



Amicus Curiae

Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota, Inc.

www.retiredattorneyssarasota.org

September 2024

Table of Contents

Page	
1	September Program
2	About our Monthly Speaker
3	Amicus Personae Ron Smith
4	Luncheon/Dues Info
4	Future Programs
5	What Do Retired Attorneys Do?
5	Ideas for Future Programs
5	Newsletter Ideas Welcome

NEXT MEETING

Friday, September 27

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

September Program:

Hurricanes and Sarasota

The causes of climate change and what the implications are for the Gulf Coast and the Sarasota area in particular.

About Our Speaker – Ric Kearbey

Senior Scientist, Climate Adaptation Center, Inc.

Ric Kearbey is a veteran meteorologist who has spent the last two decades informing and educating the public about weather and climate issues on local and network television. His television work has been recognized as the best in the market on multiple occasions, as voted by local television viewers. His scientific work has been seen nationally on Good Morning America, ABC's World News Tonight and in major television markets including Tampa, Florida and St. Louis, Missouri.

Ric has provided important game forecasts for the NFL's Super Bowl and the PGA's Masters Tournament. He has written and contributed to many climate and weather related stories for television and print media, including the Tampa Bay Times. His work has been featured on radio stations all over the country.



Amicus Personae – Ronald Smith

Member of the Association of Retired Attorneys of Sarasota

Ron Smith is a Venice City Council member. He was elected in 2023.

Mr. Smith has a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Boston University, a Master of Education degree from Converse College and a Juris Doctor degree from Florida State University.

He is a retired prosecuting attorney, a former police academy instructor, and served for two years as a general magistrate here in Southwest Florida.

Law was Mr. Smith's second career. He went to law school at age 45 and then worked at the State Attorney's Office based in Fort Myers for 15 years. Ron specialized in DUI manslaughter and vehicular homicide cases before serving as a county court chief and later as a felony division chief for the office.

Mr. Smith first moved to this area in 1978. He worked for the Bradenton Herald as a government reporter and later as a business editor. He moved to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune in 1981 and climbed the ladder to eventually become the head of all local news operations for the paper when it was owned by the New York Times.

Mr. Smith has written extensively about Venice and loves to talk about local history, everything from the life of the Ringling Brothers Circus to the reason for all the shark teeth on area beaches. He is also author of 'Passing the Torch', a biography of Miami Dolphins and University of Miami football coach Howard Schnellenberger.

Mr. Smith lost his wife, Jean, in 2020, after 38 years of marriage. She was a big personality in the quilting community. His daughter, Alexandra, is a prosecutor like her dad.

Mr. Smith served as the chief negotiator for Venice Unites after the group collected more than 2,500 signatures to force a referendum on the City's Land Development Regulations. The group worked collaboratively with the City for changes that limit building heights, protect neighborhoods, preserve historic buildings and defend wildlife.

Ron is a member of the Venice Area Historical Society and the city's liaison to the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council and the United Way of South Sarasota County Long Term Recovery Group focusing on victims of Hurricane Irma.

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, September 27, 2024
Friday, October 25, 2024
Friday, November 22, 2024
Thursday, December 19, 2024

Future Programs

Date	Topic	Speaker
Friday, September 27, 2024	Hurricanes and Sarasota	Ric Kearbey
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

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

Steve Berry @ sberry@berryplc.com