



Amicus Curiae

The Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

February 2025

Table of Contents

Page	
1	February Program
2	About our Monthly Speaker
3	Amicus Personae Dr. Kathleen Galica
4	Luncheon/Dues Info
5	Ideas for Future Programs
5	What Do Retired Attorneys Do?
5	Newsletter Ideas Welcome

NEXT MEETING

Friday, February 28

12 Noon
At Marina Jack

Officers

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

Directors

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

Newsletter Editor

Steven Berry

Association Photographer

Diana Lynn

Administrative Assistant

Frank Sharpe

February Program:

From Confucius to Xi Jinping: Will Corruption Bring Down the Middle Kingdom?

The program will focus on widespread, endemic corruption within the Chinese Communist Party today, the dilemma it poses for party leaders, and the impact it could have on the world community. It will be a blend of law and history.

About Our Speaker – George A. B. Peirce

George is the General Counsel for Hummingbird Aero, an engineering firm that designs safety-critical systems for the aerospace industry. He's also a Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Research Institute's National Security Program.

Before migrating to the Sunshine State in 2016 to join us at ARAS, George served for over twelve years at the Pentagon as the Defense Intelligence Agency's General Counsel. DIA's intelligence customers ranged from military commanders in combat to the President of the United States. From 1995 to 2004, he tried cases for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division, with a one-year break after 9/11 to return to active duty as an Army JAG Corps Colonel at the headquarters of the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic.

Earlier in his career, George worked at Steptoe & Johnson in Washington, D.C., after beginning his legal labors as an Army JAG officer. His assignments ranged from prosecuting courts-martial for the 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One) to oversight of intelligence activities in the Office of the Secretary of the Army. His overseas service included assignments in Turkey, Panama, Germany, and in Belgium at the headquarters of the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

George is a graduate of West Point, Harvard Law School, and the U.S. Army War College, and has a Master of Science from the National Intelligence University. He's taught at the George Washington University, Stetson University, the Army JAG School, and, most recently, at the University of South Florida's Honors College. He's a published author on international law topics and on the Chinese Communist Party – his topic for today. George has also given presentations at Oxford, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, the National Defense University, and at the annual St. Petersburg, Florida Conference on World Affairs.

Amicus Personae – Dr. Kathleen Galica

Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota



Kathleen Galica was born into a family of 9 children on a farm in Stafford Connecticut. She learned at an early age to fend for herself and look after each other. Being able to balance independence and to be a vital part of a community was a skill that would serve her well in her sport, career and family life. She was a competitive Gymnast in High School and college. Her passion for health and fitness led her to receive a BS in Physical Therapy at Ithaca College in Ithaca NY in 1983. Part of her training was done at Albert Einstein School of Medicine in the Bronx NY. She left the busy city and bitter cold to start her career in the Sarasota sunshine. She went on to complete a Masters in Public Health in Healthcare Policy and Management. This exposed her to the administrative, political and legal aspects of healthcare. She started her outpatient Physical Therapy Private Practice, Advanced Health Systems, Inc in 1987.

Her PT practice specializes in sports and orthopedic injuries. She has treated all ages from infants to geriatrics. She has worked with professional, semi-professional, amateur, and recreational athletes, collegiate and high school students, professional and industrial workers, and everyday patients. Her practice expanded to 5 offices in Southwest Florida. As part of her practice she has been doing expert witness work and enjoyed merging law and healthcare. Her sister, Kelley Galica Peck is a Trust and Estate Lawyer with Cummings and Lockwood in Connecticut, encouraged her to pursue a law degree. She received a BS in Law and JD from Novus University, Lancaster CA in 2015.

She participates in Healthcare advocacy efforts with the League of Women Voters, the American Physical Therapy Association and FPTA. Also working with the LWV in Florida promoting restoring voting rights for Florida citizens by arming their Lawyers with the necessary CLEs to assist them. She has been on the Salvation Army Advisory Board for Sarasota for the past 12 years and currently serves as its Chairperson. She is also very active serving as an Ambassador in the Sarasota Manatee chapter of Impact100SRQ. A charitable group of women that contributes multiple grants of \$100,000 to local charities.

She continues to perform Physical Therapy in her Concierge Practice at Reed Medical group on Longboat Key and her Venice office, Advanced Physical Therapy of Venice. She is still an avid sports enthusiast and athlete and enjoys golf, tennis, pilates, running and walking.

Kathleen and her late husband Dr. Robert Devine were very involved in the community in healthcare, education, recreation and local charities. Her life is forever full with her family. She is the mother of 3 grown daughters, 3 grandsons and a granddaughter on the way. She met her soul mate during the COVID pandemic. Now she and her husband David Schwartz reside on Longboat Key.

She is still very close to her 4 brothers, 4 sisters and her Mother.

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

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.

Please note the following dates for the next luncheons:

Friday, February 28, 2025

Friday, March 28, 2025

Friday, April 25, 2025

Friday, May 30, 2025

Friday, June 27, 2025

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

Steve Berry @ sberry@berryplc.com