



Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

October 2024

Table of Contents

Page	
1	October Program
2	About our Monthly Speaker
2	Luncheon/Dues Info
3, 4	Amicus Personae Charles T. Moses II
5, 6	What Do Retired Attorneys Do? By Harold Zabin
7	Future Programs
7	Ideas for Future Programs
7	Newsletter Ideas Welcome

NEXT MEETING

Friday, October 25

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

October Speaker: Karen Murillo, Esq. Assoc. Dir. of Advocacy, AARP Florida Topic: Financial Exploitation of Seniors

Elderly people are increasingly targets of financial abuse and exploitation; especially those who are socially isolated or suffer from dementia or mobility. Florida law endeavors to protect seniors from financial abuse, including specifically criminalizing financial exploitation of elderly or disabled adults with prison terms up to 30 years for losses above \$50,000.

Even a caregiver can be the abuser; pressuring, deceiving, or manipulating the victim to spend his or her money for the caregiver's gain. Financial abuse is a crime even if the victim has signed a power of attorney granting the caregiver authority to make financial decisions on the victim's behalf.

About Our Speaker – Karen Murillo, Esq.

Associate State Director of Advocacy for AARP Florida

We are pleased to have one of Florida's premier experts on elder abuse to be our October speaker. Karen Murillo is an Associate State Director of Advocacy for AARP Florida, who works on state policy impacting Florida's 50+ population, including legislation that strengthens Florida enforcement and prevention capabilities on fraud and exploitation. Prior to joining AARP, Karen served for as a criminal prosecutor, first in Palm Beach County, Florida, then as an Assistant Statewide Prosecutor and the Senior Protection Team Coordinator for the Florida Office of the Attorney General. Karen has extensive experience with prosecuting financial exploitation, fraud, and elder abuse matters and currently serves as a co-chair of the Florida Bar Elder Law Section's Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Committee.

Luncheon & Dues Payments

Please note that the dues for 2025 will increase from \$55 to \$65. The 2025 dues are payable by December 31, 2024. If payment of 2025 dues is received on or before December 31, 2024 the dues will be reduced to \$60.

You may make current 2024 payments on our website at the bottom of the page:
\$28 for lunch and/or \$60 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, October 25, 2024
Friday, November 22, 2024
Thursday, December 19, 2024

Amicus Personae – Charles T. Moses II

Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Charles T. Moses II (Charlie) and his wife, Linda, now split their time between Sarasota and Reston, Virginia. He was born on October 31, 1956, and grew up in a small town of some historical significance, Appomattox Virginia. He is a graduate of both Virginia Military Institute (79), and Washington and Lee University School of Law (82 L).

His family always had been involved in Virginia politics in multiple positions ranging from Mayors to President of the Virginia State Senate and even a two-term governor of Virginia. He was able to continue that public service tradition in the legal field with his first job after law school, clerking for one of the justices on the Virginia Supreme Court. His former boss, Justice Chris Compton, used to delight in saying that he was his federal government law clerk. Most other Virginia Supreme Court clerks went into private practice in Virginia, but his career took him to Washington and federal service.

It is interesting how your first legal job can set the stage for a career. In his clerkship, in addition to what is normally required, his boss insisted on two things. First to help Justice Compton understand all factual and legal sides of an issue in an unbiased manner, prior to argument, based on relevant facts, the law, and the briefs, and second, to attempt to convince the Justice that the Justice was actually wrong after he had written a draft opinion. Learning just those two things was an incredibly important skill in helping to advance a career in the Federal government at both the National Headquarters of the Legal Services Corporation and with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ).

Over a 36-year career in federal service, he worked directly with hundreds of presidential and political appointees on a variety of local, state, national and international projects, ranging from expansion of law school clinical education to implementation of an international terrorism compensation fund. He was one of DOJ's experts in federal grant law, assisting with justifying funding requests for criminal justice programs and overseeing implementation of them from the federal level. For example, he had direct involvement in the 1994 Crime Control Act including one of the largest prison construction programs for state and tribal governments. His legal portfolio in the General Counsel's Office was varied, ranging in such diverse areas as juvenile justice and victim compensation projects dealing with mass school shootings (beginning with Columbine) to helping to fund research development into policing weapons such as body worn cameras, and tasers. His work was recognized by two different Attorneys General with separate Attorney General awards recognizing his assistance in implementing the RECOVERY Act, and the Prison Rape Elimination Act. Throughout his work, he served as an ethics expert for the Department, and ended his career as the Deputy General Counsel and Ethics Officer in charge of one of the five Bureaus in the Department of Justice, the Office of Justice Programs.

In looking back over 36 years, his guiding star had always been to assist others in forming objective unbiased opinions based on law and facts, and to attempt to help those in power, regardless of political affiliation, recognize when they were wrong.

That spirit is also evident in personal activities in which he and his wife continue to be involved. He continues to be an active member of his HOA board in Virginia, serving on its board for almost 30 years. Among their favorite charities are Colonial Williamsburg, and Jamestown Rediscovery, the organization dedicated to preservation of historic Jamestown Island. These sites are the birthplace of our original democratically elected government in this country (The Virginia House of Burgesses). Charlie and Linda are acutely aware of the need to support education and scholarship to help all Americans understand the important role of protecting our fragile form of government. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundations has won multiple awards for its assistance in that education in primary schools. They are also actively involved with the Wolf Trap Foundation, a private organization that supports the Wolf Trap National Park, the only National Park dedicated to the Performing Arts, and advocates and supports the use of arts to promote early STEM education.



What Do Retired Attorneys Do?

Grade School Friends Reunite After 70 Years

By Harold M. Zabin

In July of 2020, when the world felt smaller than ever due to the isolation of the Covid pandemic, my mind drifted back to the laughter and mischief of my childhood. It had been more than seventy years since I walked the halls of Bryant Grade School in Sioux City, Iowa, but the memories surged forward like a long-forgotten song.

My old classmates—many I hadn't seen since our high school graduation in 1960 had scattered across the country. We lost touch over the years, save for sporadic updates from one dedicated friend who had passed away in 2017 and a reunion that occurred nearly 20 years ago. That loss spurred me to action. I set out to find my classmates, reconnecting with nearly all of them through old rediscovered correspondence, yearbooks, social media and other high school alumni. Encouraged by the unexpected joy of those reconnections, I proposed we meet via Zoom every other month. Since the fall of 2020 we have met bimonthly on Zoom and have shared stories and reminisced about our shared history, rekindling bonds that had faded with time.

As the months rolled on, it became clear that we were running out of time. Our hearts ached for an in-person reunion. After much deliberation, we decided on Sioux City—the very place that had shaped our youth. The date was set in August of this year.

Arriving in Sioux City felt surreal. The city, though similar in population, had changed significantly since our youth. Downtown was a mix of vibrant history and melancholy—old storefronts had turned to shadows of their former selves, some boarded up, while other buildings embraced new life with arts and culture. But there was still a sense of home in the air.

Our reunion kicked off with a flurry of hugs, laughter, and a few tears. Seeing familiar faces, though aged and transformed, was a profound experience. It was as if we had stepped back in time, yet we were all acutely aware of the years that had passed. We marveled at how life had taken each of us on such different paths.

One of our first stops was the new Bryant Grade School, built in the same location as our beloved old building. I remembered the dim classrooms filled with the scent of chalk and the echo of our youthful voices. Now, the school sparkled with bright lighting, white boards, modern desks, and technology that seemed like science fiction to us. The classrooms were adorned with colorful artwork, a far cry from the walls we had known. It was the school where we learned to write in cursive. Cursive writing is no longer taught but we were told it is making a comeback.

As we wandered through the halls, we discovered that a diverse student body would be occupying the school, a stark contrast to the homogeneity of our childhood. It was heartening to see welcoming boards listing the names of students from various backgrounds—a beautiful reflection of the changing world.

After that tour, we spent our days wandering through the neighborhoods of our youth, visiting our childhood homes, the graves of our parents, the parks where we played and even some new impressive museums. We stopped by Grandview Park, where we once chased each other around as children and listened on Saturday nights in the summer to concerts played in the bandshell. We saw the site of the swimming pool we once played in and the movie theaters we attended. We saw buildings which had been transformed but retained a hint of their sweet past. Our time was filled with nostalgia, laughter, and poignant reflection. We even made headlines in the local news, our story shared with the community that had once cradled our dreams and adventures. "Sioux City Graduates Reunite After 60 Years," the headline read, capturing the essence of our gathering.

As we sat together one evening, sharing memories over dinner, I felt an overwhelming gratitude. These friendships had weathered time and distance, and though life had altered our paths, the bond we forged in childhood had stood the test of time.

In the face of the pandemic, the fragility of life had become clearer than ever. But in that moment, surrounded by friends who had been there through the innocence of youth, I knew that our hearts would always be intertwined—no matter the miles or the years.

Our reunion in Sioux City was not just a gathering; it was a celebration of resilience, friendship, and the cherished moments that shaped us into who we were today. We will continue to meet again on Zoom and hopefully again in person, to not let time slip away once more. And as we left our in-person reunion, I carried with me the warmth of those shared memories, a beacon of hope in an ever-changing world.

Here is our story as presented on one of Sioux City, Iowa's local TV stations:

['Through it all, we've remained friends' - 10 Bryant Elementary classmates reunite.](#)

Note: Harold M. Zabin has been a member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota since 2011. He practiced law in Omaha, Nebraska.

We hope you enjoyed the column by Harold Zabin. 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!

Future Programs

Date	Topic	Speaker
Friday, October 25, 2024	Associate State Director of Advocacy for AARP Florida who will speak on elder abuse.	Karen Murillo
Friday, November 22, 2024	Professor at Stetson School of Law who will speak about campaign finance issues.	Ciara Torres-Spelliscy
Thursday, December 19, 2024	Professor at Stetson School of Law and will speak on "Overturning the Chevron Doctrine".	Louis J. Virelli III

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

Steve Berry @ sberry@berryplc.com