



NIABA NEWS

Men and women sharing a common heritage in a chosen profession

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NIABA ATTORNEYS MATTER

By Josepha A. Sena, Jr., Esq.
NIABA President

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Board of Directors and General meeting of NIABA scheduled for September 15-18 in Chicago, Illinois. (See article below.) We have obtained sharply discounted rates at the Chicago Raffaello Hotel due to the outstanding work of Board member Frank Schiro. There will be a black tie dinner with the Justinian Society at an elegant hotel, board meetings on Friday-Saturday open to NIABA members, and gourmet class dinners at leading Italian restaurants in Chicago on Friday and Saturday night.

The general message is that the Board is en route to making NIABA great (again) and to expand our reach to Italian-American and Italian lawyers throughout the U.S., Canada, Italy, and elsewhere. For us to be truly successful, we need the cooperation and participation of attorneys throughout the land. In short, NIABA attorneys really matter. Our goal is to promote the success of the bar and Italian-American attorneys everywhere while simultaneously promoting our common cultural heritage through social interaction as well as fraternity.



As a side note, Columbus Day is approaching. Unfortunately, its intended purpose of remembering Christopher Columbus while simultaneously praising the contributions of Italians and Italian-Americans to American and world civilizations has been attacked by revisionist historians who portray Columbus as a murderer, destroyer of Indian civilizations, and purveyor of evil. I urge all Italian-Americans and concerned

friends to fight against the tendency to remake Columbus Day into Dia de la Raza or indigenous Americans Day. Although I strongly believe in and support pride for all racial, cultural, and religious groups, we should not allow them to take away from our special day.

May the "forza" be with you all.

NIABA TO VISIT THE WINDY CITY

By Frank Schiro, Esq.
NIABA Board Member and
Past President

The NIABA Board's Fall Meeting will happily be in Chicago, IL on Thursday, September 15 to Sunday, September 18, 2016.

We are honored and excited to reconnect and to share in the Justinian Society of Illinois - Chicago Chapters' installation of Officers at the iconic Palmer House in Chicago's Loop on Thursday, September 15th for a black tie optional dinner that will host hundreds of Italian

American lawyers along with dignitaries, statesmen, and politicians.

We will be helping to honor the incoming president, **Frank Sommaro**, as well as the principal from his

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SCHOLARSHIP FUND DRIVE NEARS HALFWAY TO GOAL



Over the years NIABA has joined with the Order Sons of Italy (OSIA) and the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) in funding and granting annual scholarships to worthy Italian-American law students. Biographies of some of our prior scholarship recipients are featured on the NIABA [website](#).

With your assistance, NIABA will be able to continue this important program. We have set a goal of raising \$10,000 and are almost halfway there! Now we're asking members and friends to open their hearts and make a tax deductible contribution to our Scholarship Fund. Any amount you can afford would be greatly appreciated.

As an added incentive for your support of the next generation

of Italian-American attorneys, NIABA board member Judge **Paul A. Victor** has donated his "Paulie Hots" special blend of hot powered pepper (and custom measuring spoons) to be given to each of the first 10 members who contribute \$500 or more to the Scholarship Fund. You can read more about [Paulie Hots](#) and the health benefits of [capsaicin](#).

In addition, Judge Victor has agreed to match \$100 of each \$500 or larger donation! Let's make sure we take full advantage of this generous offer.

Donors of more than \$100 will also receive their choice of either a NIABA coffee mug or a lapel pin.

Open your heart and your wallet. Make a [donation](#)

in honor or in memory of someone who had an impact on your career as an attorney. If you have a special event or recognition coming up, consider requesting that contributions be made to the fund in leu of gifts.

[Donate online](#) now with a credit card, or drop a check in the mail to the address below. NIABA needs your help to maintain this worthy program. The support resulting from your generosity will provide long term rewards to the individual scholarship recipients and to our community at large.

Make checks payable to NIABA and mail them to: 2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW PMB 932 Washington, DC 20006

Meeting, *continued from page 1*

firm, **Antonio Romanucci**, who will be the recipient of the "Award of Excellence." That award is given to an individual who has proven leadership and who has improved the condition and image of Italian Americans. It is noteworthy that the Illinois-Wisconsin Grand Lodge of Order Sons of Italy in America recently awarded Antonio Romanucci the "da Vinci Annual Award of Excellence."



On Saturday night, a group dinner will be held at the phenomenal premiere Italian gourmet restaurant, Il Pelago, housed in the Raffaello Hotel. Both dinners are open to NIABA members, guests, Justinians, and any other interested persons.

We are further excited that we have offered a contributing donation of \$1,000 to the scholarship program for the Chicago Chapter of Illinois

Justinians, chaired by **Sam Tornatore** and **Anthony Farace**. The scholarship will be awarded to a law student of Italian descent this October.

We are looking forward to reconnecting and reuniting with our colleagues and brothers from the Chicago Justinians, many of whom were past presidents and officers of NIABA, to renew our friendships and to share in our common culture and our chosen profession. The full itinerary is available on our [website](#). NIABA members who are interested in joining us should please contact NIABA Administrator [Dana Robb](#).

NIABA will be holding our board meeting at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago on Friday and Saturday mornings, courtesy of the Chicago Chapter of Justinians. We have also arrange for a phenomenally discounted room rate at the four star boutique hotel Raffaello, just off of Chicago's Magnificent Mile, near to the John Hancock Center and a couple blocks from the iconic Drake Hotel.

A group dinner was arranged by the Chicago Justinians and is scheduled for Friday night at Quartino's in downtown Chicago.

SAME SEX UNIONS

Italy has ceased to be an exception to the rest of Europe

By Giancarlo Pezzuti

Italy became the 27th country in Europe to legally recognise same-sex couples. On May 11th, the Italian Chamber of Deputies definitively approved the government's bill recognising same-sex civil unions, with 372 voting in favour, 51 against, and 99 abstaining. The world famous Trevi fountain in Rome was lighted up with the colours of rainbow, the symbol of LGBT movement, to celebrate.

After years of rancorous debate, this result bases its roots in two relevant circumstances.

Last year, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Italy was infringing upon human rights in failing to acknowledge gay unions. Also, the law reflects changing attitudes towards homosexuality even in Roman Catholic countries. Pope Francis has used more conciliatory language than his predecessors and has met prominent gay figures such as Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple. At the same time, the official doctrine remains that same-sex unions cannot be considered the same as heterosexual marriages.

Gay-rights activists have been pushing for same-sex marriage in Italy for three decades; bills have been proposed in the past but never adopted.

Now, same-sex couples in Italy will have many of the same rights as married heterosexual couples. For instance they can



can apply for public housing as couples, they have the right to receive a deceased partners' pension, and to inherit each others' assets. Partners will also be able to decide on their surname: keeping their own, taking the other person's, or combining the two.

Partners have the same access rights as a spouse in the event of incarceration or admission to hospital. Moreover, they can take over lease agreements or be entitled to remain in their partner's property for up to five years in the event of a partner's death. Finally, it will be much easier to dissolve the union than it is to end a marriage, and they will be entitled to claim maintenance in the event of separation.

The same law also recognizes these rights to unmarried heterosexual couples. However, the gap between

the rights recognized to civil unions and to full marriage rights seems considerable.

To ensure passage in the Senate, the original version was amended in February by scrapping a clause that would have allowed members of gay civil unions to adopt their partners' children. Rulings on adoption matters will be made by judges on a case-by-case basis.

In fact, a few days after approving the bill, the Supreme Court authorized a woman to adopt her partner's baby girl. The lesbian couple had gone to Spain for medically-assisted procreation. Then they came back to Italy and the Supreme Court justices considered that the child had lived with both parents from birth, "in a familial context and within a scholastic and social context analogous to

those of children her age." (sentence 1296/2016)

In its definition of a civil union, the bill refers to "moral and material support and cohabitation,, just like marriage, but one key aspect is missing. A duty of fidelity or faithfulness between homosexual couples was dropped from the bill because conservatives said it smacked too much of traditional marriage, provoking strong outcry among the LGBT community.

This bill was a big test for this cabinet. In order to pass the bill, the government was forced to resort to calling two confidence motions to push it through. It was the first time in Italy that this kind of procedure has been adopted to obtain a positive vote by the Parliament on a civil rights matter.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM OPENS

The Italian-American Museum of Los Angeles opened its doors to the public on August 14th as a 21st century, world-class museum examining the history and ongoing contributions of Italian Americans in Southern California and beyond.

“The Italian American Museum of Los Angeles offers us the opportunity to share our city’s deeply rooted and substantial history of Italian Americans with our fellow Angelenos and indeed, with millions of visitors from throughout the world,” said Los Angeles City Councilman José Huizar, whose district includes the IAMLA.

The \$4.5 million museum is highly interactive and

uses technology to touch on everything from the original Little Italy (where Chinatown now stands) to Dodgers legend Tommy Lasorda. In a 6,000-square-foot space on the second floor of the renovated 1908 Italian Hall, the museum holds a collection of maps, letters and photographs relating to the past and present Italian community.

The museum’s permanent collection contains roughly 4,000 items. Works are displayed in a venue with a minimalist, modern design.

There is also a high-tech component. At each glass case there is a touchscreen tablet with text, video and photos, which visitors can scroll through. The most notable



elements in the museum are three 10-by-12-foot glass panels where photos, videos and more are displayed via projectors; the images are constantly changing.

The second display area includes seven glass cases that

explore a variety of subjects, from the pioneers who came to the city to the initial settlement to Italian culture to anti-Italian American sentiment.

For more information about the IAMLA, visit their [website](#).

MEMBER NEWS



Giovanni Alberotanza has been named a partner of Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP, a 36-attorney firm headquartered in Baltimore with offices in Annapolis (MD) and Wilmington (DE). Alberotanza is an attorney in the nationally-recognized tax controversy department. His practice

focuses on the representation of individuals and businesses throughout all stages of civil and criminal federal and state tax controversies, including litigation in federal and state courts.

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Marianne Barbino Dubuque was presented the “Waterbury Young Lawyers Award” at the Waterbury (CT) Bar Association’s Law Day celebration earlier this summer. The award honors a local attorney who has demonstrated a willingness to serve his or her community

and who perpetuates a positive image of the legal profession. Dubuque is a partner at Carmody Torrance Sandak & Hennessey LLP.

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Fabio Giallanza has joined the firm of Salcedo Attorneys, where he focuses on corporate law and international business transactions. The firm is located in Miami.

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Rosemary E. Giuliano, a partner at Giuliano Richardson & Sfara LLC in Woodbury, was presented with the Connecticut Bar Foundation Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Meeting of the James W. Cooper Fellows. The award honors Giuliano for her extraordinary

contributions to the Bar and community.

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NIABA Board of Directors member **James Michalski** has accepted the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Legal and Compliance Officer for Relyonus Medical Group, with offices in Orange County and Carlsbad (CA). They are a medical devices sales company representing large medical device manufacturers such as Smith and Nephew.

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Send your news to NIABA Administrator [Dana Robb](#). We will use items as space permits.

NIABA MEMBERS: REGISTER NOW!



ROME, ITALY CLE SEPT 25-27 2017



NIABA Members throughout the USA and Italy are invited to attend a CLE program in Rome, Italy, on Monday-Wednesday, September 25-27, 2017. The program will feature two 2-hour lectures in English each day -- one from 10 a.m. to noon and the second from 4 to 6 p.m. Each

lecturer will be an attorney practicing in Italy who will provide an outline in advance to qualify the lecture for CLE credits if desired.

The following topics were selected to appeal to U.S. attorneys who have clients needing legal assistance in Italy:

1. Tax structures and loopholes in Italy.
2. Family law issues between Italy and the U.S. – case studies.
3. Emerging opportunities for lawyers.
4. Dual citizenship for Italian Americans.
5. How to navigate the Italian court system in litigation.
6. Italian heritage and Italian inheritance. How to deal with Italian probate proceeding.

The lectures will be held in the congress hall of a 4-star hotel. Following each afternoon session there will be a cash bar “meet and greet” for participants and companions. The contacts you make should be invaluable. The room price of the hotel will include breakfast for guests. Several programs and tours will be proposed to the participants who want to attend.

Terms of participation:

- 2017 NIABA dues must be paid in full
- Payment of the \$300 registration fee must be made to NIABA before June 1, 2017
- Hotel reservations should be made with the venue directly
- Airfare should be booked separately

Questions? Contact Valerio Spinaci,
NIABA VP for Italy, at valeriospinaci@gmail.com

Name _____

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Register online at www.niaba.org or
mail this form and payment to NIABA
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW • PMB 932
Washington, DC 20006



Affiliate Highlights

Connecticut Italian-American Bar Association

On October 6th, CIABA will host a Symposium on the life and legal thought of the late Justice Antonin Scalia. The event, which will take place at the Quinnipiac University School of Law in North Haven, will feature an excellent panel of speakers, including attorney Arthur Aidala (Fox News legal analyst and Immediate Past President of the Brooklyn Bar Association); attorney Brendon Levesque (Hartford-based appellate lawyer and author); Professor Gary Lawson (Boston University Law School, former Scalia clerk); and Connecticut Superior Court Judge Jon Blue. The event is free and open to the public. Contact CIABA President [Dan Elliott](#) with any questions.

CIABA has officially renamed its annual banquet as “The Richard M. Marano Heritage & Awards Dinner.” The name honors Connecticut Superior Court Judge Richard M. Marano, who founded CIABA in 1993. This year’s dinner will feature keynote speaker Hon. Reena Raggi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The dinner will take place in November, but the precise date and location are to be announced. Please check CIABA’s [website](#) for updates, or contact CIABA President [Dan Elliott](#) for more information.

Tampa Chapter

Paul Finizio and Domenic Lucarelli hosted the NIABA Tampa Chapter’s inaugural lunch at Carmine’s in historic Ybor City on June 9th. The lunch was organized



by Domenick Lazzara and Thomas Baker of Tampa. It was a huge success with close to 20 Italian-American lawyers from the across the community in attendance. The owner of Carmine’s – Carmine Ivararone – kept the food coming while Paul, Domenic, and Domenick discussed the future of NIABA in Tampa and across the world. For more information about NIABA in Tampa, contact [Domenick Lazzara](#).

The Tampa Chapter will celebrate Italian-American Heritage Month at the offices of Ronald Christaldi on October 25th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event will feature a special presentation by Hon. E.J. Salcines of the Second District Court of Appeals. Judge Salcines will discuss the history of Italian-American Jurisprudence in Tampa Bay. Lunch will be sponsored by Christaldi and his firm, Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP.

OSIA, NIABA NAME SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



(NIAF) in funding and granting annual scholarships to worthy Italian-American law students. The recipient of this year’s NIABA/Sons of Italy Foundation® Scholarship is Joseph Maligno of Staten Island (NY).

Currently a second year law student at Fordham

University School of Law, Maligno graduated from the College of Staten Island in 2013 and was on the Dean’s List from 2011-

NIABA continues to join with the Order Sons of Italy (OSIA) and the National Italian American Foundation

2013. While in law school, he has received the Best Oral Advocates Award and the Best Opening Argument Award during the Trial Advocacy completion. I was also a quarterfinalist in the 2015 Maurice Wormser Memorial Moot Court Competition. Additionally, he was President of the Columbian Lawyers Association and Federalist Society and was on the Dean’s List his first year in law school.

Maligno interned for New York State Senator Andrew Lanza from 2011-2013, during which time he helped organize relief centers for the victims

of Hurricane Sandy. He is very active in local outreach programs and community boards that connect Staten Island locals to NYC’s Council. He interned with the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office in the spring of 2011 and the summer of 2015. This summer he will be interning at Social Security Administration Office of General Counsel.

Sports have played a key role in Maligno’s life, especially baseball. He currently plays for a men’s league in Staten Island, and was scouted by the St. Louis Cardinals.

OC PULLS OUT ALL THE STOPS TO HOST NIABA

NIABA West Region Vice-President Damian Capozzola, and Italian-American Lawyers of Orange County (Lex Romana) Secretary Anthony Modarelli, teamed up to host a terrific spring NIABA Board Meeting ON May 19-21 in Orange County (CA).

The weekend got started with a delicious opening dinner on at Canaletto Ristorante in Newport Beach, steps from

the fabulous Island Hotel. The hotel was the site of productive board meetings on Friday and Saturday, and otherwise provided very nice accommodations for attendees from out of town.

The Friday evening dinner at Irvine Il Fornaio was highlighted by an enjoyable (and surprisingly competitive) bocce tournament! After some instruction by local

sharpshooters from the Laguna Niguel Bocce Club, teams comprised of NIABA, IALOC (Orange County), IALA (Los Angeles), and even San Diego (where we hope we will soon see a new and thriving local group) faced off in a tournament. The final, fittingly, came down to NIABA President Joe Sena leading his team against an IALOC team headed by founder Joe D'Antony. In a thrilling final, D'Antony and his team pulled through for the locals, 15-13, to win.

On Saturday, May 21, IALA Past-President Tom Girardi sponsored a fantastic dinner cruise on "The Wild Goose," John Wayne's old boat where he used to entertain A-list celebrities and friends, including Frank Sinatra himself! Professional

opera singer Carlos de Antonis serenaded guests as they boarded, and Tom Girardi was the keynote speaker during the dinner program. Tom wove together a typically hilarious speech, punctuated by his many happy memories on the Wild Goose in previous years.

All in all it was a tremendously successful weekend of meetings and networking, all reestablishing NIABA's firm ties with the Los Angeles and Orange County groups as well as opening doors to launching a new group in San Diego. Is it premature to hope that NIABA will return to the Golden State in 2018 to be hosted by our new friends in America's Finest City?...



WELCOME NEW NIABA MEMBERS

Welcome to the following members, who joined NIABA between April 17th and September 6th.

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NIABA "MERCH" AVAILABLE

Show your NIABA pride with our oversize coffee mug and full-color lapel pin. The mug holds a generous 22 oz. and is perfect for coffee, tea, soup, or tortellini! The lapel pin is professional, attractive, and easy to read. Both are available on our [website](#) -- \$15 for the mug, \$6 for the pin, postage included -- or as our gift with a donation to the scholarship fund of \$100 or more.



Notes from the NIABA Office

NIABA *Digest* Available Online or in Print

Volume 24 of *THE DIGEST* law journal, published by NIABA and edited at the Syracuse University College of Law, is available in two formats:

- A PDF that can be read online or printed is posted on our [website](#) and can

be download at no cost to members who are logged in.

- A bound hard copy can be purchased on [Amazon.com](#) for \$20.90.

Electronic copies of all back issues are also available on our [website](#).

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GRAZIE TO NIABA'S SUPPORTERS

Our special thanks to those members who are supporting NIABA beyond their regular membership dues this year.

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Euros Accepted

NIABA accepts checks in euros for dues payments and scholarship fund donations. We hope this adds convenience to some of our overseas members.

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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 an attorney. The more information in your profile, the more likely they will choose you.

Here are just a few of the referrals we've given recently:

- Probate attorney in the Orlando area
- Entertainment law attorney who is fluent in Italian
- Italian speaking attorney regarding estate planning in Italy

Don't miss valuable opportunities like these. 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](#)

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and we will send you a file that is suitable for online or print use.

* * * * *

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.

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How to Contact Us

NIABA Administrator Dana Robb can be reached at 414-750-4404 or dana@barefoot-marketing.com.



National Italian American Bar Association - Application for Membership

Duplication and redistribution of this document is encouraged.

You can also apply online at www.niaba.org

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Franchise | <input type="checkbox"/> Patent & Trademark | <input type="checkbox"/> Training/Consulting/Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> General Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury (Plaintiff) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wills and Trusts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Actions | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury (Defendant) | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Comp (Plaintiff) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commodities | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Comp (Defendant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> In-House | <input type="checkbox"/> Product Liability (Plaintiff) | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Product Liability (Defendant) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Disciplinary | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal | <input type="checkbox"/> Investment Banking | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customs/International Trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | |

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