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Hon. Paul Victor (NY)

\*Past president

# NIABA NEWS

*Men and women sharing a common heritage in a chosen profession*

## I LOVED YOU MORE

By Dino Mazzone  
NIABA President

All good things must come to an end. And so it does for me. This June, in White Plains, New York, the National Italian American Bar Association will elect its new President and Board of Directors for the 2015-17 term. And in the process, I will pass the baton to our new leader, knowing that he or she will work to advance the best interests of our beloved organization.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of my NIABA brothers and sisters who, over these last two years, gave me their unconditional support and enthusiasm as we networked and travelled throughout Canada and the United States. From my installation in Montréal and then on to Cleveland, Los Angeles, Fort Lauderdale, Washington, DC and New Orleans, I absolutely loved the experience more than I can properly put into words. NIABA is more than a grouping of men and women involved in the legal profession. It is first and foremost an organization that is rooted in our common ancestral heritage as Italians and it is, at all times, about family. NIABA is very much my second family. It has been since 1999. I find comfort in the familiar faces, rejoice in the successes of my Italian brethren, and mourn the passing of those whose journey and lives left an indelible mark on me. In short, NIABA is not and has never been about me. It is and has always been about you. For in the every success of one of our own, we all succeed. We all shine.

And in keeping with this farewell message, I want to highlight the fact that the picture on this, my last letter to you in *NIABA News*, is not of me alone but of me with Judge Joseph Giamboi of New York City. Joe is a significant part of the history of NIABA. He is one of the founders of both the organization and its digest; he is a past president and past chairman of the Board of Directors. He has attended practically all meetings of the Board since its founding. I can spend several pages identifying to you the many important accomplishments of this great man, but that would not tell you what you really need to know about Joe. Having just celebrated his 90th birthday, Joe regularly travels to all Board meetings and has the energy and soul of a twenty year old. But, above all, Joe is kind. And one day, when people reminisce about Joe many moons from now, being kind and a brother to all will have been Joe's greatest legacy. Judge Giamboi has been like a father to me and I think the world of him. I thank my lucky stars that I have been privileged to enjoy time with Judge Giamboi, learn from him and share part of his life. Thank you, Joe.

I would be remiss in not extending a huge thank you to the unsung hero behind the scenes at NIABA, Dana Robb, our Administrator. Dana is an important part of NIABA's success and I cannot adequately thank her for her invaluable commitment to our organization. *Merci, ma chère Dana.*

Finally, allow me to quote from The Beatles' "There Are Places I Remember" to express to you the sentiments that I feel but for which better words have been written. *Grazie mille* and God Bless NIABA and our brethren and God Bless the United States of America.

“And I know I'll never lose affection / For people and things that went before  
I know I'll often stop and think about them / In my life I loved you more  
And I know I'll never lose affection / For people and things that went before  
I know I'll often stop and think about them / In my life I loved you more.”



# NIABA BOARD VISITS THE BIG EASY

NIABA's winter Board of Directors meeting was held in New Orleans in February. Like the Italian immigrants who converged on the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Board worked hard to advance the interests of the community. And once they accomplished what they set out to do, they – as the Cajun saying goes – *Laissez les bons temps rouler!* (Let the good times roll!)







NIABA members are invited to attend any part – or all – of the Board of Directors meeting on June 4-7, 2015 in White Plains, New York.

Register on the [website](#), or contact President-Elect [Joe Sena](#).

The weekend's itinerary appears below.

### Thursday, June 4th

#### Check in at Hotel

##### Cambria Hotels and Suites

250 Main Street, White Plains, NY 10601

\$215/night plus tax, which includes two free full breakfasts at hotel restaurant per room each day. To make reservations, e-mail Ms. Kristin Frederick, Director of Sales, at [kfrederick@cswhiteplains.com](mailto:kfrederick@cswhiteplains.com). If questions, call 914-681-0500 (cell 914-602-8608). Hotel is brand new luxury hotel located in downtown White Plains, Westchester County, New York.

#### 8 p.m. • Gourmet Italian-style Dinner

##### La Bocca Restaurant

8 Church Street, White Plains (914-948-3281)

Located around the corner from the hotel. Chef Antonio Spiritoso is from Calabria and promises us a gourmet feast not to be missed. Also, many special surprises that night, including a Italian accordion player performing Italian songs. This evening will be special and should not be missed.

### Friday, June 5th

#### Free breakfast for two per room at hotel restaurant (full breakfast).

#### Noon-5 p.m. • Board of Directors meeting in hotel meeting room on first floor.

#### 7 p.m.-Midnight • Dinner dance with the Westchester County Colombian Lawyers Association

##### The Fountainhead

55 Quaker Ridge Road, New Rochelle (914-235-4400)  
Wonderful caterer serving Italian food, plus live music.

Several hundred lawyers will attend. Bring your spouse or significant other and your dancing shoes! NIABA Officers Installation will be held in conjunction with the dinner. Evening not to be missed!

### Saturday, June 6th

#### Free breakfast for two per room at hotel restaurant (full breakfast).

#### 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Board of Directors meeting in hotel meeting room on first floor.

Lunch to be determined. May be catered by hotel for additional expense.

#### 2-5 p.m. • Outing to Lyndhurst on the Hudson in Tarrytown

Gorgeous villa and park on the Hudson River in Westchester County; optional tour. Alternative is optional visit to Manhattan from train in White Plains.

#### 8-11 p.m. • Seven Star Dinner

##### 42 The Restaurant

Renaissance Square, White Plains, one block from the hotel  
Chef Anthony Goncalves runs a world-class restaurant as fine as the best in the U.S., located on the 42nd floor of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and featuring a view of the Manhattan skyline. Dinner here is a world-class experience not to be missed.

### Sunday, June 7th

#### Free breakfast for two per room at hotel restaurant (full breakfast).

#### Departure

# WELCOME NEW NIABA MEMBERS

Welcome to the following members, who joined NIABA between January 16 and April 30, 2015.

**R. James Amaro**  
Amaro Law Firm  
Houston TX  
713-864-1941  
james@amarolawfirm.com

**Andrew E. Anselmi**  
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**Marco Beatrice**  
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**Richard A. Belardinelli**  
Georgeson and Belardinelli  
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lexie.calistri@whitecase.com

**John Calvino**  
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abebarcarlan@live.com

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# UN POCHISSIMO FARÀ! (A DASH WILL DO)

For abundant good reason, the motto for Judge Paul Victor's potent new homemade powdered blend of hot peppers, called Paulie Hots, is: "A dash will do!" In other words, for use with your food, un pochissimo farà!

A member of the NIABA Board of Directors, Judge Victor is a retired Justice of the Supreme Court in the State of New York. He now serves as a Judicial Hearing Officer for that court; and also works with the National Arbitration Mediation Association. And he grows peppers.

Judge Victor produces and bottles this special blend at his home for friends and family only, not for commercial use or distribution. The blend includes some of the hottest peppers on earth, such as Ghost (Bhut Jolokia), Trinidad Moruga Scorpion, and Carolina Reaper, currently the hottest pepper according to the *Guinness Book of World Records*. While grinding the dried peppers, Judge Victor wears a gas-mask because the ambient air and everything he touches becomes toxic.

Judge Victor proclaims that just a dash of his pepper blend, – added during preparation to a large container of your sauces, gravies, soups, stews, and dressings – "will enhance the flavor and add a glow."

He advises that, for the best results, the dash should be added during the cooking or preparation stage, not sprinkled on after the dish is served. With this procedure, the pungent essence of the pepper will evenly permeate and enhance the flavor of the entire serving. According to Judge Victor, more than a dash can be used to punish braggart friends who claim they love, and have a high tolerance for, "hot."

Many people who seek hot pepper products are also looking for the hottest pepper they can find. They need look no further. But, as an added warning of the heat content and to add to the mystique, a reference is made on the label to possible use of this pepper blend for water-boarding. This description is merely the Judge's humorous way of emphasizing: "use with caution, use only a dash."



This pepper powder may be challenging for the novice and is certainly not for the timid. For that reason, Judge Victor advises on the label to start with a "nip" and work up to a dash."

When I first created this product several years ago, it was in response to my friends, who often bragged about the "hottest" peppers they consumed. I did it for a laugh, and, I admit, to "torture" them. Since then, we use the pepper in at least one of our dishes at our weekly luncheons, and they have all acclimated to the heat."

### A Red Hot Way to Support the NIABA Scholarship Fund

Judge Victor has generously agreed to donate a jar of his blend as a gift for the first ten NIABA members who donate \$500 or more to the NIABA Scholarship Fund.

Since this pepper is grown and produced for personal use for family and close friends only, these jars represents a substantial percentage of his entire production as well as being a truly "hot" item in many ways!

With each jar, Judge Victor will also provide a brushed stainless steel set of four measuring spoons, which will be invaluable for the judicious use of this super-hot pepper. Each of the spoons is marked with its size from nip to smidgen to pinch and dash, the largest.

Judge Victor will also put his money where your mouth is and donate an additional \$100 of his own to each winning donation. As he says, "Open your hearts and wallets. For the Scholarship Fund, un pochissimo *non* farà!"

## WHAT TO DO TO GET A JAR OF YOUR OWN

- **Do it Generously:** Make a donation of \$500 or more to the NIABA Scholarship Fund
- **Do it Quickly:** A jar of Paulie's Hots and a set of measuring spoons will be given to the first 10 donors only.
- **Do it Soon:** This special opportunity is available until August 1st.
- **Do it By Mail:** Make your check payable to NIABA Scholarship Fund and send it to 2020 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, PMB 932, Washington, DC 20006-1846

# Affiliate Highlights

## FEATURED AFFILIATE

# ITALIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

By Charles Trickey III  
IABAM Historian

On October 22, 1930 eight lawyers of Italian descent met at the Cadillac Athletic Club in Detroit, Michigan to form an organization for "Italian lawyers for their mutual benefit." Soon after the group drafted and approved a constitution for the Italian Lawyers Club of Michigan, its first Board of Directors was elected.

One of the Board's first orders of business was planning a banquet and dance, which was held the following year in 1931. Over the years the annual Italian Lawyers Club Dinner Dance became

a popular social event in the metropolitan Detroit legal community. The club, however, did not concern itself solely with social activities.

The club eventually became a bar association, the Italian American Bar Association of Michigan (IABAM) recognized by the State Bar of Michigan. Now established as a charitable organization, IABAM is committed to preserving, honoring and teaching the traditions and culture of Italian Americans and their wide ranging contributions throughout Michigan's history and particularly within its legal community. Its membership is open to any State Bar of

Michigan member in good standing who supports the aims and purposes of IABAM, which include promoting "high standards of integrity, honor and ethics; to cultivate a spirit of community and good will; and to promote respect and recognition for the Italian American community in areas such as business, industry, government, labor and education."

In 2014 IABAM's active membership roster exceeded 230 attorneys and judges throughout Michigan, most of Italian heritage, representing almost all regions of Italy. IABAM also has law student members in the state's five law schools.

In the 1980s, during NIABA's years of formation, three of IABAM's past presidents were active NIABA leaders – Paul Vitrano, Anthony C. Penta, Jr. and Austin D. Perrotta. Paul remains an active NIABA member. Subsequently, Liliana A. Ciccodicola, also an IABAM past president, became President of NIABA. During Liliana's NIABA presidency, NIABA held its spring meeting in Dearborn, Michigan at the Ritz Carlton. Many IABAM members participated in the meeting's concluding and very memorable banquet celebration.

Throughout the year IABAM hosts dinner meetings at



metropolitan Detroit's Italian restaurants, featuring speakers on various legal and cultural topics. Throughout the decades IABAM has sponsored different annual athletic events, each for a good number of years, such as the Tony Penta Golf Outing, a bocce ball tournament with the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers, and a baseball game with our worthy adversaries, the Advocates (Detroit's Polish Bar Association). For many years the coveted baseball trophy was on IABAM's president's credenza before being temporarily relinquished to the office of the Advocates' president.

Since 1990, one jurist is chosen each June to be honored at IABAM's Justinian Night – a special dinner meeting at which IABAM's members honor the metropolitan Detroit judiciary as a whole and particularly those judges of Italian American heritage.

## Italian American Lawyers Association - Los Angeles



NIABA West Region VP and Los Angeles IALA Past President Damian Capozzola and Los Angeles IALA Secretary Margherita Underhill attended an event in Orange County to welcome the new Italian General Consul in

Los Angeles, Antonio Verde. Here they commemorate the evening with a picture with Joe D'Antony, one of the founders of the Orange County Italian American Lawyers (Lex Romana).

*Continued on next page*



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT SELECTED

Christina J. Prejean, a 3L at the University of San Diego School of Law, has been selected as the recipient of this year's NIABA-Sons of Italy Foundation Scholarship.

As well as a stellar record in law school and externships with a Federal District Court judge and a Federal Magistrate judge, Christina is also a

Captain in the U.S. Air Force and served in Afghanistan. In a letter of recommendation, Major General Riccardo Marchiò, of the Italian Army, said, "[then] Lt. Prejean has proven capable of flourishing on a NATO military base in a multi-cultural, multi-national environment... She has consistently been the person my staff immediately turns to, in her office of 17 people, due to her dependability, speed in completing tasks, knowledge of her job in military and governmental Protocol and VIP visits, and optimistic and gracious attitude."

In a letter of thanks for the scholarship, Christina tells her own story. "I was born

and raised in San Diego and was taught from birth that I am Italian and must be proud of such a beautiful, strong heritage that we Italian Americans are blessed to have.

Growing up, Italian values of love, family, perseverance, and hard work were engrained in me. When I was eight years old my parents got divorced and my mother, sister, and I moved in the small two-bedroom mobile home of my maternal grandparents.

'As long as I'm alive, you don't have to worry about anything,' my nonno used to tell me. My grandma and grandpa were like second parents to me. My favorite,

most enjoyable memories of growing up were my days in middle school and high school, coming home from school and sitting on the porch with grandma and grandpa, eating spaghetti with lemonade, cutting up big pieces of watermelon for dessert. Every Columbus Day, our family gathered in Little Italy in San Diego to celebrate with our cousins and other Italian families the great contributions of Italians in America.

Neither of my grandparents had the opportunity to graduate from high school. They were the children of immigrants from Rome and Naples, Italy, who immigrated

*Continued on next page*

## Affiliate, *continued from page 7*

In 2014, IABAM's Public Service Committee coordinated the bar association's first Pro Bono Night at the Italian American Cultural Center in Clinton Township, providing free legal services and advice to the Italian American community. Since last year's event was a great success, a second Pro Bono Night is scheduled for May 20, 2015 and will now include a mentorship component, whereby senior IABAM members will be partnered with young, new bar members during the legal presentations.

In October, IABAM hosted an outstanding culinary experience at the acclaimed cooking school, Mirapoix at Holiday Market in Royal Oak, where over 70 members and guests put on their aprons and chef hats and prepared a seven course Italian feast. Enjoying the meal together afterwards

was an additional highlight of the evening, including the Italian-themed drinks and desserts.

This year, on the first Saturday in December, IABAM will host its 84th Annual Dinner Dance, which has recently been styled as the bar's "Winter Gala," at the prestigious Detroit Athletic Club. It is at this Gala that IABAM recognizes its past presidents and presents two special awards named after past outstanding IABAM presidents. The first is the Kenneth L. Rancilio Award, which is given to an attorney who exemplifies the honorable characteristics of the legal profession. The second is the Philip F. Greco Memorial Award, which is given to a person of Italian American heritage who has distinguished him or herself in the Michigan

community. Additionally, the annual recipients of IABAM Law Student Scholarships are recognized at the Gala.

IABAM contributes approximately \$2,000 in scholarship funding to the most qualified law student applicants each year. In the past several years, adding a charitable component to the event, members and guests have generously brought holiday gifts and donations to the Winter Gala to benefit Friends of Foster Kids.

Today, the Italian American Bar Association of Michigan remains one of the oldest and largest ethnic bar associations in the country. With its social activities and community services, our specialty bar association is a leader in providing an example of an organization comprised

of members expressing a commitment to and an appreciation of the Italian culture. It is the richness of this culture and its strong sense of community that we share as professionals and extend in the practice of law. Whether our bonds as Italian Americans are shared for professional, social or charitable purposes, it is good that these bonds are continually being renewed through participation in the bar's activities and reaching more people as IABAM increases its membership and its engagement with the community each year.

For more information, visit the IABAM [website](#).

*Contact Dana if you would like to submit a profile of your local Italian American Bar Association.*

# SPACE IS LIMITED: REGISTER NOW!

**ROME, ITALY CLE**  
OCT 20-22, 2015

NIABA members are invited to attend a unique CLE program in Rome. Our schedule includes six lectures in English by Italian lawyers, dealing with topics specifically selected for U.S. attorneys who have U.S. clients needing legal assistance in Italy.



**Employment of US Citizens in Italy and Eventual Immigration**

**Marco Mazzeschi Esq**

*Studio Mazzeschi; Rome, Milan and Florence*

**Purchase/Sale of Recreational or Investment Real Property in Italy**

**Raimondo Zagami Esq**

*Univ. International Guido Carli; Studio Notarile Zagami*

**Establishing a New Business Entity in Italy or Merging with a U.S. Corporation**

**Alessandro Varrenti Esq**

*Rome bar 1981; Columbia Univ LLM 1982; CBA Studio Legale*

**Charged with Responsibility for Personal Injury Arising from an Auto Accident in Italy**

**Marco De Fazi Esq**

*San Francisco Univ; Law graduate Rome; admitted to Italian Supreme Court 2002; Studio DeFazi; Finizio & Finizio*

**Estate Planning to Dispose of Real Property and Business Assets in Italy**

**Donald J Carroll Esq**

*Univ of Michigan, 1969; Franklin Pierce Law 1982; Pirola, Pennuto, Zei & Associati*

**Plaintiff or Defendant in a Complex Commercial Litigation in Italy**

**Micael Montinari Esq**

*Rome Universita La Sapienza; Portolano Cavallo Studio Legale*



# DETAILS AND REGISTRATION

**WHO:** Members who have paid their 2015 NIABA dues.

**WHEN:** Tuesday - Thursday, October 20-22, 2015

**WHERE:** NH-Rome Leonardo Da Vinci Hotel  
Four-star hotel is located at 324 Via Dei Gracchi in the Prati section of Rome, a short walk over the Ponte Regina Margherita to Piazza del Popolo.

**LECTURES:** Lectures will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. each day. Lecturers will provide an advance outline to participants to qualify for CLE credits.

**SOCIAL:** Meet and greet events will be held at the hotel following each afternoon session.

**HOTEL:** Participants are encouraged to stay at the event hotel for convenience in attending lectures and other functions. Email to [nhleonardodavinci@nh-hotels.com](mailto:nhleonardodavinci@nh-hotels.com) to reserve with one of these options:

- Advance Purchase (less expensive but 100% non-refundable)
- Semi Flexible (cancellation up to 24 hours before scheduled arrival with one night charge)

Price per night is for two persons with breakfast and free WIFI. For best pricing, reserve your room as soon as possible. Reservations must be made with a credit card. The hotel's toll-free number is 1-855-215-4084 for questions.



## CLE REGISTRATION

### Criteria for registration:

- 2015 NIABA dues are paid in full.
- \$250 registration fee -- by check -- to be included with this form.
- Hotel registration is made at [nhleonardodavinci@nh-hotels.com](mailto:nhleonardodavinci@nh-hotels.com). Arrive Oct. 19; depart Oct. 23.
- Airfare and travel are booked independently.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions? [pcdesq@aol.com](mailto:pcdesq@aol.com)**  
Charles DiLorenzo, V.P., NIABA

Register online at [www.niaba.org](http://www.niaba.org) or mail this form and payment to  
NIABA • 2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW • PMB 932 • Washington, DC 20006

# Notes from the NIABA Office

## Digest Goes Digital

*THE DIGEST* law journal, published by NIABA and edited at the Syracuse University College of Law, will have its next issue published in Kindle format as well as a PDF and will be available in that form to all current members of NIABA.

This is a wonderful new development for *THE DIGEST* and will make it

available to many more readers, including people in Italy. For those who enjoy a hard copy of the publication, the PDF version will be downloadable and can be readily printed.

*THE DIGEST* has been edited by law students at Syracuse since 1994. The move to publish the journal in Kindle format makes *THE DIGEST* an innovator; taking advantage of a new

format that is highly desired by today's busy readers. In making this move, *THE DIGEST* joins such journal as the Harvard Law Review and the University of Chicago Law Review in becoming early movers to a Kindle format.

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## Dues Are Due

Have you paid your 2015 NIABA membership dues? All members received notification via email and follow up via mail. If you are uncertain whether your dues are paid, log into your account on the NIABA [website](#) and you will see a memo if you still owe.

We are currently accepting payments by check only, and hope to have the credit card processing service working again soon. Contact our [office](#) if you have any questions, so that you don't miss any of your NIABA benefits!

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## Can We Refer You?

Is your profile up-to-date on the NIABA [website](#)? If not, you may be missing valuable referrals! Members of the public use the Lawyer Search function, and sometimes contact us directly, looking for attorneys. The more information available in your profile, the more likely they will choose you for their legal needs. Don't miss these valuable opportunities. Login and update your profile now.

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## Member Logo Available

It's easy to show your NIABA affiliation on your firm's website or marketing materials. Contact the NIABA [office](#) and we will send you a file that is suitable for online or print use.



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## NIABA Brochures

An electronic version (PDF) of the NIABA membership brochure is available on our [website](#). We encourage you to share the brochure with anyone who might be interested in joining NIABA. For hard copies to distribute to your colleagues or group, please contact the NIABA [office](#).

\* \* \* \* \*

## Reaching Out to Law Students

NIABA membership is free for law students and first-year attorneys. If you know of groups or events that we should reach out to, please contact the NIABA [office](#) and we will mail brochures to the organization you recommend.

\* \* \* \* \*

## How to Contact Us

NIABA Administrator Dana Robb can be reached at 414-750-4404 or [dana@barefoot-marketing.com](mailto:dana@barefoot-marketing.com).

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# HOW AMERICAN CITIZENS CAN WORK IN ITALY

By Lorenzo Agnoloni

Italy is home to thousands of Americans, but with strict visa requirements they had to fight through a quagmire of bureaucracy to get here. So many people are asking how others dreaming of making the move can get through the process as painlessly as possible. Unlike those from within the European Union, Americans are unable to just pack up and go to Italy for a little period of “la dolce vita” to spend for vacation.

In fact, it is not a simple problem. It requires a work permit or visa, rules for which have grown tighter in recent years as the authorities tighten restrictions to stem soaring unemployment. The difficulty of obtaining a visa, coupled with an impatience to fulfill their dream, drives many Americans to arrive in Italy without one.

It is true that some Americans encounter problems, misunderstandings, and excessive delays when applying to work in Italy. But must be said that those who ignore the paperwork are not only breaking the law, but also putting themselves in a vulnerable position if they should fall ill or need police assistance.

Americans can only obtain a work permit in Italy through sponsorship from an Italian company or a foreign corporation doing business in Italy. All paperwork must be filed by the employer.

This starts with watch for the publication of the ‘Flow Decree,’ which stipulates Italy’s entry quotas from any

given country for the year and is usually published in late January or early February. Certain jobs are exempt from the quota system, including university professors, translators, interpreters and some roles in the performing arts. Therefore, it is important to check if and how you might be affected.

It is crucial for the sponsor to begin the visa application procedure as soon as possible after the publication of the quota list, because most quotas are filled within a few days. Applications arriving after the quota is filled, or completed incorrectly, are rejected with no chance of appeal.

The Italian employer must then lodge an application for the work permit with the Central Immigration Office (Sportello Unico). If successful, the applicant will be issued with a no impediment (nulla osta) document. This functions as a guarantee that the sponsor will enter into a contractual working relationship with the American employee to-be.

In some professions, employers must also apply to the provincial employment office in their city by submitting evidence that there is nobody qualified for the position offered available in the local labour market. Though rare, it is possible for the authorities to suggest the employment of an EU citizen in their place.

Only once the no impediment document is granted, may an American apply for an entry visa (visto d’ingresso per motivi di lavoro) at an Italian consular office in their home city. This must be done before the

American moves to Italy. Americans already in Italy have to return to the U.S. to apply for their entry visa.

One of the main reasons Americans experience difficulties is that many employers are unwilling to go through the necessary procedure, maybe because of the slow and meticulous Italian bureaucracy, or because of the set quotas.

It is possible to enter the country with a more easily obtainable student visa, for example, and convert this to a working one once they have found an employer in Italy. (Tourist visas cannot be converted to working ones.) This procedure again involves applying to the Central Immigration Office for authorization.

For freelancers or those hoping to work independently, the process is slightly different. Workers must apply for the visa independently and receive the no impediment document from the local police headquarters. There are further restrictions on the number of freelancers that may enter from a certain country or nationality in any given year, and freelancers must also prove they have a proper income and adequate accommodation arranged in Italy.

Within eight working days of arriving in Italy with their



temporary work permit, all Americans must apply for a short-term residency permit (permesso di soggiorno). They also need to apply for a tax code (codice fiscale), one of the easier hurdles of Italian bureaucracy, at their local revenue agency.

The final step is to present the signed work contract to the local employment office (Centro per l’impiego), where the application will be approved. With the temporary permit, the tax code, and the approval of the employment office, the police headquarters will finally issue the long-term work permit. The visa itself costs around \$130 and the process can take anywhere between 30 and 120 days.

But what if the job offer falls through during the process, or an American loses their job in Italy? In these cases it is important to look for another job immediately, because the legislation in force allows the employees to stay only six months after the loss of the former job.

The process may be long-winded, but it is perfectly possible for Americans to come to Italy for work – as long as you’ve got the time, organization, patience, and the necessary paperwork.



# National Italian American Bar Association - Application for Membership

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Would you like to make a contribution to the NIABA Scholarship Fund?  \$100 or more  \$50  \$25  Other

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I certify that I am at least one of the following: a lawyer of Italian birth or extraction; a lawyer related by marriage to a person of Italian birth or extraction; a lawyer who is willing to support the purposes and objectives of NIABA. I further certify that I have been admitted to practice law and am in good standing in any country or jurisdiction; or have been granted and possess a law degree from a college of law in any jurisdiction and would qualify for admission to practice law; or am currently a law student in an accredited law school in any country or jurisdiction. All information I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

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## Prejean, *continued from page 8*

to Buffalo, New York in hopes of finding a better life in America. Their first language was Italian and my grandpa was a humble, hardworking man, who worked as a painter in the summer and a taxi driver in the winter. Even after moving to California, he painted homes until he was 85 years old. My grandma worked diligently as a housewife and, later, a saleswoman and made sure that her home was spotless clean and that our bellies were always full.

Today, if they were alive, I know they would be proud, as I was fortunate to have

a better life and amazing opportunities to succeed because of all of the sacrifices they made for me. With the life lessons they taught me, I have graduated from the University of Oklahoma with my Masters Degree in Public Administration and have Political Science and Spanish degrees from Westmont College, a private liberal arts college in Santa Barbara.

I served as a leader and officer in the United States Air Force for six years and now am doing what my grandparents would have never dreamt to do: attending law school,

on the path of achieving my lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer.

I made it a priority to become fluent in Italian, as it is the language of my blood and heritage. I can now say that, after hours of immense immersion in Italy and hundreds of hours of Italian training with native Italian speakers, I am fluent in reading, writing and speaking Italian. I am proud of my past and where I come from, and have spent several months in Italy learning even more about my culture and our beautiful traditions and history.

I would also like to share my deep gratitude for this scholarship and for the incredible opportunity the NIABA has given me. I've had a lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer and now, after six years of serving in the military, it has been a long journey for me, but I've finally made it. It is an honor to know that I have the support of such esteemed lawyers throughout the nation, who share my same Italian heritage, culture, identity and pride. From the bottom of my heart, *graze mille.*"

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