



NIABA NEWS

Men and women sharing a common heritage in a chosen profession

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NIABA TO VISIT THE BIG EASY

By Dino Mazzone
NIABA President

When I was elected President of NIABA in 2013, I decided early on that I would convene a meeting of the Board of Directors of the association in the city of New Orleans. Being a Canadian of Italian ancestry living in the French-speaking province of Québec, I had always developed an affinity for the French lineage of the State of Louisiana and was determined to finally settle my curiosity and visit the Big Easy. As such, from February 26 to March 1, 2015, the Board of Directors of NIABA will hold its Winter Meeting in this very special city.



La Nouvelle-Orléans (New Orleans) was founded May 7, 1718, by the French Mississippi Company under the direction of Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, on land inhabited by the Chitimacha. It was named for Philippe d'Orléans, Duke of Orléans, who was Regent of the Kingdom of France at the time. His title came from the French city of Orléans. The French colony was ceded to the Spanish Empire in the Treaty of Paris (1763) (but eventually reverted to French oversight). Napoleon sold Louisiana (New France) to the United States in the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Today, I doubt how many of us would know of New Orleans' rich history. More than likely, say the words "New Orleans" to someone and an individual will conjure images of Hurricane Katrina, the devastating natural disaster that occurred 10 years ago this summer and displaced 800,000 individuals. More than 1,500 people were recorded as having died in Louisiana because of Katrina, most in New Orleans, and others are still unaccounted for. The hurricane significantly contributed to the shrinking of New Orleans' population – as of 2010, the population of New Orleans was only 76% of what it was in 2005. But, even after all the heartache, after the significant loss of life and destruction of house and home, New Orleans is still standing. Still alive. Still vibrant. And still very relevant.

Here, where Europe and the Caribbean meet in the American South, the history is as colorful as the local architecture. The food is the stuff of legend. "Instrumental" in creating jazz, Haitian and African Creoles developed an exotic, spicy cuisine. Spanish style and Creole builders gave New Orleans the St. Louis Cathedral, named for Louis IX, sainted King of France. The street names are French and Spanish, the Creole architecture comes in various tropical colors, and the voodoo is a Caribbean import. Hey – I know it's tempting. It's never too late to come and join us!

And so it is here, in this incredible American city, where we lawyers of Italian extraction will continue to set the course and direction of our organization. Like the Italian immigrants before us who converged on New Orleans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, we will work hard to advance the interests of our beloved NIABA. And once we have accomplished what we set out to do, we will – as the Cajun saying goes – Laissez les bons temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!). For more info, visit us at www.niaba.org.

CAPITOL CITY WELCOMES NIABA BOARD

Between October 23 and 26, 2014, NIABA's Board of Directors convened in Washington, DC for its Fall Meeting. Good work was accomplished by the Board, and NIABA also made its presence known at the NIAF Anniversary Gala Weekend.





THE ITALIAN JUSTICE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

By Maria Costanza Barducci

If you've never worked as an attorney in Italy, you probably will not understand the excitement behind Legislative Decree No. 90 of June 24, 2014 – "Urgent measures for the simplification and administrative transparency and efficiency of the courts" (Misure urgenti per la semplificazione e la trasparenza amministrativa e per l'efficienza degli uffici giudiziari) was converted into Law No. 114 on August 11, 2014.



This law has the purpose of resolving the snail-like pace that has characterized Italian courts and civil proceedings up until now. It does this by reducing paper trails and implementing online filing, file consultation, and communication between attorneys and courts. In fact, after various threats of sanctions by the European Court for Human Rights because of the excessive duration of a civil case, the Italian justice system was almost forced to adopt this new piece of legislation and start a judicial technological revolution.

The technological revolution in the Italian justice system

The first sign that a technological revolution was about to take place dates back to 1997¹, when Law No. 59 of March 15th was enacted. The Italian justice system validated documents, data and document formats that were created through the use of computers or telematically (see Art. 15 of law No. 59, March 15, 1997)², finally moving away from the traditional approach that only material on paper was valid.

As a result of this technological advancement, the legislature was forced to create a system that would recognize the authenticity of electronic formats and, with DPR n.513, of November 10, 1997, the digital signature was introduced in the Italian legal system. This allowed all pleadings and legal documents to be signed electronically.

The law was then subject to many modifications³, which culminated in the creation of four different types of digital signatures recognized by the Italian justice system: the electronic signature; the advanced electronic signature; the qualified electronic signature, and the digital signature⁴. Electronic documents signed with qualified electronic signatures or digital signatures, formed in compliance with the technical regulations, are the only two signatures recognized as valid for all purposes of the law and that meet the requirements of written documents formation. In other words, these tools allow effective implementation on computers for all the acts for which the law requires that it be in writing.

Another sign that the technological revolution was occurring was through the adoption of certified email (Posta certificata: PEC). This new method of transmitting legal documents moved away from the traditional certified Italian mail system by allowing email transmittal of documentation. Certified emails can be used for the transmission of all types of information and documents in electronic format.

The method certifies that the email was sent, the integrity and successful delivery of the message exchanged between the manager of the Certified Email system of the sender and the recipient, and that the email has the same legal value as the traditional letter. Acknowledgment of receipt ensures the enforceability of delivery to third parties. This method of communication became obligatory with law No. 2 of January 28, 2009⁵.

The Italian justice system is now online

The Italian technological revolution reached its peak with Law No. 114 of August

11, 2014, titled online civil procedure (Processo Civile Telematico)⁶.

The road to the implementation of this law was long. In fact, it dates back to 2004 when seven Italian cities (Rome, Milan, Naples, Catania, Padua, Genoa, and Bergamo) ran a pilot program for an online civil procedure software but, due to various problems, the test was postponed until the end of 2006. At that time, only the Civil Court of Milan ran the pilot program.

Tests that were carried out in early 2007, on software developed at the turn of 2003 and 2004, showed serious issues and bugs. These problems were related to the rules for the preparation of documents and tools designed for the preparation of the pleadings themselves, and the software had to be modified. Because of this, the Ministry of Justice began working on a new version of the software, which was completed only in late 2008⁷.

Finally, the right system was created to accommodate and facilitate online services.

The Court of Milan activated the online portal in 2008. The cities of Catania, Naples, Genoa, and Padua followed in 2008. Many cities in Lombardy implemented it mid-2009; some cities in Veneto, Turin, and Biella in the second half of 2009. However, even if the software was working, there was still no law in place that made online filing obligatory.

In 2012, the European Court of Human Rights fined

Continued on next page

Technological Revolution, *continued from page 4*

Italy, stating that it would have to pay €120 million in compensation, the highest sum ever paid out by one of the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe, because of the length of judicial proceedings.⁸ This was not the first time that Italy was being reprimanded by the Court of Human Rights for this issue. Consequently, the Italian government – together with the Ministry of Justice – started working on measures to solve this problem.

As a result, Law No. 114 of August 11, 2014 was enacted. The focal point of this law is to allow faster communication between the attorney and the court system, eliminating the need to personally go to court to file pleadings or obtain copies of records. In

The new online civil procedure allows professionals to access a specific database for online consultation of the case file, proceed to electronic communication with the court offices, and pay online filing fees.

fact, the new online civil procedure allows professionals to access a specific database for online consultation of the case file, proceed to electronic communication with the court offices, and pay online filing fees⁹.

In order to file documents and/or send communications, it is necessary to "pack them" according to specific technical requirements and send them in an electronic envelope, also created according to specific technical regulations¹⁰.

The online civil process law also encompasses all of the previous technological advancements, in the sense that one is required to have an electronic signature and a certified email account in order to file anything.

The most outstanding aspect subsequent the implementation of this law is not only that the Italian judicial system is finally moving faster with its proceedings, therefore satisfying the requirements

set by the European Court of Human Rights, but an immense amount of money is being saved by using the online civil process. Within the first couple months, the Ministry of Justice saved almost €40,000¹¹ (about \$48,000).

Another important point is that, beginning December 31, 2014, electronic filing has been mandatory even for processes pending back to June 30, 2014. This provision will also extend to the Courts of Appeal as of June 30, 2015.

It is true that the road was long to get to where Italy is today, but luckily the Italian civil justice system is up-to-date and finally moving justice forward through technology.

* * * * *

1. Published in the Gazz.Uff. January 10, 2011 n.6 – Suppl. ord. n. 8

2. Before this law was enacted, the inherent requirements for a document to have legal value was to be on paper capable of ensuring the integrity and the authenticity of the document and its signature.

3. The legislature created three types of signatures that were present in the Codice dell'Amministrazione digitale, Law Decree n.82, of March 7, 2005. That was then modified, but the Legislative Decree n. 235, of December 30, 2010, introduced a fourth signature. New regulations were created with the Presidential Decree of the February 22, 2013.

4. The electronic signature is the set of data in electronic form, attached to or logically associated with other electronic data, used as a method of identification. Advanced electronic signature is a particular type of electronic signature, attaching or connecting a set of data in electronic form to a computer document, ensuring integrity (allowing you to detect whether the data were subsequently modified), authenticity of the document signed and exclusive control of the instrument of signature. This last element ensures unique connection with the petitioner and therefore the legal paternity of the document. It is a type of signature required by the Code but that, to date, is not available as the technical regulation is entrusted to a decree of the Government not yet issued. Qualified electronic signature is obtained through a computer procedure that guarantees the unique connection to the signatory, created using means that the signatory can maintain sole control of and linked to data to so as to allow to detect whether the data has been subsequently modified. This signature is based on a qualified certificate and created by a device safe for the creation of the signature. Digital signature is based on a system of cryptographic keys, a public and one private, related to each other and allowing the holder and the recipient to verify the origin and integrity of a document computer or a set of documents.

5. Law No. 2 of January 28, 2009 was the result of years of regulation modifications. The first law that mentioned certified email was the DPR n. 68, 11 February 2005. Circular n. 49 11/41/05 and circular n. 51 12/7/06 establish how you can become a certified email provider. Law Decree n. 185, of November 29, 2008 then converted into Law n. 2 of January 28, 2009 implicated that certified mail was obligatory for certain professional that dealt with the public administration. More laws have since been enacted with the purpose of indicating time frames for business to convert to this new mail system.

6. www.giustizia.it/pct.com

7. In order to use the online filing system, the attorney must have the following: certified email address; digital signatures; pleading software; access point, maintained relations with the access point, technical-organizational structure under the Ministry of Justice. To access the services you have to hold a certificate of authentication. http://pst.giustizia.it/PST/it/pst_28.wp

8. http://inchieste.repubblica.it/it/repubblica/rep-it/2013/04/23/news/giustizia_strangolata_europa-56658675/

9. Law No. 114, on August 11, 2014.

10. The technical regulations are updated from time to time with ministerial decrees.

11. http://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2014/08/01/news/processo_telematico-92895811/

Notes from the NIABA Office



Coming Soon: Paulie Hots for a Good Cause

To raise donations to the NIABA Scholarship Fund, retired New York Judge Paul A. Victor will donate three jars of his homemade powdered blend of hot peppers, called Paulie Hots, for auction. Each jar will include a special set of measuring spoons -- ranging from a nip to a dash -- and Judge Victor has offered to add an additional \$100 to each winning bid over \$200. Watch your next newsletter for auction details and deadlines.

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Dues Are Due

NIABA membership fees for 2015 are now due. All members receive notification electronically. 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 didn't get your notice, 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.



Member

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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.

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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.

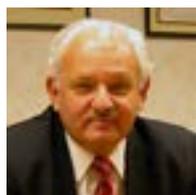
MEMBER NEWS

Maria Costanza Barducci has opened the firm of Barducci Law Firm PLLC, specializing in corporate, real estate, immigration, maritime, and personal injury. Offices are located in New York City, Miami, Genoa and Florence.

* * * * *

Thomas A. Cipolla, of Austin, TX, was recently elected Chair of the Southwest/Rockies Region of the National Academy of Arbitrators for a two-year term commencing in May of 2015.

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Roy L. De Barbieri, of New Haven, CT, was recently elected to the Executive Board of the College of Commercial Arbitrators, where he currently serves as a Director and as the Chair of the Law Firm CLE Committee.

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Prof. Robin Paul Malloy has recently had his 16th book published. "*Land Use Law and Disability*" advocates for better planning to make our communities safe and easy to navigate by people with mobility impairment, and offers a new look at disability from a planning and zoning perspective. The book is available from Cambridge University Press.

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Ann Arbor attorney **Anthony P. Patti** was sworn in as a new U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan on January 5, 2015. He has been a partner at the law firm of Hooper, Hathaway, Price, Beuche & Wallace, P.C. for close to two decades.

Send your news to NIABA Administrator Dana Robb at dana@barefoot-marketing.com. We will use items as space permits.



Frank Bruno was a Regional Vice President of NIABA for many years. He passed away on November 23, 2014. The following article is excerpted from the The New Orleans Advocate.

Frank S. Bruno, a retired New Orleans lawyer and real estate developer, died Sunday at his home. He was 90.

Bruno, born to immigrant parents of Italian descent, graduated from Fortier High School. He spent his youth working alongside his father, a cabinetmaker. Bruno's father was "well-known as an expert cabinetmaker," with a clientele that included some of New Orleans' most prominent families, said Joseph M. Bruno, one of Frank Bruno's six sons.

When Frank Bruno's father died, the son kept the business alive, even though he was a practicing attorney by then. "My father just couldn't let it go," Joseph said. "So he practiced law and hired my grandfather's chief cabinetmaker to make furniture. He tried to keep that business alive."

Frank Bruno entered Tulane University in 1942 and joined the Navy that same year. He trained Navy pilots until his discharge in 1946, when he resumed his studies at Tulane.

IN MEMORY

FRANK S. BRUNO

He was president of Tulane's International Relations Club and a member of the Oratorical Debating Council and the Glendy Burke Literary and Debating Society. His team won the Grand National Men's Championship Debating Prize at the 1947-48 Grand Forensic Tournament. In 1947, Bruno and his debating partner, Roland Sternfels, took on a team from Oxford University.

He received his law degree from Tulane Law School in 1950 and began practicing law with Sternfels, focusing on representing working people and the poor.

African-Americans made up a large part of his clientele, Joseph Bruno said. "He worked in that community forever, handling workman's compensation claims and the like," he said. "He couldn't wrap his head around the fact that people were treated differently because of their color."

Eventually, five of Bruno's sons would join the law firm, now known as Bruno & Bruno.

Bruno twice ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the state House of Representatives.

He retired from law in 1989 but continued to work in the cabinet shop and developed several properties in the French Quarter, including the Holzer Sheet Metal Works building.

Bruno was a former president of the Greater New Orleans Trial Lawyers Association and the Louisiana Trial Lawyers

Association; a founder and past president of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Italian American Bar Association; a past regional vice president of the National Italian American Bar Association; and a grand knight of the Edward Douglass White Council of the Knights of Columbus. He

was a parishioner of St. Pius X Catholic Church in New Orleans.

Survivors include his wife, Marion Therese Bruno; six sons, Joseph, Frank, Stephen, Robert, Thomas and Christopher Bruno; and 22 grandchildren.

GRAZIE TO NIABA'S SUPPORTERS

Our special thanks to those members who supported NIABA beyond their regular membership dues in 2014.

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Affiliate Highlights

Italian American Lawyers Association - Los Angeles



On November 19, the Los Angeles IALA celebrated its annual Past-Presidents Night and Wine Tasting. The event was paired with the inaugural Scholarship Auction and Fundraiser, raising over \$7,500 for the IALA Scholarship

Fund. NIABA members in attendance include IALA Founder, Carl A. Capozzola; IALA Past-Presidents Tom Cacciatore and Stephen Mesi; IALA President Damian D. Capozzola; and IALA President-Elect David DiJulio.



The Los Angeles IALA hosted its annual California Supreme Court Night on December 2. IALA welcomed Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and five other Justices of the Court, and everyone was treated to music from the nationally award-winning lawyer band, "Gary S. Greene, Esq. and His Big Band of Barristers!"

Prior to the music, the Chief Justice spoke about the state of the California judiciary, and also swore in two new lawyers, Tatiana Semerjian (now Nunneri), the 2013 IALA-NIABA Scholarship winner, as well as her husband, Dominic, who won the IALA Scholarship in 2012.

Columbian Lawyers Association, First Judicial Department, New York



Stephen J. Savva presided as President at the annual installation dinner dance of the Columbian Lawyers Association, First Judicial Dept, New York, held on December 3 at The National Arts Club in Gramercy Park, NYC.

In attendance were 95 guests, including NIABA Board members Louis Aidala, Cirino Bruno, Lorraine Corsa,

Charles DiLorenzo, Hon. Joseph Giamboi, Joseph A. Sena, and Hon. Paul A. Victor.

Hon. Anthony Cannatarro swore in the new officers and Father Raymond Nobiletti, Pastor of Church for the Transfiguration, gave the benediction. The organization's next events are CLE dinner programs in January and February.

Justinian Society of Lawyers – Wisconsin Chapter

For the 11th year, the Justinian Society of Lawyers - Wisconsin Chapter is hosting a legal seminar at the Wynn Resort in Las Vegas. The program, titled "Seminar in the Sand," will take place April 23-26, 2015. The actual seminar is held on April 24, 2015 and is an all-day event including breakfast and lunch. Wisconsin attorneys receive six CLE credits for

the seminar; three of which are ethics credits. The group welcomes attorneys from other states and works with their Supreme Courts to get CLE credits approved.

To register, or for more information, contact president Joseph G. Alioto at jgalioto@alioto-law.com.

Georgia Italian American Bar Association

The Georgia Italian American Bar Association has been in full swing for one year now. We have over 180 lawyers on our invitation list. We have witnessed much enthusiasm for this organization based in Atlanta. We have had 3 events

thus far and we are working on a full agenda for 2015. We started off in January 2014 with an inaugural dinner presided over by Judge Joseph Iannazzone, a state court judge with 40 guests in attendance.

Continued on next page

Italian American Bar Association of Michigan



On December 5, the Italian American Bar Association of Michigan hosted its 83rd annual black tie Winter Gala at the Detroit Athletic Club. Keeping with tradition, the event remains one of the top attended events in the Detroit legal community and included live music, roving accordion and mandolin band, gelato station, and cappuccino cart.

This year's event boasted attendance in excess of 205 guests, including attorneys, local dignitaries, and judges. Following a benediction, toast (in Italian) and a traditional Italian meal, the executive committee made various recognitions and presented its annual awards. This year's recipients included: Hon. John M. Chmura, recipient of the Kenneth L. Rancillio Memorial Award; Joe Randazzo, recipient of

the Phillip F. Greco Award; Caterina Amaro Luedtke, recipient of the President's Award; and Christopher Ferlito, recipient of the annual law student scholarship.

This year's event also served to promote awareness and raise funds for local charity Friends of Foster Care, which focuses on assisting and providing stability and support to local foster children. The event generated over \$2,500 for that organization and a generous helping of Christmas gifts that were donated by guests.

The executive committee of IABAM for 2014 is Randall J. Chioini, President; Lauren Donofrio, President-Elect; Paul Thursam, Vice President; Juliana Sabatini, Treasurer; and Mark Aiello, Secretary.

FEATURED AFFILIATE

JUSTINIAN SOCIETY OF LAWYERS - CHICAGO

We hope that this will be the first in a series highlighting local/state affiliate bar organizations. Contact [Dana](#) if you would like to submit a profile of your local Italian American Bar Association.

By Anthony Pasquini

An Italian proverb about success and hard work is particularly relevant when speaking of Chicago's Justinian Society of Lawyers: "A lodi e onori – seguono pianti e dolori" or "Praise and honors follow weeping and pain."

The Society is comprised of active and influential members of the bar who are often also civic and political leaders, judges, and leaders in other bar associations. It is comprised of both experienced and new attorneys whose hard work has resulted in individual professional success and the success of the Society as evidenced by its contributions in the Chicago community.

The Justinian Society of Lawyers is one of the oldest ethnic bar associations in Illinois and one of the largest in the country. The Justinian Society of Advocates was founded in Chicago on October 17, 1921 and later renamed the Justinian Society of Lawyers. Its steady growth is a tribute to its value as an organization and is inspiring, particularly to me, as a new Italian American attorney. A testament to the spirit of the Society and its members can be found in two of its activities: the Scholarship and Mentor programs.

Since the bar association was established, the Justinians have provided annual scholarships to law students of every ethnicity attending Illinois law schools. The scholarships are based primarily on the financial needs of the students, but are also granted in conjunction with their academic credentials. Annually, twenty or more scholarships are granted to grateful students. These students are encouraged to remember the generosity of the Society so that in the future, after attaining their own successful legal careers, they will pay forward that same generosity and further assist the student community of budding attorneys. The Society awards about \$35,000 in scholarships annually from member contributions. With the participating law schools matching the funds, dollar for dollar, there is an average of \$70,000 provided to law students annually. This is no small sum.

Another true gem to be found within this group of Italian American legal professionals in Chicago is a remarkably successful Mentor Program for at-risk law school applicants and first year law students. This program has played a significant role in the success of many law students. The Society's Mentor Program is based on serving a group of driven law students who either struggled in their undergraduate years or found that achieving a satisfactory score on the Law School Admission Test was a difficult

Continued on next page

Affiliate, continued from page 9

challenge. The program was created by Leonard F. Amari, President of The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees, a past President of Chicago's Justinian Society, and partner in the ad valorem real estate tax firm of Amari & Locallo. Mr. Amari has overseen many students truly engaged with the Mentor Program and taken great pride in their achievements when those students graduated with their juris doctor degree. Each year Mr. Amari entrusts a group of experienced law students, previously admitted at risk, who were themselves beneficiaries of the Mentor Program, to tutor, mentor, and befriend newly admitted high risk applicants/entrants to ensure their success. They provide the following year's students the same counsel as their mentors had provided to them. The group hosts

lunch meetings throughout the semester where students are given guidelines regarding what to expect in their law school career, academic preparation and study methods and additional insights provided by the mentors' experience.

The reception of the Justinian Society's tenet of "Pay it forward" is outstanding. Students clamor to attend meetings and become mentors after successfully completing their first year of law school. The only thing that is expected of any student coming through the program is to consider helping future students. The expectations are exceeded every semester. This program has touched the lives of many. The efforts, however, do not end at the lunch meetings. Extending well beyond the hallways of The John Marshall

Law School, the program offers an excellent opportunity to network and seek out veteran legal professionals, which do not only assist law students in their academic endeavors, but also in their professional ones as well. It is with great thanks and appreciation that I, as a former mentee, and mentor chair, have good standing to attest to the hard work involved in the program every year.

In addition to the Scholarship and Mentor Programs, the Justinian Society also established a Children's Endowment Fund in 2002. As the charitable arm of the Society, its mission is to assist and aid Chicago area disadvantaged children without regard to ethnicity, race and religion. Over the past twelve years the Children's Endowment Fund

has contributed significantly to children via various programs including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Chicago Public Schools, the Illinois Eye Institute, the Otis Wilson Foundation, Giant Steps and Cameron Cares.

The Society has a warm and welcoming attitude and pay-it-forward mantra. The Justinians comprise a group of generous legal professional who go out of their way to be a guiding beacon of hope, success and support for law students and young lawyers. The Justinian Society provides professional/business networking opportunities and social benefits of membership in an Italian American professional cultural context. Our Justinian Society of Lawyers is truly a brilliant pillar of our Italian American greater Chicago community.

2015-2017 SLATE OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Pursuant to Section 7.02 of the By-Laws of the National Italian American Bar Association, a Nominating Committee comprised of seven (7) members of the Board of Directors of the Association nominated one (1) or more members of the Association for each of the offices of President, Executive Vice President, Regional Vice Presidents, Historian, Secretary, Treasurer and for each position of Director to be filled at the membership meeting for election of officers and directors. The nominated individuals and respective offices are as follows:

Officers

President - Joseph A. Sena, Jr. (NY)
Executive Vice President - Paul Finizio (FL)
Treasurer - P. Charles DiLorenzo (NJ)
Secretary - Francis M. Donnarumma (CT)
Historian - Hon. Paul A. Victor (NY)

Regional Vice President

New England - Daniel P. Elliott (CT)
Mid Atlantic - Sigismondo F. Renda (NY)
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West - Damian D. Capozzola (CA)
Canada - Dino Mazzone (QC)
Italy - Valerio Spinaci (FL)

Directors

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ITALIAN & U.S. LAW SCHOOLS OFFER DUAL DEGREE

Since 2008, Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad Law Center in Davie, Florida, has partnered with Roma Tre University, in Rome, to provide both U.S. and Italian students an opportunity to earn law degrees in the U.S. as well as in Italy.

U.S. students have the ability to spend a semester in Italy while they are completing their J.D. degrees. Italian students get to do the same in the U.S. When they have completed their home degree, the students return to the partner school to complete their second degree. There is no other program like it between a U.S. and Italian law school.

"Having both U.S. and Italian law students in one class allows for a wonderful socio-legal learning environment," explains Dean Catherine

Arcabascio, who runs the International Programs Office at NSU Law and teaches the Italian law students. "In addition, the students have not only learned from each other, but have created life-long friendships and many international networking opportunities."

One of the first candidates to graduate from the NSU Law dual degree program is NIABA Board member Valerio Spinaci. Valerio was about to graduate when he learned about the opportunity at NSU Law, and he postponed his graduation date with Roma Tre in order to enroll in the



the one at NSU Law could offer me."

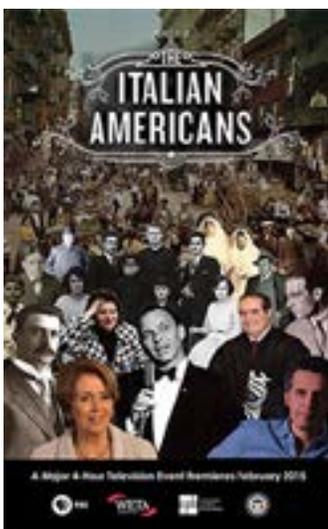
Valerio moved to the U.S. in 2009, graduated with honors in Roma Tre, and earned the Juris Doctorate, summa cum laude with Nova. Then he passed the bar exams in Florida, New York, New Jersey, California, and in Italy. Thanks to the program, Valerio became the first lawyer ever to be admitted to both the bar in Italy and

program. "Everyone thought I was crazy. I had my Italian thesis prepared and everything," he explains. "But I was excited about the life-changing experience that an international program like

in Florida. Valerio has been working for several years at the firm of Finizio & Finizio, P.A., in Fort Lauderdale, mostly on immigration, litigation, and business matters with international outreaches. His multilingual and multicultural background – combined with his experience in the dual degree program – is perfectly suited to handling complex litigation cases and international business transactions.

NSU Law also offers the dual degree in Spain and Czech Republic, but the real challenge for American students is that they need to speak the language in order to fully benefit from the program. Accordingly, partnerships with organizations such as NIABA and NIAF are crucial to the successful internationalization of American law students.

PBS TO AIR "THE ITALIAN AMERICANS" DOCUMENTARY



This February, PBS will air The Italian Americans, a documentary series narrated by acclaimed actor Stanley Tucci. The series explores the evolution of Italian Americans from the late 19th Century to today, from "outsiders" once viewed with suspicion and mistrust, to some of the most prominent leaders of business, politics and the arts today.

For those who made America home, their struggle to maintain a distinct Italian culture was guided by remarkably powerful ideals of

family that had always been at the center of their lives. In the Italian family, the needs of the collective came before the individual – a value system often at odds with American ideals of freedom and personal choice. This clash of culture echoes through generations of Italian Americans, and as they entered positions of political, social and cultural influence, it has left its mark on the American landscape.

Award-winning writer/producer John Maggio (Billy The Kid, Boy in the Bubble)

presents in the two-part, four-hour series a portrait of Italian American life that includes interviews with Tony Bennett, John Turturro, Gay Talese, Representative Nancy Pelosi and Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, among others. The Italian Americans peels away myths and stereotypes to reveal a world uniquely Italian and uniquely American.

The Italian Americans premieres Tuesday, February 17 & 24, 2015, 9-11 p.m. ET on PBS stations nationwide.

WELCOME NEW NIABA MEMBERS

Welcome to the following members, who joined NIABA between September 19, 2014 and January 15, 2015.

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Include your check, made payable to NIABA Scholarship Fund

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Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail this form along with your membership dues and any other amounts listed above. Make checks payable to NIABA.

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