



# Amicus Curiae

The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

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

March 2025

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## NEXT MEETING

**Friday, March 28**

12 Noon  
At Marina Jack

### Officers

James Case, Acting President  
Benjamin I. Berman, Treasurer  
Steven Berry, Secretary

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### Association Photographer

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## March Program:

Guest speaker, John T. Griffin, Esq., a Florida Bar Board-Certified Elder Law Attorney, will address the essential pieces you need to evaluate to help ensure that you are taking the right steps to protect yourself and your finances from the costs and complications associated with growing older. You will learn about:

- Understanding the role Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Benefits, and Private Insurance play in paying for your future care, including home care, assisted living care, memory care, and nursing home care.
- How to maximize benefits that may be available to you or your family.
- How to evaluate your estate planning documents (powers of attorney, health care directives, living wills, last will and testaments, and trusts) to determine if they adequately address your future needs.

## **About Our Speaker – John T. Griffin, Esq.**



John T. Griffin is board-certified by The Florida Bar as an expert in Elder Law. Mr. Griffin is a partner in the law firm of GRIFFIN & GRIFFIN. Mr. Griffin practices in the area of Elder Law, Estate Planning, VA Benefits, Medicaid Planning, Asset Protection, Probate, Elder Law Litigation and Special Needs Planning.

Mr. Griffin is licensed to practice law in Florida. Mr. Griffin's professional associations include the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA), the Association of Florida Elder Law Attorneys (AFELA), the Florida Bar Elder Law Section, and the Sarasota County Bar Association.

Mr. Griffin has served two terms as Chairman of the Nursing Home Resident's Rights Special Committee for the Elder Law Section (ELS) of The Florida Bar. Mr. Griffin served as the 2010 Co-Chair of the Florida Bar Elder Law Section Public Benefits Seminar. He has previously served as an Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys (AFELA) Area Representative for the Sarasota region and as the Chairman of the Sarasota County Bar Guardianship Subcommittee.

Mr. Griffin practices with his wife, Carrie Bailey Griffin, who is also an elder law attorney. They are the proud parents of two children, ages 18 and 13.



**Amicus Personae – Philip Leber, JD Realtor®**  
**Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota**



Professor Philip Leber is a distinguished legal scholar and educator. He is an established attorney possessing eighteen years of successful public and private law practice with emphasis in real estate, environmental, business and administrative law. His current work as a Realtor with Keller Williams has spanned seven years. He has developed and maintained close relationships with business and civic organizations, and over the past decade has been actively engaged in musical entertainment for the assisted living community in the Sarasota/Manatee area.

Professor Leber's professional history includes thirteen years on the adjunct faculties of George Washington University, George Mason University and Everglades University, including classroom instruction, distance learning, and curriculum development.

His experience includes curriculum development, supervision of student internships, experiential learning activities and interdisciplinary educational programs. He taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in public policy, environmental law and regulation, as well as real estate law and transactions. Throughout his career he has authored and presented a wide array of scholarly endeavors.

His strong background and experience in real estate law and transactions has brought Professor Leber to State College of Florida where he is teaching the entire Real Estate Law and Transactions curriculum.

### **Education**

- Vermont Law School—Juris Doctor, 1980
- University of Virginia—Bachelor of Arts, Urban Studies, 1972

### **Professional Licenses**

- Virginia State Bar License No. 20494 (1981 – present)
- Florida Real Estate Sales License No. SL3425811 (2018 – present)

### **Legal Experience**

- United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Attorney (1993 - 1998), Washington, D.C.
- Gammon & Grange, P.C., Of Counsel (1992 - 1993), McLean, Virginia.
- Arent, Fox, Senior Associate (1990 - 1992), Vienna, Virginia.
- McGuire, Woods, Associate (1985 - 1990), McLean, Virginia
- Bishop, Liberman, Associate (1982 - 1984), Washington, D.C.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Trial Attorney (1980 - 1982), Washington, D.C.
- South Florida Regional Planning Council, Program Director - Environmental Cost Analysis (1975 - 1977), Miami, Florida.

## **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](http://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, April 25**

Attorney Dan Lundy. Mr. Lundy, having been hired to manage 5,000 cases and one that involved 200 million dollars in tax liability for ITT (International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation), will fascinate us with stories about his experience.

### **Friday, May 30**

Attorney Steve Berry who has tried over 200 jury trials in the State of Michigan primarily involving medical malpractice, will regale us with some of his experiences.

### **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](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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## **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](mailto:retiredattorneysofsarasota@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!

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## **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

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

Steve Berry @ [sberry@berryplc.com](mailto:sberry@berryplc.com)