



Amicus Curiae

The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

May 2026

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New Members

Janis Cohen
Michele Daniele
Douglas Johnson
Robin Potter
David Ross

IN MEMORIUM

Richard Bruning

[Dick served ARAS for many years
as a Board member and Chair of
its Program Committee]

NEXT MEETING

Friday, May 29

12 Noon
at the Varsity Club
University Park CC

Officers

James Case, President
Benjamin I. Berman, Treasurer
Milly Collins, Secretary

Directors

Benjamin I. Berman
James Case
Milly Collins
David Goldrich
Chris Heckman
Joel Helmrich
Ronald Levine
Stephen Sturm
Harold M. Zabin

Newsletter Editor

David Goldrich

Association Photographer

Diana Lynn

Administrative Assistant

Frank Sharpe

May Program:

Current Outreach Efforts of the FBI and Issues It
Faces in Tampa and Environs

About Our Speaker – Betsy Conley

After graduating from the University of Tampa, Betsy Conley began her career working for two law firms, although not as an attorney. Ms. Conley joined the FBI in 2015 and works out of its Tampa Field Office, where she serves as its Community Outreach Specialist. In that capacity Ms. Conley's charge is to strengthen the relationship between the FBI and the community to further the Bureau's public safety mission, which she does by engaging with local residents and organizations.

April Meeting

Prof. Gayle Lewis shared with attendees at the ARAS March meeting a brief history of the Supreme Court since Marbury v. Madison and its significant recent decisions. Prof. Lewis spoke about the current members of the Court and speculation as to Justices who may retire before the upcoming mid-term elections and the consequences of any such retirement.

Among the topics upon which Prof. Lewis expounded was the decision in Citizens United and her view as to what has resulted from the Court's decision in that case. Prof. Lewis spoke of the Court's shadow docket; the dichotomy between Justices who are considered originalists or textualists; the caseload of District Courts, and other meaningful issues.

Prof. Lewis's presentation sparked a lively Q and A period with attendees discussing, and debating, the issues she raised.

Amicus Personae – Hollis Weisman

Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

For years, Hollis Weisman worked out in her basement gym in Maryland in front of the TV. Law and Order was almost always on. And Hollis was almost always yelling at the TV, "You can't do that!" Or sometimes, "You can do that?"

For 45 years, Hollis was a prosecutor, first in Prince George's County, Maryland, and then in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland. During that time, Hollis litigated thousands of cases before judges and juries and argued cases in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. And her intimate knowledge of the criminal justice system confirmed that not only did she want to try cases, she also wanted to teach law.

Hollis graduated from the University of Maryland in 1974 with experience as a journalist. She went to New York University Law School, graduating in 1977, with the intention of going back into journalism and writing about the Supreme Court for The New York Times. When that did not pan out, she began practicing law, first as a judicial law clerk in Prince George's County, and then as a prosecutor.

When Hollis became an empty nester in 2002, she became an adjunct professor in the master's program in forensic sciences at George Washington University. Her students, she discovered, were motivated and well-educated, with backgrounds in the sciences and a need to understand the court system in which they would be working. After 12 years, Hollis left GWU because it became too difficult to spend eight hours in the courtroom followed by two or four hours in the classroom and an hour-long drive home to the Baltimore suburbs.

Upon retirement from the Justice Department in 2022, Hollis and her husband David moved to the Lake Club in Lakewood Ranch, keeping their house in Maryland because that's where their two granddaughters live. Hollis has been volunteer teaching at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, an organization for continuing education for older adults, for the past two years. The class she is teaching in the spring 2026 is titled "Controversies in the Courts." Last year, one of the classes she taught was called "What Law and Order Gets Wrong."

Luncheon & Dues Payments

Our May 29th luncheon selections are a cheeseburger with French fries, or quiche lorraine with a side salad. The dessert will be key lime pie.

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.

In 2026 we will meet at the Varsity Club at University Park Country Club (UPCC). Attached is a map showing the location of the Varsity Club at UPCC. Turn right at the second stop sign after the gate house. - There is ample parking; however, for those needing assistance stop at the bag drop near the entrance to the Varsity Club.

Our schedule for "The Varsity Club" at University Park Country is as follows:

Friday, September 25, 2026	TBD
Friday, October 30, 2026	Judge Quartermaine
Friday, November 20, 2026	Jim Champy
Friday, December 18, 2026	Bonnie Kistler

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.

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!

Amicus Submissions

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

