## BHA Board Candidate for 2025

## **Joel Michaels**



**Profession and education:** Health Care Attorney (retired) -40+ years in Washington, D.C. - Managed health law group for over 17 years at the law firm of McDermott, Will and Emery- Currently Adjunct Professor at University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University-B.A. George Washington University; J.D. American University.

What is your history with Bald Head Island that has brought you to ownership and now a candidate for BHA? My wife, Jennifer Russel and I have been visiting Bald Head Island ("BHI") with our children since 1991. We bought a home in Cape Fear Station in 2002 and since that time have acquired additional lots in the same area. I have served on BHA's Long Term Strategic Planning Committee for the past 4 years. The current personnel changes at BHA and the resulting delays in the review of applications prompted me to seek a Board position at this particular time.

What professional skills and life experiences do you feel would be most valued as a member of the BHA Board? I served for six years as a member of the HOA board for the condominium we own in

Scottsdale Ariz. During this tenure, reserves for the building increased significantly to handle key renovations that were subsequently implemented without the need for special assessments. During my long tenure as a practicing attorney, I counseled my clients on corporate governance and re-structuring issues, giving me the experience in dealing with best practices with respect to corporate management. I also managed a health law group for my former firm consisting of approximately 30 attorneys. In that capacity I was responsible for overseeing individual attorney performance and productivity.

As a BHI property owner, what aspect of Island life is most important to you as a key to BHI's future and, if elected, how would you help craft that future? The most important aspect of island life would be to maintain the unique quality of life that exists on BHI, while allowing the island to grow without compromising its beauty and pristine environment. I would be inclined to conduct an assessment of how the ARC design guidelines could be modified to facilitate more efficient and consistent implementation, without abandoning their intended purpose.