



NIABA News

Richard B. Caifano, Editor

Winter 2004

Washington, D.C.

Men and Women
Sharing a Chosen
Profession and a
Common Heritage

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2003 - 05 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	CIRINO M. BRUNO
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SOUTHERN	FRANK S. BRUNO
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WEST	ALFRED AFFINITO

NIABA

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President's Message

The National Italian American Bar Association, now well into its 21st year, continues to grow and prosper, thanks to your continued enthusiastic support, to the dedication of our officers, board and committee members, and to the efforts of our administrative director, Nina Albano Vidmer.



A review of this issue of our Newsletter will provide you with some highlights of recent events.

For a more in-depth overview of our Association, please visit our website at www.niaba.org. We trust that you will visit this page often, especially the Membership Directory, whenever you require assistance from a fellow attorney who practices outside of your jurisdiction or area of specialization.

As you know, NIABA is currently cultivating various contacts in an effort to expand its membership internationally. In furtherance of this effort, we are in the process of scheduling a General Membership meeting in Italy to take place in late September or early October 2004. We hope to finalize these plans within the next two months and ask that you visit our website for future postings relative to the same.

With appreciation of your continued support, hopeful that you will continue to tell your colleagues about our Association, looking forward to seeing you at our General Membership meeting, and with best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, I remain

Sincerely,

Cirino M. Bruno
NIABA President

Felice Anno Nuova

We extend our best wishes for a happy, healthy and meaningful new year to all NIABA members and their families.

NIABA New Beginning Comes Into Being

The Association recently marked its first 20 years with the renewal of its objectives of advancing the interests and the accomplishments of Italian-American and legal professionals throughout the world. Inspired by the commitment of NIABA President Cirino M. Bruno of New York, the Association has broadened its membership internationally. Recent amendments to the by-laws now allow qualified members from any country of the world to join NIABA thereby forming a base for international networking of legal professionals sharing a common heritage. Details will follow in this and future issues of this newsletter.

At its fall meeting in Lake Geneva and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the NIABA Board of Directors ironed out the details of membership expansion and approved modification of the classifications of Affiliate and Chapter memberships while creating the special Patron membership for individuals who desire to lend greater financial assistance to help promote the aims of the association. On October 12, 2003 members of the Board of Directors attended the Columbus Day Awards Banquet hosted by the Wisconsin Justinian Society of Lawyers at Milwaukee. The Board of Directors will be meeting in Las Vegas, NV, on April 29-May 2. The board has approved a general membership meeting to be scheduled in Italy in the late Fall of 2004. Please mark your calendars so that you and your family may join us in a trip that will mark the formation of the Italian arm of the NIABA.

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 News

BROOKLYN: The following were elected as officers of the Columbian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn for the 2003/2004 term at the association's Annual Installation Dinner Dance held on June 20, 2003:

- Gregory LaSpina President
- Concetta Mennella 1st VP
- Joseph Romagnolo 2nd VP
- Thomas Anselmo 3rd VP
- Mark Longo Treasurer
- Richard Leotta Corres. Secy.
- Dominick Napoletano ... Record. Secy.
- Steven Bamundo Historian

In addition to maintaining its active monthly CLE dinner meetings, the Brooklyn Columbians recently held their annual reception honoring the Italian American Jurists from Brooklyn and Staten Island.

MASSACHUSETTS: On January 22, 2004 the following members of the Justinian Law Society of Massachusetts were inducted as officers for the new term:

- Jerome Falbo President
- Philip Boncore Pres. Elect
- Marie Capano Secretary
- Richard Bardi Asst. Secy.
- Carmine Lepore Treasurer
- Audrey Baggs-Marinelli . Assist. Treas.

Outgoing president Judge Peter DiGangi of Danvers, MA is complimented on a successful year and hosted the Society's Christmas-Scholarship Dinner on December 9, 2003 as his last official act before leaving office in January.

RHODE ISLAND: At the Justinian Law Society of Rhode Island Biennial Installation Ceremony held in Providence on September 12, 2003, the following were sworn in as officers for the 2003-2005 term:

- William Riccitelli President
- Raymond Detorre Vice President
- Thomas Tarro Treasurer
- Sheri Pizzi Secretary
- Denise Lombardo Meyers ..Delegate

The event also marked the announcement of the Justice Victoria S. Lederberg Memorial Scholarship to be awarded annually by the society.

CHICAGO: The Justinian Society of Lawyers held its Annual Installation and Awards Dinner at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago on September 26, 2003. Formally installed into office for the 2003-2004 Term were the following officers:

- Thomas M. Battista President
- John C. Scaicciotta 1st VP
- Lisa M. Marino 2nd VP
- Celia Guzaldo Gamrath .. 3rd VP
- Franco A. Coladipietro .. Treasurer
- Mauro Glorioso Secretary

The Chicago Justinians awarded \$34,000 in scholarships to area Italian American law students this past October.

MILWAUKEE: Under the leadership of its President Anthony Machi and incoming President Mark Camelli, the Wisconsin Chapter of the Justinian Society of Lawyers held its Annual Columbus Day Dinner and Awards Reception on October 12, 2003 at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee. The capacity audience included many NIABA board members. All were treated to a fine dinner and enjoyed the program that included presentation of a \$3,000 scholarship to a Marquette Law School student. Sam Balistreri received the Society's Italian of the Year Award; the Most Reverend Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of Milwaukee, was the recipient of the Person of the Year Award; and Milwaukee County Chief Judge Michael Sullivan was honored with the Jurist of the Year Award. NIABA president Cirino Bruno presented the Association's Lifetime Achievement Award to NIABA board member and Italian Community Center president Dominic Frinzi.

NEW YORK: The First Judicial District of The Columbian Lawyers Association installed the following members as officers for the 2004 term at the association's Annual Installation Dinner held at the New York Athletic Club on December 20, 2003:

- Richard M. Biaggi President
- Michele L. Felice 1st VP
- Arthur L. Aidala 2nd VP
- Katherine Kinkela Treasurer
- Lorraine Corsa Exec. Secretary
- Andrew Maggio Corres. Secy.
- Tracy Pulito Record. Secy
- Rosa Pietanza Fin. Secy
- Joseph Longo Parliamentarian

The 1st District Columbians held the 2nd Annual fundraiser for their Scholarship program in October.



Photo Above: Richard M. Biaggi (left) was installed as president of the Columbian Lawyers Association First Judicial Department on December 20, 2003. Administering the oath of office is his father, former U.S. Congressman Mario Biaggi.

Photo Right: Past NIABA President Joseph Giamboi was awarded the raffle proceeds at the Milwaukee awards ceremony. He graciously donated the proceeds to the Justinian Society Scholarship Fund.

WI Celebrates



NIABA Board members Dominic Frinzi (left) and Joseph Alioto, Joe's wife Dawnia at the Milwaukee Justinian Columbus Day Dinner.



Justinian Society President Mark Camelli with wife, Sharon and daughter Mariana at Columbus festivities



NIABA Board members and their families celebrate the "Chef Competition" event, hosted by Board Member Joseph Alioto.



Joseph Alioto, with Sam Balistreri, honoree and Anthony Marchi, immediate past president of the Milwaukee Justinian Society.





National Italian American Bar Association

2004 Dues Information & Request Form

Please Help Us Update Your File

Name:

Last First Middle

Business Address:

Number Street Suite

City State Zip + Four

Country: _____

Business Phone:(_____) _____ Fax Number :(_____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Address:

Number Street Apt. # City State Zip + Four

Home Phone:(_____) _____

Students : Law School: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Country of Legal Practic: _____ Admitted Date: _____

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT NIABA?

Local Association Website *The Digest* Law Journal
 Other (*explain*) _____

NIABA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please make your dues check payable to: NIABA.

Regular Member (\$50) Law Student (free)
 Sponsor Member (\$100) Patron Member (\$250 or more)

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Yes, I want to make a contribution to the NIABA Scholarship Fund:

Please make your check payable to: NIABA SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

\$25 \$50 \$100 or more Other \$ _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK(S) AND RETURN IT TO:

NINA ALBANO VIDMER
NIABA ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
3800 DIVISION STREET, STONE PARK, IL 60165

NIABA 2004 Dues

AREA OF CONCENTRATION

(Check no more than three)

Students, retired and judicial members should only check off those areas.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judge (61) | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired (65) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (64) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service (60) | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Co. Affiliation (62) | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator (63) |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative (1) | <i>Malpractice -</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption (57) | <input type="checkbox"/> Accountant Malpractice - Plaintiff (28) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust (2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Accountant Malpractice Defendant (29) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate (3) | <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney Malpractice -Plaintiff (25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitrator\Mediator (59) | <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney Malpractice - Defendant (26) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Malpractice - Plaintiff (22) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy & Reorganization (46) | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Malpractice - Defendant (23) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Valuations(52) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Tort (53) | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal (30) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights (5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patent & Trademark (31) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Actions (47) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commodities (6) | <i>Personal Injury -</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Litigation (7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff (33) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction (8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant (34) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (9) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal (10) | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate (35) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customs/ Int'l Trade (68) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defamation (11) | <i>Product Liability -</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee Benefits (48) | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff (66) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental(12) | <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant (67) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Estate Planning (13) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law (14) | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Disciplinary (37) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franchise (15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate (38) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Practice (49) | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Tax (39) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care (16) | <input type="checkbox"/> Securities (40) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration (17) | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security (55) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance (18) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax (41) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investment Banking (58) | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic (50) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Labor/Mgmt Relations (19) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trade Secrets / |
| | Unfair Competition Litigation (51) |

Worker's Compensation -

- Plaintiff (43)
 Defendant (44)

Other (45) *Specify* _____

Historical References

CHICAGO:

The Justinian Society of Lawyers

It was a crisp October afternoon in 1921, when all but 10 of the approximately 40 Chicago lawyers of Italian descent, who, bound by professional and ethnic ties, and conscious of their heritage, met in the Ashland Block on Clark and Randolph streets in the City. Out of that meeting the *Justinian Society of Advocates* (later named the Justinian Society of Lawyers) was formed. It was my good fortune to know many of the charter members of the *Justinians*, as they came to be known, after I was admitted to the Bar and joined the Society in 1949.

They were, in good part, leading members of the Bar, as well as civic and political leaders. Some were World War I veterans; many were also prominent in business. A large number of them were born in Italy and were brought as youngsters to the United States by their immigrant parents. Today's young lawyers have student loans to pay; these pioneer Italian Americans who formed our Society had their family passage to pay, owed to those who financed their voyage here. Their parents had little or no formal education and no skills. But by dint of the great sacrifices made by their parents, plus their own hard work, both in school and at the jobs most of them had, our predecessor *Justinians* made it.

We must always keep in mind that success is highly infectious. We share living in this beloved republic of ours with others whose ancestors were here before Columbus, and with those whose forebears came here, as author Jerome Bennet, Jr. put it, "before the Mayflower." We can do no less than to ensure that the opportunities that have been extended to us are made equally available to all others, regardless of creed, color, gender, national origin or ancestry. For the yearning of equality of opportunity and freedom from discrimination is but a reflection of our own experience.

-Honorable Anthony Scariano, Justice of the Appellate Court of Illinois (Retired), Historian of The Justinian Society of Lawyers.

MASSACHUSETTS:

An industrious group of Italian-American attorneys founded **The Justinian Law Society of Massachusetts** in 1943 in the wake of anti-Italian sentiment in the Boston area arising from political considerations that evolved from WWII and the immigration of Italians to Boston. The JLSM, which became an affiliate of the NIABA in 1983, has been a vibrant and respected Bar Association for 60 years. The society is dedicated to promoting fraternity among Italian-American lawyers and judges. In the past, the society has supported attorneys in pursuit of judicial appointments, has awarded scholarships of increasing monetary amounts and has provided a statewide network for lawyers and judges who share a common heritage. It is the oldest ethnic bar association in Massachusetts and numbers approximately 500 members from across the Commonwealth. During the past decade, the JLSM established a number of traditions that further its purposes. Biannually, the society has a gala induction ceremony honoring its officers and directors, each year, in addition to its annual clambake, the society holds a golf tournament in honor of one of its most respected members, Judge Joseph Furnari, a Bocce Tournament in the North End of Boston, semi-monthly educational seminars, a *Meet the Judges* cocktail reception and an annual Christmas-Scholarship Awards Dinner. The Justinian Law Society is a volunteer organization with no administrative assistant or executive director and relies entirely upon the involvement of its members. In the past year the society lost its longest standing member, Anthony Leonard Vadala at the age of 94 years. Attorney Vadalla had served as Historian of the society for more than 20 years and most recently as Chairman Emeritus of the society's Annual Bench and Bar Clambake. Loved by all, Vadalla was quick to provide a family history to a fellow member, sometimes reciting facts not known to those of the third generation of immigrants about their own families. He was always ready to detail the early meetings of the founders of the society who met monthly on Boston's Hanover Street to share a bottle or two of homemade wine with a dish of pasta to consider important factors impacting of their common heritage and their chosen profession.

-Reported by Justinian Law Society President Jerome Falbo

Onorificienze

Alfred Gallo was presented with the 2003 Justinian Society of Lawyers Award of Excellence at the Society's Annual Inauguration and Awards Dinner held at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago on September 23, 2003. M. Gallo was hailed as a role model for the legal and Italian community. A practicing attorney for more than 50 years, Gallo has served on the John Marshall Law School governing board for more than 30 years and is president of its Board of Trustees. He is a past president of the Justinian Society (1960) and founder of the Sicilian American Cultural Association. His banking career includes service as an officer at Liberty National Bank, LaSalle Street Bank, president of Cosmopolitan National Bank and of the O'Hare International Bank.

The Justinian Law Society of Rhode Island presented the **Honorable Arthur N. Votolato**, United States Bankruptcy Judge For the District of Rhode Island with its 2003 Distinguished Achievement Award on September 12, 2003.

On December 10, 2003, the Northwest Suburban Bar Association of Cook County presented the association's distinguished Jurist Award to the **Honorable Joseph Urso**, presiding judge of the 3rd Municipal District of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

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 law school chapters from throughout 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.**

The committee is now setting its scholarship application program for the year 2004. Scholarship applications for the year 2004 are currently being accepted. Application forms may be accessed at the NIABA website www.niaba.org. The cut-off date for 2004 applications is September 1, 2004. Selection will be made at the fall meeting of the NIABA board of directors and will be announced in December of 2004.

NETWORKING

A subject dear to the hearts of those who were instrumental in the formation of the NIABA and to those who continue to manage its growth and expansion is the concept of networking among members. Within our membership we have a good number of seasoned practitioners in almost every facet of the legal experience across this country, into Canada and in Italy. A short perusal of the NIABA website under its membership listing confirms that fact. In an informal survey conducted by your editor, many members have related helpful and pleasant experiences in accessing information from NIABA members on an informal basis-with the introduction of common heritage as the "door opener." A recent experience demonstrates the facility and range of our network.

Claire Ambrosio is a delegate to the NIABA Board of Directors and the immediate past president of the Los Angeles Italian American Lawyers Association. Claire and other members of that NIABA affiliate have seen the need for an Italian American political action committee to advance the interests of qualified Italian Americans seeking political office in their area. She learned that an Italian American PAC had been active in the Chicago area and was interested in learning of its formation and advancements. A simple call to a contact in Chicago resulted in Claire meeting with NIABA members in Chicago who were instrumental in the formation and direction of the Illinois IAPAC. Armed with information that Claire deemed valuable to the California project, Claire is now prepared to go forward with its formation and she can rely on help in the future whenever she reaches out. Networking is what we are about.

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.

SELECT MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Become a Patron Member

The NIABA depends upon this special class of members who go above and beyond their regular dues commitment to fulfill our goals. It is that special commitment that makes the attainment of new heights possible. We solicit those who are willing to make that commitment to enroll as a Sponsor Member at an annual dues level of \$100 or a Patron Member at a level of \$250. These special donors to the NIABA cause will receive recognition and benefits suitable to the level of their contributions. To become a Sponsor or Patron Member, simply send your check payable to the NIABA to Nina Albano Vidmer, NIABA Administrative Director, 3800 W. Division Street, Stone Park, Il. 60165. A special membership certificate will be issued. Your generosity is appreciated and will allow the growth of our Association.

Profile

The following is excerpted from remarks by NIABA President Cirino Bruno upon the presentation of the Association's Lifetime Achievement Award during the Columbus Day Reception held at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee on October 12, 2003:

At this time it is my special privilege to make a presentation of the National Italian American Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award to a person who has touched the hearts, minds and souls of every person in this room who has had the privilege of knowing him, as well as countless numbers of people throughout the world who share that honor. The recipient of this award wears many hats and is known to us in many ways. To some he is known as: a prominent, successful and distinguished lawyer; a former seminarian who is a personal and highly respected friend to members of the Clergy throughout the world; the current president of the National Harness Racing Horsemen's Association; a former president of the Illinois Harness Racing Horsemen's Association; a man who had the stature, integrity, and courage nearly five decades ago to make a run for governor of the State of Wisconsin; a man who has been knighted by the Italian government with the ceremonial rank of *Cavaliere* and who has been highly recognized and honored for his years of service to the Italian Community both here and abroad; a man who is multilingual and possesses a keen intellect; a student of philosophy and literature; a lifelong aficionado and patron of the opera; an orator second to none; a leader intimately and tirelessly involved in countless civic and philanthropic causes; a current and multi-term past president and founder of the Milwaukee Italian Community Center; a mentor, advisor and friend to countless numbers of judges and lawyers; a fellow NIABA board member-a man who many of us affectionately refer to as "Uncle Dominic". On behalf of the National Italian American Bar Association it is my privilege, honor and pleasure to present this Lifetime Achievement Award to the **Venerable Dominic H. Frinzi**.

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 government. To that end, the NIABA provides its Appointments Committee, currently chaired by Executive Vice President Jerry De Palma of Nevada. 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 **Jerome A. De Palma Esq., 3201 S. Maryland Pkwy, Suite 326, Las Vegas, NV 89109**.