lobeck

Dan Lobeck is a Managing Partner of The Law Offices of Lobeck and Rowe, in Sarasota. (www.lobeckrowe.com) His six-attorney firm represents hundreds of condominium and homeowners associations in Sarasota and Manatee Counties and beyond. He lives in a downtown Sarasota condominium with his wife Xin, who as a college student in China protested for democracy in the Tiananmen Square uprising. He has two children, Lauren (25) and Jack (23), both Sarasota High School graduates and now in college.

Dan was Student Body President at the University of Florida, elected in a defeat of a decades-old corrupt system despite the theft of thousands of campus newspapers to hide his endorsement on election day. Out of Law School, he served as Aide to the State Senate Republican Leader and learned how and why state laws are really made. Following the Senator's retirement, Dan got a job with the Bureau of Condominiums in Tallahassee and soon worked his way up to its chief policy maker.

Dan was then recruited to a statewide law firm for condominium and homeowner associations in Fort Lauderdale, became a partner and opened their Sarasota office in 1983. Four years later he started his own law practice and grew it to what the firm is today.

Dan has also been involved in Florida's condominium law as the two-term chair of the legislative committee of Community Associations Institute, and for decades through today as an active member of the Condominium and Planned Development Law Committee of the Florida Bar.

He has written often on condominium law and authored a chapter in both the first edition of the Florida Bar's textbook for lawyers, Florida Condominium Law and Practice, as well as the new edition about to be published.

Mr. Lobeck is also a leader in land use law, protecting communities as their lawyer from incompatible development at public hearings and in court, and has established important legal precedent in that role.

Dan was on the Board of Directors of Save Our Bays and Vice President of Siesta Key Association. He was founding president of the West Florida Chapter of Community Associations Institute and the Sarasota County Young Republicans, and continues to serve as the long-time president of Control Growth Now, in Sarasota County. (www.controlgrowthnow.org).

Gulf Coast Business Review named Dan Lobeck as one of the fifty most influential business people in Sarasota and Manatee Counties and Sarasota Magazine named him one of the "25 Most Influential Men and Women in Sarasota." Dan looks forward to increased travel (beginning with Iceland in August) and leaving a legacy of a life well lived.

Amicus Personae – Ronald Levine
Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Ron Levine was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Valley Stream, NY on Long Island.

He attended Princeton University, from which he received his undergraduate degree summa cum laude in 1974, and then attended Harvard Law School, graduating with honors in 1977. His classmates and study partners included Merrick Garland and Barney Frank.

Unlike his classmates who wanted to go into government careers, he wanted to be a litigator in private practice. He was fortunate to get hired directly out of law school by famed trial attorney Louis Nizer at the firm, Phillips, Nizer, Benjamin, Krim & Ballon.

While he was at the Nizer firm Ron got involved in a landmark First Amendment case involving the New York Times. The General Counsel of the Times was leaving to become a partner at Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyons & Gates, and he offered Ron a position at that large NY firm. While at Debevoise Ron got involved with product liability defense, in addition to First Amendment cases. He loved the products defense work.

Ron pursued his strong interest in products liability defense by joining a smaller firm, Herrick, Feinstein, where he has spent 40 years, 15 of which as co-chair of litigation and later as its general counsel. He semi-retired in 2021, and remains as counsel.

He has been privileged to work on many high profile cases, including Love Canal, Ford/Firestone, the Tobacco litigation and the Toxic Shock Syndrome litigations. He is especially proud of his pro bono work assisting Haitian immigrants get political asylum.

Ron currently teaches consumer regulation courses at Rutgers and lectures and writes on legal practice and artificial intelligence. He is an Editor for Law360 Consumer Protection. He is also an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association. Ron is the former Chair of the **Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar of the NYS Bar Association**.

Ron and his wife Cindy divide their time between Longboat Key and Princeton Junction, NJ.

Ron and his wife are members of the Longboat Key Club. He is always looking to go out on the Club courses with golfers who have a strong sense of humor about their game.

Luncheon & Dues Payments

**Please note that the dues for 2025 are now payable and have increased to \$65.
Also, the cost of the luncheon has increased to \$35.**

You may make 2025 payments on our website at the bottom of the [Events](#) page:
\$35 for lunch and/or \$65 for dues using PayPal at
www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

Or you may mail a check for the luncheon payment of \$35 payable to the
Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

Please send to: Ben Berman, 4223 MacKay Falls Terrace, Sarasota, FL 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.

Future Programs

Please note the following dates and programs for the next luncheons.

Friday, June 27

Sarasota Practicing Attorney Dan Lobeck will entertain us while informing us about a topic in which he has recognized expertise-land use, condominium and homeowner association law and the shady practices in Florida which he has encountered.

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 or Jim Case at JamesWCase1968@gmail.com .

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

What Do Retired Attorneys Do?

We are soliciting items, which can be as short as one paragraph if you like, talking about a past-time of yours that may be of interest to our membership. Please send your idea to retiredattorneysofsarasota@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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

Steve Berry @ sberry@berryplc.com