



Amicus Curiae

The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

December 2025

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New Member

Arthur Jacobs

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 18

12 Noon
At Marina Jack

Officers

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

Directors

Benjamin I. Berman
James Case
Milly Collins
David Goldrich
Joel Helmrich
Christina Schwinn
Stephen Sturm
Harold M. Zabin

Newsletter Editor

David Goldrich

Association Photographer

Diana Lynn

Administrative Assistant

Frank Sharpe

December Program:

**The Role of General Counsel of Ringling;
Legal Challenges and Current Programs**

About Our Speaker – Elena Paul

Elena M. Paul is the first General Counsel of Ringling College of Art and Design, a college with a contemporary art museum in Sarasota, Florida, which was founded in 1931.

Prior to that position, she was the General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation, a performing arts organization and school that furthers the vision of the artist and civil rights activist, Alvin Ailey. She also managed Ailey's Human Resources Department.

Prior to Ailey, Ms. Paul was the Executive Director of Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA). She also represented clients at VLA on a pro bono basis. In her tenure, VLA enjoyed record growth and program improvement. Prior to VLA, Ms. Paul was Executive Director of Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts.

Before joining WALA, Ms. Paul acted as University Counsel in the Office of the President at the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to this position, Ms. Paul served as an attorney at two major national law firms in DC, Patton Boggs and Bryan Cave, where she practiced corporate and real estate law.

Ms. Paul received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Davidson College, phi beta kappa, and her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. Ms. Paul was a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard Law School.

She advises many arts and cultural organizations, including The Center for Photography at Woodstock and The Classical Theatre of Harlem. She served as a mentor for The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in its Arts in Crisis Program. For her alma mater, Davidson College, she is a member of The Art Collection Advisory Committee (ACAC) and leads the ACAC's Diversity and Inclusion efforts.

Since 2010, Ms. Paul has been an Adjunct Professor in the Producing and Documentary Programs at the New York Film Academy. Some of her other teaching included work for L'Accademia Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy, Fordham Law School in the Fashion Law Institute, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Pratt Institute of Art & Design, and Brooklyn Law School.

Amicus Personae – Arthur Jacobs

Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

I retired after 54 years of civil practice, based in Manhattan. After working with two general civil practice firms following my graduation from Cornell Law School in 1967, I founded my own firm in 1995, as Jacobs&Conklin, which later became Jacobs deBrauwere, and subsequently Jacobs&Burleigh. Our practice, at its height, employed eight attorneys, and was primarily centered in intellectual property, involving book and magazine publishing, digital licensing, entertainment matters, as well as trademark and copyright and various transactional litigation matters for our clients.

I decided to retire in 2024, and after referring my firm's then remaining clients to a surviving partner, I dissolved the firm in the spring of 2024. Prior to my forming my firm, for which I had the ultimate and major responsibility for the firm's success, my personal practice was more litigation based. In this regard and during such pre-1995 period, I brought a number of litigations, one of which involved the first class action common law fraud claim to go to trial in New York State. In that case, *Stellema v. Vantage Press, et al.*, the central legal issue was whether "reliance", a requisite element of a fraud claim, could be assumed on a class wide basis. Neither New York State, nor most of the states, prior to such litigation, had ever held that "reliance" could ever be a "common" issue that could be held to be assumed by all of an action's classmembers. Such issue, which was very heavily litigated, was ultimately determined by New York's appellate courts that reliance, in appropriate cases, could be a common issue, thus, precedentially, permitting the *Stellema* case and successor common law fraud actions to be litigated as class actions in most, if not all, other US jurisdictions.

Notice of Annual Meeting of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

The annual meeting of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota will take place as part of the January luncheon at the Varsity Club at University Park Country Club on January 30, 2026 at noon. At that time, elections will be held for vacant board seats and the president will report on the status of the organization.

Luncheon & Dues Payments

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 for the next luncheons.

As noted above, our December 18, 2025 meeting will be held at Marina Jacks in the second-floor conference room.

Beginning in January of 2026 we will meet at the "Varsity Club" at University Park Country Club (UPCC). We are able to reduce the charge for our luncheons held at UPCC from \$35 to \$32. Luncheon selections for January will be either a salad with protein or a hamburger, which will be accompanied by a dessert. If you plan to attend, please let Ben Berman know your preference. Attached is a map showing the location of the Varsity Club at UPCC. There is ample parking; however, for those needing assistance there will be valet service when you 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, January 30, 2026 | Judith Barzilay | Judge, US Crt Int'l Trade |
| Friday, February 27, 2026 | David Evans | Gen Counsel SMH |
| Friday, March 27, 2026 | Rick Dakan | Ringling Professor, AI Expert |
| Friday, April 24, 2026 | TBD | |
| Friday, May 29, 2026 | TBD | |
| Friday, September 25, 2026 | TBD | |
| Friday, October 30, 2026 | TBD | |
| Friday, November 20, 2026 | TBD | |
| Friday, December 18, 2026 | TBD | |

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 David Goldrich at petsdad@aol.com

UNIVERSITY PARK

