



# Amicus Curiae

The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

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

March 2026

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## **NEXT MEETING**

**Friday, March 27**

12 Noon  
at the Varsity Club  
University Park CC

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## March Program:

The Creative Advantage:  
Thriving as an Artist in the Era of AI Disruption

## About Our Speaker – PROFESSOR RICK DAKAN

Rick Dakan is a professor at Ringling College of Art & Design, where he oversees the new Creative Technologies BFA program and serves as AI Coordinator and Interim Co-Director of the new Center for the Creative Economy.

Professor Dakan worked as a freelance writer, novelist and video game designer from 1995 until 2016, when he joined Ringling College to develop and teach courses on comics; games; themed environments and interactive media. In 2024 Professor Dakan was named as the college's first AI Coordinator in which position he headed the college's AI Task Force and went on to oversee the development of its Undergraduate Certificate in AI and Fundamentals of AI for the creative professionals certificate course. Professor Dakan helps organize Ringling College's annual AI and Creative Innovation Symposium, which invites experts, artists, and educators to join for the advocacy of artists in the age of AI.

In collaboration with Professor Joseph Feller from University College Cork in Ireland, Professor Dakan has co-developed the 4D Framework for AI Fluency, which is the basis for AI fluency training and has been adopted by numerous colleges, universities and businesses around the world. In 2025 Professors Dakan and Feller, working with Anthropic, produced a series of free online courses on AI Fluency which are available at [anthropic.com/ai-fluency](https://anthropic.com/ai-fluency).

Professor Dakan is a Sarasota native and proud to be an alum of the Pine View class of 1990.

**Amicus Personae – Charles Slade**  
**Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota**

Charlie Slade is a Maryland native who grew up in Howard County, located midway between Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

He earned his undergraduate degree in accounting from the University of Baltimore in 1970. While working for a local CPA/attorney, Charlie recognized the value of combining accounting and law and decided to pursue a legal education. He continued working as an accountant while attending the University of Baltimore School of Law, passing the CPA exam in 1972 and the Maryland Bar Exam in 1976.

After gaining experience with several accounting firms, Charlie established his own accounting and tax practice with his wife, Norma. Norma continues the Slade and Company tax practice in Florida. In addition to his tax work, Charlie served as counsel to multiple law firms as an estate and trust attorney, assisting with the administration of more than 300 estates and trusts.

From 2006 to 2016, Charlie wrote and presented national seminars on estate taxation and estate and trust income taxation. These engagements also provided opportunities for travel, which Charlie and Norma happily turned into vacations throughout the United States.

Charlie served for over 21 years in the Maryland Army National Guard as a combat engineer officer. After relocating to Florida, he continued supporting veterans by serving as a guardian on twelve Honor Flights from Florida to Washington, D.C.

Following many post-tax season visits to Siesta Key, Charlie and Norma purchased their first home in Bradenton in 2009 and became full-time residents of Lakewood Ranch in 2013. They are now looking forward to becoming residents of the Emerson Lakes Retirement Community in Lakewood Ranch in late 2027.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

February's ARAS meeting at the Varsity Club at University Park Country Club was attended by over 50 members and guests. The speaker was senior inactive Judge Irene M. Keeley of the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia. Judge Keeley shared a light hearted recap of her distinguished career and provided a comprehensive description of the evolution of the federal judicial system and the challenges it has faced, as well as those confronting the District Courts at the present time. Judge Keeley described the massive increase in habeas corpus immigration cases inundating the District Courts and their impact on other cases and litigants.

Judge Keeley's presentation and responses to questions were enjoyed by the attendees and she encouraged ARAS to invite her to speak to its members at a future meeting.

### Luncheon & Dues Payments

On March 27<sup>th</sup> luncheon selections are a turkey and swiss sandwich with lettuce and tomatoes and house made chips, or a hearts of romaine salad with grilled chicken. The dessert will be carrot cake.

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](http://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). Luncheon selections for March will be either a hearts of romaine salad with grilled chicken, or a turkey and swiss sandwich with lettuce and tomatoes and house made chips, which will be accompanied by carrot cake as 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. Turn right at the second stop sign after the gate house. - 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, April 24, 2026	Gayle Lewis	Adj. Prof. at Rutgers Law School
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](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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## **Amicus Submissions**

If you have items of interest to the members, please forward them to David Goldrich at [petsdad@aol.com](mailto:petsdad@aol.com)



# UNIVERSITY PARK



University Parkway — ASK FOR DIRECTIONS AT GATE HOUSE  
 Front GATE