



# Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

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

April 2023

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### Welcome New Member

Candice Miller

NEXT MEETING

**Friday, April 28**

12 Noon

at Marina Jack

April Speaker: Dana B. Keane,  
Incivility in a Civil Profession

Over the last twenty plus years, the practice of law has undergone a lot of change. Most of those changes have made the practice of law easier but some have fostered incivility and a lack of professionalism. The casualness of e-mail communications has led to some attorneys forgetting that they are still communicating in their professional capacity. The advent of Zoom hearings during Covid has resulted in some attorneys forgetting the decorum of the courtroom. There are also many examples of uncivil conduct between attorneys and the Florida Bar has made an effort to crack down on this behavior. Ms. Keane will discuss some recent examples of unprofessional conduct and incivility in the profession.

## **April Speaker: Dana B. Keane**

### **About Dana B. Keane:**

Dana B. Keane specializes in marital and family law. She is a native of Sarasota and a graduate of Pine View. Ms. Keane graduated with honors from Boston College with a B.A. in History and a concentration in Irish Studies. She received her J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. She was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in December 2004 and the Florida Bar in October 2006. She is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Sarasota, of which she is a past president. She has served on the Board of the Sarasota County Bar Association since 2015 and as president of the Association for the 2021-22 Bar year. She currently serves the SCBA as immediate past president. She served on the Board of First Step of Sarasota from 2010-2020, serving as Chair from 2018-2020. She also served as a mentor at the Booker High Law Academy from 2018-2021. She currently sits on the Board of the Sarasota Kiwanis Foundation and on a scholarship committee for the Sarasota Community Foundation.



Dana B. Keane

## **Amicus Personae - Mark Rice**

### **Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota**

Mark Rice was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Mark is the fifth generation in his family to practice law, going back to the territorial days of the State of South Dakota. To ensure the tradition was not broken, at an early age his Dad took him down to his office while he worked on week-ends, and took him to the Sheriff's office when he was five years old, while his Dad interviewed criminal clients. Later, while in high school he would work on demonstrative exhibits for his Dad's trials.

Following the family tradition, Mark attended the University of South Dakota where he graduated in 1978 with a BA in political science. However, in a break from family tradition, rather than attending law school in Chicago, Mark went to law school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Thinking he would be a trial lawyer Mark was active in Moot Court as its President and took every trial advocacy course he could. Upon graduation, he was faced with a big decision. Go back to South Dakota and practice with his Dad or go someplace where his family did not have any presence. Aberdeen is a small town of about 23,000 people, and it was not stretch of imagination to say everyone knew his Dad. Sioux Falls was another option, but there he would run into the legacy of his Grandfather, who was a circuit court judge. So next door to Omaha was Iowa, with lots of mid-size small towns and the opportunity to make a name for himself, unencumbered by the family legacy.

Graduating in 1982 from law school in the upper Midwest was not the best time to be looking for a job with no connections. The Midwest was in the middle of a farm crisis. Mark started out working in small town Iowa with a firm that had incorporated Winnebago industries, the motorhome manufacturer. He then went to work for a firm in Sioux City, Iowa where he was introduced to bankruptcy and commercial litigation. As luck would have it he was working on a case with a law firm from Des Moines and after the case was completed he was offered a job with the Des Moines firm.

Coming from Aberdeen, Des Moines was the big time. Mark's new firm was deep into the agricultural crisis legal work representing the FDIC as it closed numerous banks in the Midwest. This allowed Mark the opportunity to work on FDIC receivership issues, utilizing the special powers the FDIC enjoyed, and director and officer litigation. Mark was able to expand his work into representing regional and national banks and other financial institutions with commercial litigation and loan restructures and his work can be seen in the 18 published cases he handled. Life changes, and with that so does a law practice. Mark joined the Whitfield & Eddy PLC law firm and by the early 2000s Mark's practice evolved from being focused on commercial litigation to counseling financial institutions on best practices, and negotiating and drafting loan documents. In the non-bank arena Mark's practice developed into representing privately held mid-market companies, ultimately resulting in being part of the deal team that won the 2011 10th Annual M&A Advisor Lower Middle Market Deal of the Year. Mark's skills were recognized by an AV rating in Martindale, and by Best Lawyers, and Chambers.

Mark has been a strong believer in giving back to the community. Mark enjoyed mentoring young associates as chair of his firm's Business and Banking practice group, mostly enjoyed his time as Chair of his firm's management committee, and always enjoyed being a frequent speaker at state and regional seminars. Mark was active in the Polk County, Iowa, and Federal Bar Associations. Outside of the practice of law Mark was a member of the Central Iowa Red Cross Board, Member and President of the St Augustin School board of education and active in the West Des Moines Rotary Club and local political campaigns.

Since the mid 1980s Mark and his spouse, Erin enjoyed coming to Sarasota to visit Erin's parents. When it came time to consider retirement, Sarasota was an easy decision. Mark relocated to Sarasota in July, 2022 and retired from the practice of law at the end of December, 2022. The long family tradition of practicing law came to an end with Mark. Both of his daughters work in Chicago in non-legal fields. However, they are not remiss in reminding him that being raised by a lawyer has given them some great life skills. Mark is looking forward to being an active part of the Sarasota community.

## 2023 Dues

Thank you for paying your 2023 dues.  
Here is a list of our 2023 dues paying members -- we are so glad to have you!

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### 2023 Dues Paid

As of April 12, 2023

Alexander, John M.	Kochenderfer, Kay
Andreas, Roberto A.	Krasnow, Michael E.
Aseltyne, Patrick	Krause, Benjamin D.
Barthold, Gael M.	Kushen, Allan S.
Bass, Stanley	Levene, S. Kim
Bennett, James H.	Liner, David
Berman, Benjamin I.	Lundy, Daniel F.
Berry, Steven C.	Lynn, Diana N.
Bruning, Richard	Malawsky, Donald N.
Bryant, Margaret B.	Marquette, Michael
Calhoun-Morton, Roberta(+24)	Mason, Karen
Case, James W.	McClure, Ann
Chase, Gary	Meade, Richard C.
Cload, Lisbeth	Meltzer, Philip
Coch, Nicholas L.	Miller, Candice
Cohen, David Martin	Miller, David G.
Cohen, David Michael	Moltz, Ira
Collins, Mildred S.	Moses, Charles
Crowley, Joan C.	Nefussy, Eli M.
Dawson, Diana	Nicolais, John
Dubbs, Thomas A.	Peirce, George A. B.
Dugan, Janet R.	Perlmutter, Irving H.
Eliasberg, Jr., Edward D.	Polelle, Michael
Foster, Robert N.	Prozzi, James A.
Fried, Martin L.	Raimi, Burton L.
Frigo, Victoria	Rice, G. Mark
Galica, Kathleen	Roberts, Geraldine A.
Golden, Michael	Sandner, James
Gopstein, Israel	Schneider, Tobi L.
Gordon, Stanley A.	Schnieder, Joan
Greenberg, Carl	Schwinn, Christina H.
Hansen, Julian	Shults, Thomas D.
Heckman, Chris	Sinai, Stuart
Helmrich, Joel	Snyder, David S.
Henning, Joel F.	Spahn, Elizabeth
Herring, William W.	Starr, Judith R.
Hill-Harvey, Karimu	Stulberg, E. Barry
Hoffman, Nancy	Sturm, Steve
Humphreys, Philip	Tilles, C. Evans
Hurd, Gordon B.	Weingarten, Richard L.
Hyatt, Ronald	Wolf, Charles R.
Jonas, Alan L.	Wolfe, Robert
Katz, Barbara	Zabin, Harold
Kidd, John E.	
Kline, David	

## **Luncheon Payments**

You may make payments on our website at the bottom of the page:  
\$28 for lunch and/or \$55 for dues using PayPal at

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

Or you may mail a check for the luncheon payment of \$28 payable to the  
**Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.**

Please send to: Ben Berman, 4223 Mackay Falls Terrace, Sarasota, Florida 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, April 28  
Monday, May 22  
Friday, June 23  
Friday, September 22  
Friday, October 27

We look forward to seeing you at Marina Jack at noon on the above dates.

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### **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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### **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

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

Milly Collins at [millyc054@gmail.com](mailto:millyc054@gmail.com) or

Joel Helmrich at [jhelmrich1@gmail.com](mailto:jhelmrich1@gmail.com)