



Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

October 2023

Table of Contents

Page	
1October Program
2About our Monthly Speaker
3, 4Amicus Personae Christina Schwinn
5Newtown Wills Event
6	...What do Retired Attorneys do?
6Luncheon Info
7Volunteers Needed
7Ideas for Future Programs
7Newsletter Ideas Welcome

NEXT MEETING

Friday, October 27

12 Noon
At Marina Jack

Officers

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

Directors

Benjamin I. Berman
Richard Bruning
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

October Program:

An overview of the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office, including our current 4-year strategic plan, and how the Sheriff’s Office is combating current crime trends in our community.

Sarasota County Sheriff Kurt A. Hoffman will be speaking to our group about the history of the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office and how the agency is currently aligned to fight crime trends in the county. The Sarasota Sheriff’s Office provides many different types of services to the citizens of Sarasota County. Sheriff Hoffman will outline those services and discuss several recent significant cases that have brought the agency national recognition. In addition, he will provide an overview of how his agency works in our community to build partnerships and relationships that help improve our overall quality of life. The explosive growth of Sarasota County has presented challenges and Sheriff Hoffman will outline how the agency is budgeting, recruiting, training, and retaining both civilian and sworn personnel to meet the demands of our growing community.

Sheriff Kurt A. Hoffman, Sheriff of Sarasota County



Kurt A. Hoffman is the 11th Sheriff of Sarasota County, serving since January 5, 2021.

Sheriff Hoffman served his community for more than 30 years as both an assistant state attorney for the 12th Judicial Circuit, and as the general counsel for the sheriff's office since 2005. During his tenure at the sheriff's office, Sheriff Hoffman was promoted to captain, major, and colonel. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Saint Leo College, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice from International College, and a Juris Doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University.

Sheriff Hoffman is a graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's Police Legal Advisors Training Program and the National Sheriffs' Institute. He serves as the chairperson of both the Sarasota Criminal Justice Academy Advisory Board and the Florida Sheriff's Association, Accreditation Committee. In 2011, Sheriff Hoffman completed the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Florida Executive Development Seminar and in 2014, graduated from the FBI National Academy, during which time he also earned a graduate certificate in leadership from the University of Virginia.

Originally from Indiana, he moved to Florida in 1982 and graduated from Lemon Bay High School in 1984. Sheriff Hoffman and his wife, Teri, have one son and currently reside in Venice.

Changing of the Guard

It is with regret that the Board says thank you and farewell to Elizabeth Spahn for her service on the Board; we hope to see Elizabeth at future luncheons as her schedule permits. We are pleased to announce that Christina Schwinn has been appointed to fill out Elizabeth's term. You can read Christina's impressive biography in this issue. Welcome, Christina!

Amicus Personae – Christina Harris Schwinn, ESQ., LLM

Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota



Christina Harris Schwinn is a retired partner with the Pavese Law Firm. Her primary practice areas were employment law, business transactions, community association law and real estate law. Prior to joining Pavese, she served as General Counsel for two large companies that provided outsourced human resource and staffing services: HR Logic, Inc. and The Vincam Group, Inc. (acquired by ADP, Inc. and now marketed as ADP TotalSource). As General Counsel and Senior Vice President at both HR Logic, Inc. and The Vincam Group, she was responsible for managing the companies' legal and legislative affairs and overseeing the Human Resource Departments. Additionally, she served as the national vice president of marketing for the alternative staffing industry (contract staffing, employee leasing, professional employer services and temporary staffing) for AIG Risk Management, Inc.) where she was responsible for overseeing the marketing and development of insurance products for the temporary staffing and the professional employer industries.

During her career legal career, Schwinn played a vital role in establishing statutory recognition of the employee leasing industry (now known as professional employer organizations "PEO") in Florida and nationally at the federal level and in other states. She served on committees after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), the Family and Medical Leave Act (1993), and helped facilitate legal recognition of a PEOs right as a co-employer of the employees of their clients so that PEOs could make benefits, health insurance and 401ks, available to employees working in small to medium-sized businesses.

Prior to going to law school and becoming a licensed attorney in the state of Florida, Schwinn worked in commercial banking in Reno, Nevada. While in, and before college, she worked many different jobs, including as an auditor for a casino in Sparks, Nevada in the accounting department where she audited the daily department receipts from all departments in the casino, including gaming, hotel, restaurants, and bars.

Over the years, Schwinn has served in numerous leadership roles for trade organizations and on the boards of many not for profit entities, including the Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida, the Human Resource Management Association of Southwest Florida, Inc., a SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) affiliate, serving as its Legislative Director for many years, the Advisory Board for the Small Business Development Council at Florida Gulf Coast University, Southwest Florida Community Foundation's Women's Legacy Fund and the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations.

While she lived in Sarasota Schwinn served as a volunteer attorney for Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. has been involved in other community organizations in Lee County, including Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties, Inc., Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida, Inc. (past chair and long-term board member), the Collaboratory (formerly the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, Inc.'s Women's Legacy Fund, and Valerie's House.

Schwinn has received numerous awards dating back to law school and in recognition of her public service.

Practice Areas Before Retirement: employment; general corporate; condominium, cooperative homeowners' association law; real estate; and civil litigation (with a focus on insurance defense under community association D & O policies).

Admitted to Practice:

- U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Florida (2016)
- Federal District Court, Middle District of Florida (2009)
- Florida State Court (1991)
- Florida Bar (1991)

Education:

- Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Master of Laws, Employment Law (LL.M. 2012)
- University of Miami, Master of Laws, Real Property Development and Finance Law (LL.M. 1991)
- Thomas J. Cooley Law School, Juris Doctor, Cum Laude (1990)
- University of Nevada, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice (1985)
- Truckee Meadows Community College, Associate in Arts (1983)

Publications:

Atlanta's John Marshall School of Law, Thesis: Half-Time or Time and One-Half? Recent Developments Deprive Employees of Their Rightful Overtime Compensation under the FSLA, Northeastern University Law Journal, Vol. 6 No. 2, 411-434. <https://www.johnmarshall.edu/ll-m-alumna-christina-harris-schwinn-published-northeastern-university-law-journal/> (announcement 2014)

Additionally, Schwinn has published many Articles addressing timely employment law topics while a partner and as associate at Pavese Law Firm which are still available on the Pavese Law Firm's website: www.paveselaw.com. The articles can also be accessed via a Google search.

Change in Newtown Wills Pro Bono Program Date

The Newtown Wills pro bono program advertised in the September newsletter has been moved to a new date – October 21. All other aspects of the program remain unchanged and Linda Harradine of Manasota Legal Services remains the contact person.



Legal Aid Manasota

ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for “Newtown Wills Event”

WHO?

Legal Aid of Manasota, in partnership with the 12th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Committee and the Sarasota County Bar Association’s Access to Justice Committee, is seeking volunteer attorneys to draft Simple Wills for low-income residents of Newtown.

WHAT?

A one-day event in which residents of Newtown will meet with an attorney to have a Simple Will drafted and signed. The event is a critical prevention component of Legal Aid’s “No Place Like Home Project” which aims to clear title to homestead property and maintain clear title for future generations.

WHERE?

Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library
2801 Newtown Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34234

WHEN?

Saturday, October 21st from 10:30-4:00pm
2 Shifts available: 10am-12:30pm or 1:00 pm-4:00pm

HOW?

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Linda Harradine at 941-366-0038 x107 or LindaH@legalaidofmanasota.org for more information!

We hope that you will join us!!

What Do Retired Attorneys Do?

We are initiating a new column in the Amicus, What Do Retired Attorneys Do? It will focus on the interests/pastimes/hobbies of our members. Our goal is to share those things that enrich our lives, big or small, and perhaps help members with similar interests to get together. Please submit your idea for a column by email to retiredattorneysofsarasota@gmail.com and if your topic is approved you will be assigned an issue of the Amicus and provided with submission deadlines. We'd love to hear from you.

The first column will be published next month, by Ben Berman, who will be discussing his trip on Route 66, which combined his love of cars and travel.

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, October 27
Monday, November 27
Monday, December 18

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

Volunteers Needed

Suncoast Community Mediation (SCM) is seeking volunteers to serve on the board of directors of this community mediation center. SCM is an all-volunteer organization that provides mediation, facilitation and training to underserved persons and organizations that serve them in the communities within the 12th Judicial Circuit (Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto counties). Directors attend a monthly Zoom meeting for about 90 minutes and help on outreach, recruiting and programming. We are seeking individuals with some experience with (or representing) nonprofit entities. For more information about SCM, see www.suncoastmediation.org. Contact Judith Starr, jrstarr@tampabay.rr.com, if you are interested.

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