



Amicus Curiae

The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

September 2026

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New Member

Frederick Masters

In Memoriam

Burt Raimi

NEXT MEETING

Friday, September 25

12 Noon
at the Varsity Club
University Park CC

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September Program:

Legal Aid of Manasota, Its Clients and Projects, including
the Emeritus Lawyer Project and ways to get involved

About Our Speaker – Pamela Fields

Pam grew up in Connecticut and then moved to Minneapolis MN. She graduated from the University of MN and moved to Sarasota FL a few years later.

She graduated from Stetson University College of Law in 2006 and joined Legal Aid of Manasota in 2009 as a staff attorney. She practiced in the Venice office for 5 years serving income eligible clients who needed legal assistance with foreclosure lawsuits on their personal residences.

In 2014, Pam became the Pro Bono Manager and moved to the main office of Legal Aid of Manasota in downtown Sarasota. As the Pro Bono Manager, Pam was responsible for placing qualifying cases with volunteer pro bono attorneys, developing new pro bono projects, and recruiting volunteers.

In 2026, she became the Managing Attorney and is now responsible for both the Staff and Pro Bono Departments.

She is currently on the Board of the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness and was a member of the Sarasota Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Email: PamelaF@legalaidofmanasota.org

Phone: 941-366-0038 ext. 101

May Meeting

FBI Supervisory Senior Resident Agent Cassie Orleans from the FBI's Sarasota office was the featured speaker during May's meeting. Agent Orleans shared that the most costly crime committed in Sarasota, as well as in the rest of the United States, is fraud, which has many manifestations. A conservative estimate of the annual cost of business fraud, cyber fraud, bitcoin fraud and person-to-person fraud is over \$200 billion. Agent Orleans discussed how the aged are prime targets of fraudsters and the many methods used to obtain their assets. Attendees at the meeting were warned to never give their passwords over the internet, especially to persons claiming to be from their bank. A common fraud often begins, she explained, when we open emails from unknown parties. That often results in messaging that states our computers are locked and payment is required to unfreeze them. Agent Orleans advised that many of the fraudsters are from India, and that the FBI has been able to work with Indian authorities to deal with identifiable criminals; however, many of the perpetrators are from China and other nations and they are difficult to apprehend. Many home grown fraudsters scheme to use the computer to deprive participants involved in real estate and other financial transactions. The FBI should be notified immediately, Agent Orleans advised, if it is thought any transaction may be fraudulent in order to prevent their completion. A lively discussion with attendees at the meeting followed Agent Orleans' formal presentation.

Amicus Personae – Judge Judith M. Brazilay

Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Judge Barzilay was born in Russell, KS, on January 3, 1944, the daughter of First Lieutenant Arthur Morgenstern, then serving with the US Army on New Caledonia in the South Pacific and Hilda Specter Morgenstern, a substitute teacher at Russell High School. Hilda had returned to Russell from Syracuse, NY, after the Fellowship she had been awarded from the Maxwell School of Public Administration was withdrawn after she became pregnant. Until her father returned from World War II, the Judge lived with her mother and her mother's family, which included her grandparents, an aunt and 2 uncles, one of whom, 14-year-old Arlen Specter, would go on to become the longest serving Senator in Pennsylvania history and crucial to baby Judith's future career.

Judge Barzilay graduated from Southeast High in Wichita, KS, where she was a member of the school's award-winning Debate Team, and Wichita State University where she was an editor on the newspaper and named an outstanding graduating student by the Yearbook staff.

After careers as a high school English teacher and a reference librarian, the Judge entered Rutgers Law School in Newark, NJ, when her two sons were ages 2 and 4. The Judge credits her husband Sal with encouraging and supporting her in this decision and all the others leading up to her nomination to the Federal Bench. After graduation she clerked on the New Jersey Superior Court, joined the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, where she litigated for the United States at the US Court of International Trade, and the legal department of Sony Electronics. After 2 years at the Sony law department, she was named Vice President for Import, Export Operations and Compliance where she supervised the import of 5 billion dollars and the export of 1.2 billion dollars annually. With her help Sony Electronics developed an automated import/export system sophisticated enough to track all facets of import compliance recognized as one of the first of its kind by the US Customs Service. She was appointed to Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's Import Advisory Committee and lectured frequently to Import and Export trade groups.

In 1998, with the help of her uncle Senator Specter and his good friend, then Senator Joseph Biden, the Judge was nominated by President Bill Clinton to fill a vacancy on the US Court of International Trade. The Judge was fortunate to have the support of the International Trade and Customs Bar Association and was the first nominee ever to have government, private law firm and import business operating experience. While on the court, Judge Barzilay chaired the Education Committee and taught Customs Classification Law to each new law clerk class. Her 209 opinions covered important topics in customs and trade law, including the classification of Marvel's X-Men toys, how to account for the privatization of Europe's steel industry after WWII, and how the government can impose penalties on importers. She also sat by designation of the Chief Justice on the 3rd 5th 6th and 9th Circuit Courts of Appeal.

In 2012, after taking senior status at the court, Judge Barzilay joined the Faculty of the Law School at William and Mary, in Williamsburg, VA where she taught for 5 years. The Judge and her husband live in Dedham, MA and Sarasota FL

Questionnaire

This Member's project, Lessons Learned, has been prepared by Ronald J. Levine, a member of ARAS' Board. It is a public education initiative designed to share the collective wisdom of ARAS' membership with anyone who may encounter the legal system. The project has three interconnected goals: demystify the law; help individuals make informed decisions about when to seek legal counsel, what to expect and how to be an effective "partner" to their attorney, and offer ARAS members a meaningful vehicle to contribute their professional insights.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

ARAS members have collectively served across virtually every area of law throughout the country — civil litigation, criminal defense, estate planning, family law, corporate transactions, real estate, constitutional law, and beyond. The Lessons Learned project channels that depth of experience into a single, accessible resource for the broader community.

HOW THE PROJECT WORKS

Each ARAS member is invited — and encouraged — to contribute at least one Lesson Learned. Submissions may draw on any aspect of a members practice, whether a recurring mistake made by clients, a systemic misunderstanding about the legal system, a cautionary tale, or a hard-won insight about navigating legal processes effectively.

The goal is not to provide legal advice, but rather to offer practical wisdom developed over decades of practice.

Contributions will be reviewed by an editorial subcommittee for accuracy, clarity, and appropriateness, then compiled into a published collection. Formats under consideration include a printed booklet for distribution through libraries, courthouses, and community centers; a dedicated section of the ARAS website; presentations to local organizations; and potential partnerships with local media outlets.

All contributions can be attributed, with member bios available as an appendix so that readers can appreciate the depth and breadth of experience behind each Lesson Learned. Or, they can be done anonymously. We encourage you to permit attribution.

NEXT STEPS

Members are invited to submit their Lessons Learned to Ronald J. Levine, the project coordinator, no later than September 8, 2026, via email to ronald.levine74@gmail.com. They can be sent in the body of an email, or as a WORD or pdf attachment.

Submissions should be written in plain language, as though speaking to a neighbor who has never consulted an attorney. Technical jargon should be avoided (or explained).

The ideal submission is between 150 and 500 words. Longer submissions will be considered.

As indicated on the Questionnaire, please let us know whether the submission is anonymous, or whether we can attribute the submission to you by name. You don't have to answer all questions, but are encouraged to do so.

Members with questions about the project or submission process can contact Ron at his email address.

Part I — Contributor Information Name:

State(s) where you practiced law: _____

Primary areas of practice (check all that apply):

- ☐ Litigation
- ☐ Corporate / Business
- ☐ Estate Planning / Probate
- ☐ Family Law
- ☐ Criminal Law
- ☐ Labor and Employment Law
- ☐ Real Estate
- ☐ Regulatory / Government
- ☐ Other: _____

Approximate years in practice:

- ☐ 10-20
- ☐ 20-30
- ☐ 30-40
- ☐ 40+

Part II — Your Lesson Learned

1. What is one lesson about law, lawyers, or the legal system that you wish every client or member of the public understood?
2. Briefly explain the lesson (150—500 words). Add additional pages with your submission if you would like.
3. What common mistakes do people make related to this lesson?
4. What practical advice would you give the public based on this lesson?
5. Did a particular type of case lead you to learn this lesson?
☐ Yes
☐ No
If yes, please briefly describe (without identifying details):

Part III — Additional Contributions (Optional)

If you wish, please provide one or two additional Lessons Learned.

Part IV — Publication Permission

- ☐ I give permission for my submission to be included in publications, presentations, and educational programs associated with the Lessons Learned Project.

Luncheon & Dues Payments

Our September 25th luncheon selections are a cheeseburger with French fries or quiche with a side salad.

Please remember to schedule your lunch and choose your preferred menu on a timely basis. Walk-ins may have more limited menu options and delayed service.

You may make payments on our website at the bottom of the [Events](#) page:

\$32 for lunch and/or \$65 for dues using PayPal at www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

Or you may mail a check for the luncheon payment of \$32 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 and luncheon selection 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 for the next luncheons.

Friday, September 25, 2026

Friday, October 30, 2026

Friday, November 20, 2026

Friday, December 18, 2026

Friday, January 29, 2027

Friday, February 26, 2027

Pamela Fields

Judge Erika Quartermaine

Jim Champy

Bonnie Kistler

Judge Frank Pfeiffer

Alan Spoon

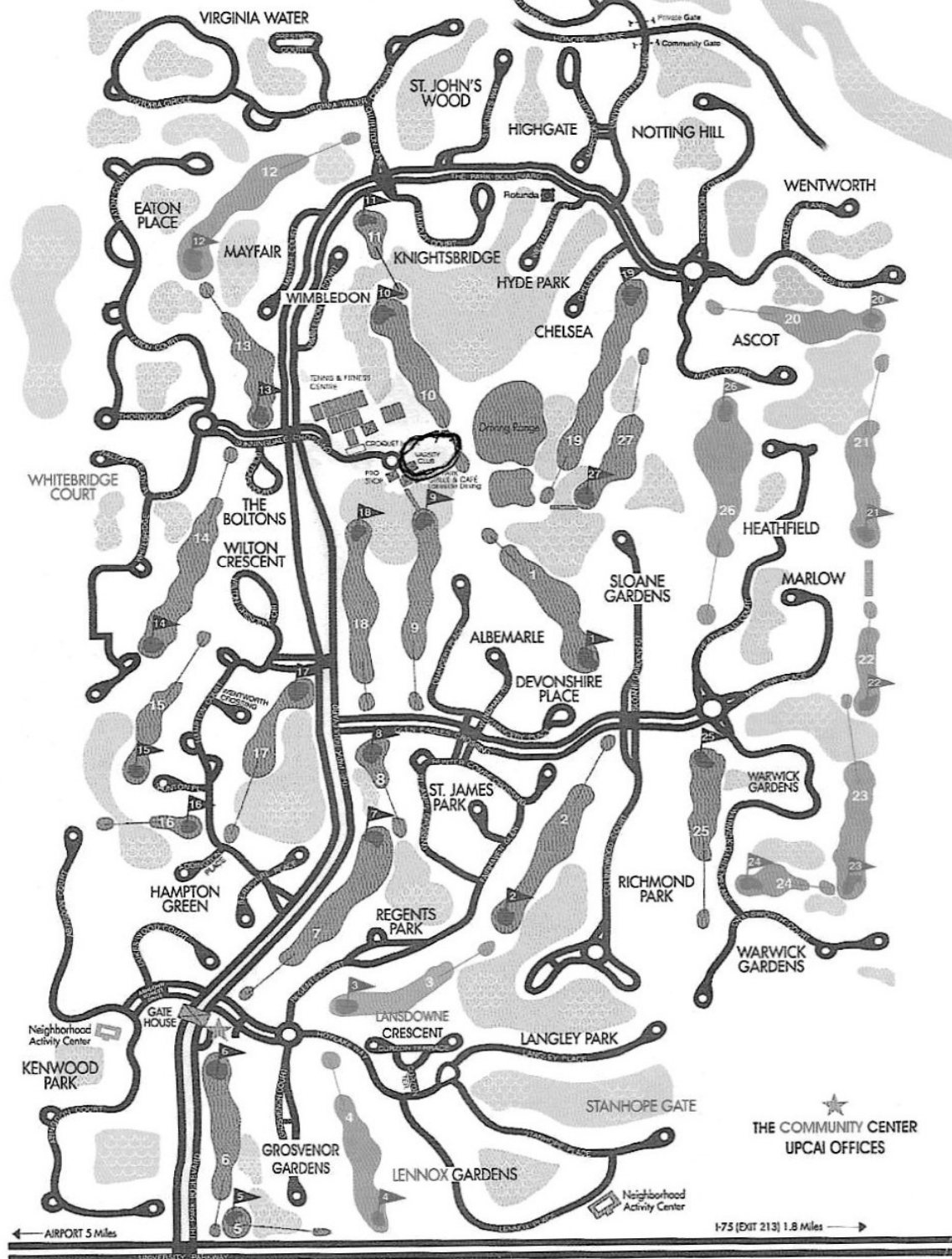
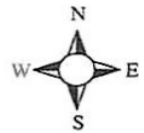
Program Committee

The Program Committee invites Members to let its Chairman, Harold Zabin, know if you are interested in joining that committee. The job entails working with other members of the committee to select topics for ARAS monthly luncheon meetings, and line up speakers for those meetings. Areas considered by the committee include law, business, government, media and the arts. The committee meets at least quarterly in person or by Zoom. Harold can be contacted at hpzabin@aol.com.

Amicus Submissions

If you have items of interest to the members, please forward them to David Goldrich at petsdad@aol.com

UNIVERSITY PARK



University Parkway
Front Gate - ASK FOR DIRECTIONS AT GATE HOUSE