



NIABA News

Richard B. Caifano, Editor

Fall 2003

Washington, D.C.

Men and Women
Sharing a Chosen
Profession and a
Common Heritage

In this Issue:

President's Message ..	1
Onorificienze	2
Appointments	2
Sponsor Members ..	2
Law Student News ..	2
Profiles	3
Photo Display	4
Photo Display	5
Reflections	5
Notice of Meetings ..	6
Member Services ...	6
New Beginning	6
Etc.	6

2003 - 05 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

CIRINO M. BRUNO

EXECUTIVE V.P.

JEROME DePALMA

TREASURER

ANTONIO M. ROMANUCCI

SECRETARY

PAUL SCIOCCHETTI

HISTORIAN

RICHARD B. CAIFANO

REGIONAL V.P.

NEW ENGLAND

ANTHONY GIANFRANCESCO

MID ATLANTIC

JOSEPH S. CANNAVO

SOUTHERN

FRANK S. BRUNO

MIDWEST

JOSEPH G. ALIOTO

WEST

ALFRED AFFINITO

President's Message

The Remarks of NIABA President Cirino Bruno on the occasion of his acceptance of office at New York on May 30, 2003:



As most of you know the NIABA is comprised of thousands of members dedicated to advancing the interests of the Italian

American legal community. NIABA members include attorneys in both the private and public sectors, judges, professors and students from a diverse and consistently increasing number of venues.

Started in 1983 nearly 20 years ago to the day, at the prodding of the Honorable Eugene Nardelli of New York, the Honorable Gerald Sbarbaro of Chicago, the Honorable Mario Clinco of Los Angeles and the Honorable John Gale of Miami, a handful of highly motivated attorneys banded together to establish the NIABA. Their devotion and dedication by the fact that they have traveled across the country to be with us this evening: Richard Cacciopo (Los Angeles), Hon. Joseph Giamboi (New York), Alfred Affinito (San Francisco), Richard Caifano (Chicago), Joseph Albanese (New York), Hon. Anthony Cutrona (Brooklyn), Judy Cannavo (Indianapolis), Philip Boncore (Boston) and Michael Rainone (Philadelphia). Unable to be with us this evening but sending their love, Paul Vitrano of Detroit and Vince Damian of Miami.

The NIABA has come a long way! In addition to its bi-annual membership meetings and quarterly board meetings, the association provides numerous membership services:

- Publication of a quarterly newsletter
- Publication of its annual Law Digest, which is a nationally recognized law review publication
- Funding of an active Law School Scholarship Program
- Maintaining an active and successful judicial appointments commission
- Maintaining an active website

- Fostering a network of attorneys on a national and local level
- Conducting legal education conferences and seminars, foreign exchange and mentoring programs and a variety of cultural activities.

Needless to say, our staying power and continued success, as evidenced by the NIABA's steady growth over the past 20 years has been a source of great pride and satisfaction to all of our past and current officers and board members, who have given so generously of their time, talent and financial resources. Should there be any doubt I ask you to consider and dwell upon the fact that 8 of the NIABA's 9 past presidents are in attendance with us this evening!

The Future

I re-pledge my dedication and loyalty to this great organization and promise that I will strive to emulate and build upon the great efforts of all those who have preceded me. I assure you that the NIABA is committed to expanding its membership and I am pleased to announce that recent action taken by our board and adopted today by our membership has resulted in certain significant by-law changes, which will now enable us to expand internationally!

In closing, I wish to thank each and every one of you for making NIABA a great organization and for your part in making this evening a great success. I especially wish to thank our local affiliate, The Columbian Lawyers Association of the First Judicial Department, its president, the Hon. Anthony J. Fiorella and all of its officers, directors and past presidents for co-sponsoring this event. The officers, board members and past presidents of the NIABA with extra special thanks to Joseph Albanese for his tireless efforts, my family and friends. Martin Kaplan, my friend and partner of 32 years and last but not least, Barbara my loving wife and lifelong friend.

At this time I would like to ask Ray Pacia our immediate past president to come forward. Ray, you did an outstanding job over the past two years and it is my privilege and pleasure to present to you this plaque in recognition of your service.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you again and enjoy this evening's festivities.

— Cirino M. Bruno
NIABA President

NOTICE:

All NIABA Chapters and Affiliates are reminded that the by-laws of our association provide that delegates to the NIABA board of directors are to be selected from each chapter and affiliate. The designated delegate shall be accepted by the board upon receipt of written notice by the president of the NIABA of the appointment from the authorized officer or representative of the chapter or affiliate. It is requested by the board that notice of delegate appointments be sent in advance of the bi-annual meeting.

NIABA

PMB 932
2020 Pennsylvania
Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20006-1846
www.niaba.org

Onorificienze

NIABA Past President **Bruno Tassone** has been selected from the American Arbitration Association's roster of nearly 9000 members nationally to serve as one of 30 arbitrators to provide the Internal Revenue Service with neutral hearing officers to serve on a voluntary binding arbitration program to resolve Section 351 contingent liability tax shelter cases.

Celia Gusaldo Gamrath of Chicago was recently honored by being designated the Illinois State Bar Association's Young Lawyer of the Year 2003. Celia, who currently serves as 3rd vice president of the Chicago Justinian Society of Lawyers, also received the Chicago Bar Association Alliance For Women Alta May Hulett Award in 2002.

Congratulations to the Honorable **Charles Porcellino** on his recent retirement as Judge of the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County where he has served with distinction for the past several years.

NIABA Past President **Michael Rainone** was recently selected by Judge Anne Lazarus of The Orphans Court of Philadelphia to participate in a video taped interview to describe his experiences during his formidable tenure as a practicing attorney. The interview forms a part of a program sponsored by Temple University School of Law for the American Inns of court to designed to foster civility in the practice of law and will be presented to law students including members of the Temple University Chapter of the NIABA.

Cardinal Bevilacqua recently resigned after a long and distinguished tenure as the Catholic Church's archbishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia. An attorney and recognized scholar of Canon Law, Bevilacqua was honored by the NIABA in 1986 with the presentation of its Distinguished Service award and has been an honorary member of our association since his recognition.

NIABA Treasurer **Antonio Romanucci** received the Distinguished Service Award from the John Marshall Law School Alumni Association this past June.

The Supreme Court of Illinois recently appointed NIABA member **Paula M. Daleo** of Chicago as Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

On July 25, 2003, **Dino and Barbara Mazzone** realized a dream. They became the adoptive parents of a beautiful two-year-old boy, Julian Brando Mazzone at Moldova, a former soviet republic. The adoption was the culmination of years of dauntless search, hope and effort. Dino, who serves as the NIABA board representative from Canada, reports that Julian's transition to Montreal has been "relatively seamless" and that both parents and son are thriving with love and attention. Bravissimo!!

Appointments Committee

The NIABA reminds its members of our association's interest in this advancement of qualified candidates for appointment to the federal bench and to administrative positions within our government. To that end, the NIABA provides its Appointments Committee, currently chaired by board member Cirino Bruno of New York. The committee invites those seeking federal judicial or administrative appointment to submit a detailed resume together with a description of the position sought, the name and address of the appropriate contact to whom a recommendation may be sent and other materials pertinent to the evaluation process. The association is proud to submit its recommendation on behalf of qualified Italian-American legal professionals, as it has in the past. Information and requests may be submitted to **Cirino Bruno, Esq., Gusrae, Kaplan & Bruno, 120 Wall Street, New York, and N. Y. 10005.**

Sponsoring membership

We have come to depend upon this special class of members who go above and beyond their regular dues commitment to assure the delivery of service and commitment to the legal professional of Italian heritage. It is that commitment that makes the attainment of new heights possible. We solicit those who are willing to make that commitment to enroll as a sponsoring member. Simply send your check payable to the NIABA in the amount of \$100 to Nina Albano Vidmer, NIABA Administrative Director, 3800 W. Division Street, Stone Park, Il. 60165. A special sponsoring membership certificate will be issued. Your generosity is appreciated and will allow the growth of our Association.

Law School Chapter

As a regular feature to this newsletter, your editors provide this section on law student news. We welcome input from each of our law school chapters to assure inclusion of all items of interest from laws school chapters from through out the country. Inquiries and requests for additional information concerning NIABA law student programs may be directed to: **Sally Ann Janulevicus; Chairperson, NIABA Law Student Division, 50 Congress St. Suite 225, Boston, MA 02110-1407. Telephone 617.742.7222; Fax 617.367.8840; e-mail: shewolfesq@aol.com.** Scholarship applications for the year 2003 will be accepted after January 1, 2003. Application forms may be accessed at the NIABA website www.niaba.org. The cutoff date for 2003 applications is September 1, 2003. Selection will be made at the fall meeting of the NIABA board of directors and will be announced in December of 2003.

Law student chapter presidents are requested to provide the NIABA law student chairperson with the names and addresses of all law student chapter officers for the current school year and to schedule election of officers for the 2003 academic year in order to maintain an orderly transition. Updated material should be transmitted to the chairman of the NIABA Law Student division no later than the start of the fall term.

Editor's Note: The last edition of the NIABA newsletter featured an historic perspective on the formation of the Association in 1983. Inadvertence (brought on by stubborn reliance on failing memory), resulted in the omission of two major role players in the birth of the NIABA: the Honorable John Gale of Florida who also served as president of the American Justinian Society of Jurists and Vincent Damian of Miami, Florida, a founding member of the association who brought insight to its board in the formative years.

Larry Pusateri Celebrates 50 Years

(On July 17, 2003 Larry Pusateri of Chicago was honored for having achieved 50 years of dedicated service to the legal profession at ceremonies hosted by the Illinois State Bar Association. The following article appeared in a recent edition of the ISBA Bar News and is republished with permission of author and editor Stephen Anderson).

Larry Pusateri who prides himself on being the most active past president the Illinois State Bar Association has ever had, might have devoted his limitless energy to a career in Hollywood. The 1961 film, "Town Without Pity," was based on an incident in which Pusateri had been a major player half-dozen years earlier. He considered an opportunity to serve as a technical adviser, but subsequently learned that too many details were changed at the whim of screenwriters and studio officials.

In 1953, Pusateri was the first summa cum laude graduate of DePaul University College of Law. A commissioned Army officer, he was given a hurried oath of admission in the chambers of Justice Walter Schafer.

From Fort Leonard Wood, First Lieutenant Larry Pusateri was shipped to Heidelberg, Germany, in 1954 as a military lawyer. The case that became the basis for the movie involved the rape of a 13-year old German girl by seven soldiers. Pusateri prosecuted all seven and gained convictions that went to the Military Court of Appeals. The case turned on the testimony of the girl, who had collapsed twice at three-month intervals in court while facing the men who attacked her. Obtaining the court's approval to interview the victim in her hospital bed, with only the attorneys for both sides present, Pusateri succeeded in having the seven convictions upheld.

In the Hollywood version, the star was Kirk Douglas a defense counsel, not a stellar prosecutor a la Pusateri, and there were only four soldiers, not seven. The defense strategy was that the girl enticed the men, who were impaired by alcohol.

Pusateri was discharged as a captain in 1957. He affiliated with the Illinois National Guard and began the practice of law in Chicago. He became president of the

Cook County Young Republicans and took first place in the ISBA Lincoln Award writing contest. He was an assistant Cook County State's Attorney from 1958-1960 and a special assistant Illinois Attorney General from 1972-1976. In 1964, Pusateri was elected to the Illinois General Assembly on the At Large candidate ballot following the legislature's failure to apportion elective districts after the 1960 census. He served in the Illinois House for four years and chaired the Illinois Pardon and Parole Board from 1968 to 1970. During his term of office in the legislature, he chaired the Illinois Criminal Investigating Commission. From 1971 to 1975, he was chief counsel to the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Pusateri's involvement in bar leadership began in 1966 as a member of the Chicago Bar Association Board of Managers. He was elected to the ISBA board of Governors in 1970 and two years later was elected third vice president. Not long after his inauguration as president in 1975, Pusateri faced his toughest decision. He resigned in January of 1976 to accept nomination as the Republican candidate for the Illinois Supreme Court. Pusateri lost in a close election in November of 1976 but was appointed to an Appellate Court vacancy in 1977, serving until 1978. That year, he joined the law firm of Peterson Ross Schloerb & Seidel. Pusateri remained a capital partner in the firm until 1995 when he took of counsel status and became the sole trustee of The Swanson Charitable Foundation. He also spent two years as chair of the Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board.

In addition to the impressive list of professional and civic leadership positions, Pusateri has always been willing to accept new responsibilities with the Bar. As chair for several years of the ISBA committee on Judicial Evaluations, he developed standards that are still in use and sought procedures for using the results of judicial advisory polls in the screening process. He received the Board of Governors Award for these accomplishments. Pusateri has served on the ISBA Committee On Legislation, the Committee on Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and the Joint Committee on Judicial Compensation. He Chaired the Bench and Bar Section Counsel and the Lawyers Political Action Committee. Pusateri served twice on the Northern District Merit Selection Committee of U. S. Senators Paul Simon and Carol

Moseley-Brown. He was a member of two commissions that studied Illinois Court systems following federal investigations, and he currently serves on the ARDC Hearing Board. He has chaired a hearing panel for the Cook County Mandatory Arbitration System for 10 years, and serves as president of his Condominium association.

Despite his hectic schedule, Pusateri is more likely to be found this summer aboard his 42-foot Sea Ray "Boondoggle" in Chicago's Monroe Harbor, or out on Lake Michigan with some of his seven grandchildren.

All of his priorities are in ship-shape order, as usual.

Judge Francis M. Allegra US Court Federal Claims

Judge Allegra has served the bench with distinction since his appointment to the United States Court of Federal Claims on October 22, 1998. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, he received his B.A. degree from Borromeo College in 1978 and his Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland State University in 1981. Upon his admission to practice, Judge Allegra served as judicial clerk to Chief Judge Phillip Miller of the United States Court of Claims. From 1982 to 1984 he was engaged in private practice at the Cleveland law firm of Squire, Sanders and Dempsey. From 1984 to 1989 he served as an attorney in the Tax Division, Appellate Section of the Attorney General's Office and was promoted to Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General of the Tax Division in 1989.

From 1990 to 1994 Judge Allegra acted as Counselor to the Assistant Attorney General of the Tax Division and won appointment as Counselor to the Associate Attorney General of the United States in 1994 where he served until his appointment to the bench. Throughout the greater portion of his career with the Department of Justice, Judge Allegra was active in advancing the interests of NIABA from its Washington based Chapter and he was instrumental in the creation of the association's law review publication, having served as the first editor of The Digest.

NIABA Installation Dinner



Past President Ray Pacia, honored by incoming President Cirino Bruno with the NIABA Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication as president.



Board members Joseph Alioto, Dominic Frinzi and Frank Schiro were among the dignitaries in attendance at the NIABA gala.



A group photo of the Midwest NIABA contingency, together in New York at the Installation Dinner.



A goodly number of NIABA past presidents, pictured above, attended the installation dinner.

Photo Right: NIABA Board Members following the installation of officers at the New York gala event.



And More!



NIABA President Cirino Bruno, with New York State Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno.



Antonio and Diane Romanucci, Bruno and Shari Tassone, and Richard Caifano.



Board members Paul Sciocchetti and Hon. Joseph Giamboni; Sheldon Silver, speaker of the NYS Assembly, Jeffrey A. Lichtman, president of the NYS Jail Lawyers Assoc., and NIABA President Cirino Bruno are depicted at a gathering during Italian Legislators Week in Troy NY.

Reflections

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

(The following invocation delivered by the Rev. Msgr. George J. Cascelli on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary and Installation Dinner of the NIABA on May 30, 2003 at New York is published as an inspirational message to our members.)

As has happened so many times in the past, we are again faced with gross evil in the world. In these past few months, we have seen unimaginable devastation of lives and property, all of which was perpetrated out of hatred. Now we bear the interminable struggle to find and establish peace and justice...we try with our own human efforts but, for the most part, we turn to God. But for what? For help? For consolation? For hope? Those of us who are involved in the legal profession always face the challenges of rights and justice. Let us remember that these are not roles of acting. Rather, they are roles of person and personality, of truth and of spirit. So, this prompts us to pray:

Heavenly Father, we come before you this evening to seek your direction and guidance. You are the all-perfect God, and we are in search of your spirit. We do not ask that you shower us with many more gifts. You have already done that as evidenced in our daily lives and in the work we do. So tonight we ask your special blessing on our honoree and new president of the National Italian American Bar Association, Cirino Bruno, and of all its newly elected officers and directors. They have given ample of their dedication to the legal profession and you have supported them with your love. We also ask that you imbue all of us with your sense of justice. It is only then that we can reflect your goodness. We praise you. We thank you, our ever-living God who reigns over all of us forever and ever.



Photo Left: New NIABA President Cirino Bruno, supported by Past President Ray Pacia, following a board meeting in New York.

Address Correction Requested

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

In furtherance of your association's efforts to deliver viable services to its members, we are pleased to announce the formation of a network designed to assist those interested in securing employment or seeking to fill an available position. The association website, www.niaba.org, offers banner posting to its interested members at a nominal rate. If you are seeking a position or looking for someone to fill a position and are a member of NIABA, details for banner listing may be accessed at our website. Members may also avail themselves of special opportunities featured on the WebPages of NIABA including reduced rates to members from Hertz Rental, Pennywise Office Products and Airborne Express available through acquisition of the NIABA Master charge credit card issued by MBNA Bank.

SPONSORING MEMBERSHIP

We have come to depend upon this special class of members who go above and beyond their regular dues commitment to assure the delivery of service and commitment to the legal professional of Italian heritage. It is that commitment that makes the attainment of new heights possible. We solicit those who are willing to make that commitment to enroll as a sponsoring member. Simply send your check payable to the NIABA in the amount of \$100 to Nina Albano Vidmer, NIABA Administrative Director, 3800 W. Division Street, Stone Park, IL 60165. A special sponsoring membership certificate will be issued. Your generosity is appreciated and will allow the growth of our Association.

NIABA 20TH ANNIVERSARY A NEW BEGINNING

In the very setting that marked the formation of the NIABA in 1983, the Association marked its first 20 years in a celebration that reinforced its objectives of advancing the interests and the accomplishments of Italian legal professionals throughout the world. Inspired by the commitment of the newly installed NIABA president Cirino M. Bruno of New York, the NIABA board and members in attendance at the meeting began consideration in broadening membership and decreasing the association's historic dependence upon its affiliate Italian-American state and local bar organizations. As was evidenced by the amendments of the by-laws, which will now allow members from any country of the world, a renewed dedication to expansion forming the basis for networking of legal professionals sharing a common heritage is at the forefront of the new administration. As President Bruno and the NIABA board work out the plans of this renaissance, details will follow in future issues of this newsletter. Events that marked the special anniversary meeting in New York included the elections of officers and directors for the 2003-05 term of office, the bi-annual membership meeting with by-law amendments approved by the membership in attendance, a gala installation dinner that included recognition of the newly organized New Jersey Chapter of the NIABA and a poignant dinner at the famous Tiro a Segno restaurant in Greenwich Village, where the board revisited the place of the Association's birth.

Plans for future meetings of the Association include a board meeting at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin October 9-12, 2003 during which members of the board will attend the Columbus Day Awards Banquet hosted by the Wisconsin Justimian Society of Lawyers at Milwaukee on the evening of October 12th. Consideration is being given for an association meeting in Italy in the spring of 2004.