



Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

February 2024

Table of Contents

| | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| Page | |
| 1 |February Program |
| 2 |About our Monthly Speaker |
| 3 |Message From Your President |
| 4 |Amicus Personae Jim Bennett |
| 5 |Annual Dues |
| 6 |Luncheon Info |
| 7 |What Do Retired Attorneys Do? |
| 7 |Ideas for Future Programs |
| 7 |Newsletter Ideas Welcome |

New Members

Robert E. McCarthy
Ivan Rubin
Ronald C. Smith
Paul M. Tschirhart.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, February 23

12 Noon
At Marina Jack

Officers

Judith Starr, President
James Case, Vice President
Benjamin I. Berman, Treasurer
Michael Krasnow, Secretary

Directors

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

Newsletter Editors

Milly Collins/Joel Helmrich

Association Photographer

Diana Lynn

Administrative Assistant

Frank Sharpe

February Program:

Regulation and Governance of Artificial Intelligence: Legal Risk Management Toolkit

For many, artificial Intelligence (“AI”) “started” with Hollywood’s depiction of an omniscient robotic navigator in the 1968 movie *2001: Space Odyssey*. Today, AI represents a technological improvement on Internet-enabled online software-driven business processes. Highly trained AI tools can connect the dots using copy-cat text and syntax. This presentation will define AI, explain how AI operates, consider use cases, identify core risks and review scientific, administrative and legislative responses. It will conclude with a possible toolkit for risk management and compliance for productive and prudent uses of AI. It will cover President Biden’s Executive Order, the pending European Union AI Act and some local laws.

About Our Speaker – William B. Bierce

William B. Bierce, partner at the New York City law firm of Bierce & Kenerson, P.C., is an experienced technology, corporate and commercial lawyer and strategic business advisor. He represents entities and individuals in all stages of an enterprise's life cycle and, internationally, foreign clients doing business in the U.S. and American businesses going global. He has worked in technology, banking and finance, venture capital, advertising, consulting, accounting (creating offshore group captives), life sciences (medical billing, continuing care, biotech and pharma), energy, manufacturing, aviation and leasing industries. He advises Boards and founders in transactions, business continuity, succession and exit planning, including collaborative preservation of value in business divorce and matrimonial divorce.

An award-winning thought leader and prolific author, Bill ran a monthly newsletter focusing on legal aspects of global sourcing for over 10 years during the development of the global outsourcing services industry. Then came Software as a Service and now Artificial Intelligence.

He has published over 85 articles and 3 books:

- *SMARTER BUSINESS EXITS: STRATEGIES AND TOOLKITS FOR CORPORATE DIVORCE, SUCCESSION PLANNING AND JOINT EXITS* (Leader's Press @ amazon.com 2020), see www.smarterbusinessexits.com,
- *DEVIL'S DICTIONARY OF GLOBAL SOURCING* (2011), see www.outsourcing-law.com,
- *LEGAL AND TAX ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS*, for his MBA course as Adjunct Assistant Professor at Pace University Graduate School of Business.

A graduate of Yale, University of Grenoble (France) Law Faculty and NYU School of Law, Bill advises and negotiates in French and English. Currently his pro bono services include roles as a mediator (for NY courts), a mediation trainer-facilitator (for case-study role-plays for NYSBA-accredited trainings of mediators), a board member (a local French-American chamber of commerce) and Vice President of a Paris-based UN NGO, *Organization Mondiale des Experts Conseils Arbitres*. Bill also serves on the leadership team of the ABA's Section on International Law Europe Committee.

Compliance note: Bill is not admitted to practice law in Florida and has no law office in Florida. He works remotely with local lawyers in Florida, California, Europe and other jurisdictions to assist in cross-border and multi-jurisdictional transactions and dispute resolution. See Florida Bar rule 4-5.5.

A Message from your President

It has been my honor to serve as your president for the past year. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and exchanging views at our excellent luncheons. This unique organization offers a great way to stay connected to other lawyers and legal issues, and I have valued being a part of it for the past four years. However, my husband and I are relocating to the Annapolis area in late February, so this is my last communication to you. I wish all of you the very best, and if you ever are in Annapolis feel free to reach out to judithstarr507@gmail.com. (My email address in the directory will no longer be valid as it was part of our internet bundle with the Florida house.)

Best regards,
Judith Starr

Amicus Personae – Jim Bennett

Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Jim joined us shortly after moving to Venice in 2006 at the urging of a now deceased friend, Larry Spelman. His arrival from New Canaan, CT followed a nearly three-year term as an Executive Presbyter of the Southern New England administrative unit of the Presbyterian Church (USA) covering CT, RI and MA (except for Boston-Worcester). He took the position before the gig economy had a name, acting as an independent contractor with a monthly retainer, moving from being an Elder in his hometown church.

All the while, he acted in a similar capacity as a lawyer for a brother/sister family corporate complex based in Milan, Italy which he had served as counsel since 1986. That adventure followed the takeover of Revlon by Ronald Perelman, where Jim was vice-president and international counsel of the company's Health Care Group, a de-facto pharmaceutical company generating 54% of Revlon's sales, and 85% of its net income. That business was sold, and he was put out on the street. Fortunately, he had passed the Connecticut bar exam in addition to his initial New Jersey bar admission and could develop a pajama practice out of his home.

The family partnership was interested in a newly approved subdivision in New Canaan, and Jim's real estate broker met the brother at a cocktail party and suggested him as an attorney because he was then chairman of the local Planning and Zoning Commission. The partnership complex is now known as the Palladium Group, and in addition to other world-wide developments, has an extensive Texas tax-credit housing construction and management business. Jim is now the Group's chief legal counsel in the U.S., and you can read all about it at www.palladiumusa.com.

A native of Montclair, NJ, Jim went local after public high school there to Princeton University where he received a bachelor's degree in English, and then escaped to Stanford for law school. Racing home after surviving in what he thought would be paradise, he clerked for a year with the New Jersey Supreme Court in Newark, NJ. General practice in Newark for three years did not fit the bill, so he began a long climb through what was then thought by high rollers to be a dumping ground, "international," with an in-house law practice, first with Warner-Lambert, then Allied Chemical, followed by Richardson-Merrill ("Vicks"), and General Electric Latin America Division, until he found Revlon. He circled around and in NYC to do this.

Not wanting to fall asleep in the Next Station to Heaven, Jim landed a spot on the Venice Planning Commission, and then served two terms on the City Council there, acting among other positions as its representative to the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, ending up as chair of that group his last year on Council. Just having moved to Plymouth Harbor in Sarasota, he continues to bike in the morning and swim in the afternoon, Climate Change permitting, and is on the board of WEDU, the Tampa public television outlet. He is a widower with four children and eight grandchildren.

It's Time to Pay 2024 Dues

The Board of Directors has been able to maintain the \$55 annual amount for the past 9 years. Please mail your 2024 dues payment of \$55 and/or your luncheon payment of \$28 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.

Make payments on our website:
\$55 for 2024 dues using PayPal at
www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

2024 Dues Paid As of January 31, 2024

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Andreos, Roberto | Levene, Samuel K. |
| Barthold, Gaele M. | Liner, David |
| Bass, Stanley A. | Lundy, Daniel F. |
| Berman, Benjamin I. | Lynn, Diana N. |
| Berry, Steven C. | Malawsky, Donald N. |
| Bruning, Richard | McCarthy, Robert E. |
| Calhoun-Morton, Roberta | McClure, Ann |
| Case, James W. | Meltzer, Philip |
| Chase, Gary | Miller, Candice |
| Coch, Nicholas L. | Miller, David G. |
| Cohen, David Martin | Moses, Charles |
| Cohen, David Michael | Nefussy, Eli M. |
| Collins, Mildred S. | Polelle, Michael |
| Dawson, Diana S. | Poriss, Emily |
| Eliasberg, Jr., Edward D. | Rubin, Ivan |
| Fried, Martin L. | Schwinn, Christina H. |
| Frigo, Victoria | Smith, Ronald C. |
| Galica, Kathleen | Snyder, David S. |
| Greenberg, Carl | Spahn, Elizabeth |
| Heckman, Chris | Starr, Judith |
| Helmrich, Joel | Sturm, Steve |
| Herring, William W. | Tschirhart, Paul M. |
| Hill-Harvey, Karimu | Weingarten, Richard L. |
| Hoffman, Nancy | Williams, Sandra |
| Humphreys, Philip | Wolfe, Robert L. |
| Hurd, Gordon | Zabin, Harold |
| Katz, Barbara | |
| Kidd, John E. | |
| Kochenderfer, Kay | |
| Krasnow, Michael E. | |
| Krause, Benjamin D. | |

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

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, 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 23
Friday, March 23
Thursday, April 18
Friday, May 31
Friday, June 28
Friday, September 27

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

What Do Retired Attorneys Do?

We hope you enjoyed the inaugural column by Ben Berman about his trip on Route 66. Now it's your turn! 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!

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.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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

Milly Collins at millyc054@gmail.com or

Joel Helmrich at jhelmrich1@gmail.com