

### National Italian American Bar Association

# **NIABA News**

Men and women sharing a common heritage in a chosen profession

# President's Message Connecting Through NIABA

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the NIABA newsletter!

September, 2019, finds us in an exciting and very busy moment:

1 The NIABA Rome Seminar will take place on September 23 through September 25 in the eternal City. Six (6) very practical seminar presentations will be made by Italian lawyers to and for the benefit of American lawyers. We have dinners at a spectacular roof top restaurant in Rome and in an exclusive private club, as well. We will meet with the President of the Bar Association of Rome and a variety of Italian colleagues. Following Rome there is an optional continuation to Naples and Sorrento. You can still register! Go to niaba.org.



2 Our Board of Directors will meet in Washington, D.C. on October 31 through November 3. The board meetings are open to all members of NIABA. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening dinners by and among our board members, families, friends, and greater Washington, D.C. guest lawyers are wide open and accepting of all NIABA members. Many of us will attend the spectacular National Italian American Foundation Gala dinner on November 2. Please join us for the entire board weekend and learn more about your NIABA.

3 Those among us who anticipate needing a break from cold winter weather should focus on the February 6 through 9 board meeting being arranged in Tampa, Florida. Our NIABA leadership who hail from Florida are arranging an inviting, and warm, working meeting and party in sunny Florida. All NIABA members are welcome to attend, of course!

4 I invite you to become engaged, right now, by submitting your story, your firm's story, and your work connecting your professional life, today, with your heritage from Italy. Our media partner, "We, The Italians", is delighted to showcase and promote the very positive images which our NIABA members across the USA, Canada, and Italy present. Please submit your stories to me, with photos attached, and to Cindy Martin, our administrator, at francis@donnarummalawfirm.com and cindylu616@comcast. net.

5 Finally, enhance our next newsletter with your articles of substantive law, analysis, or history. We would love to publish your work, widely and proudly! Send drafts to francis@donnarummalawfirm. com and cindylu616@comcast.net.

In service to our members,

Fran Donnarumma President

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chairman Paul Finizio

Please see page 10 for full list of directors

# **Upcoming** Events



Rome, Italy CLE September 23-25, 2019

NIABA/IALA members are invited to attend a unique legal program in Rome, for which California-licensed attorneys may apply for CLE credit. (CLE credits may be available for other states also) Our schedule includes six lectures in English by Italian lawyers, dealing with topics specifically selected for U.S. attorneys who have U.S. clients needing legal assistance in Italy. Please see niaba.org complete for details. Still time to register!



Board of Director's Meeting Washington, DC October 31 to November 3, 2019

Thursday October 31: Welcome dinner at a DC restaurant.

Friday November 1: 10:00 am: Morning event for board members.

12:00 to 4:00 pm: Board Meeting at Holland and Knight law firm on Connecticut Avenue.

6:30 pm: Main dinner event of weekend with special guest.

Saturday November 2: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm: Board Meeting at Holland and Knight.

All day optional attendance at the NIAF Expo Italiana. This is a great walk around, mingling, networking, food and drink all day event open to the public for free. See NIAF.org.

7:00 pm: NIABA members and guests dinner at a DC restaurant as alternative for those not attending NIAF Gala.

7:30 pm: Attendance at NIAF Gala for our members who wish to attend. See NIAF.org for tickets.

Hotel Information: Omni Shoreham Hotel Washington 2500 Calvert Street NW Washington, DC 20008 866-238-4218 Room block under "National Italian American Bar Association"



Board of Director's Meeting Tampa, Fl February 6 - 9, 2020

Updated information will be posted on our website

## Confederation of the Columbian Lawyer Association Acts

The Confederation of Columbian Lawyer Associations in New York, led by its President Maria Aragona, issued a provocative and thoughtful retort to a recent New York Post front page photographic depiction of former Governor Mario Cuomo and his sons Governor Andrew Cuomo and CNN journalist Chris Cuomo in a disparaging manner.

NIABA President Francis Donnarumma and Board Chairman Paul Finizio joined a conference call with the leadership of Columbian Associations from Brooklyn, Manhattan, Nassau, Queens, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester as the argument in reply was developed by the confederation.

Set forth below is the Confederation statement in its entirey.

### CONFEDERATION OF COLUMBIAN LAWYER ASSOCIATIONS

August 30, 2019

Editor New York Post

To whom it may concern:

Once again, the New York Post must be criticized for disparaging the entire Italian-American community through its scornful Photo- Journalistic depiction on its cover page of the late Governor Mario Cuomo and his sons, current New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo and Chris Cuomo, a CNN Television Journalist, as the notorious Corleone family.

The Corleones, of course, were the fictionalized criminal characters of Italian ancestry presented in Mario Puzo's best selling book, "The Godfather", which was later adapted to ultimately become the epic film bearing the same name.

The New York Post's cover (page-one) on August 14, 2019 representing the Cuomos as the Corleones, came on the heels of a controversial news story describing a confrontation which was also published widely through a video showing an unidentified individual addressing Chris Cuomo in public as "Fredo". The derogatory reference has its roots embedded within "The Godfather" story, Fredo being the flawed, seemingly weak and useless second son of Don Vito Corleone. Glamorized in film, the moniker of Fredo is mostly associated with a lack of intelligence on the part of male offspring.

In the context of its reference to Chris Cuomo, Mr. Cuomo responded to the insult vociferously, taking extreme umbrage with the characterization both personally and impulsively, upon its biased ethnic import.

The New York Post, unlike the individual who engaged Mr. Cuomo in a quasi public social setting compounded the net effect of the insult through its demeaning photo follow-up to the story, depicting the late governor, Mario Cuomo, as the family patriarch, akin to Don Vito Corleone (The Godfather) and his sons standing menacingly on either side of him. Governor Andrew Cuomo, in turn, being depicted as Santino "Sonny" Corleone and Chris Cuomo being depicted as "Fredo" Corleone. The controversy involving Chris Cuomo gathered national attention given the media celebrity of the target of the insult.

While it was, politically expedient, in all likelihood, for the New York Post to collectively smear the Cuomos, the photograph amounted to an undeserved ethnic insult directed at the greater Italian American community. By creating its cover page, the Post insinuates that every Italian American who make an excited utterance must be immediately and justifiably associated with organized crime.

#### **Confederation Officers**

Maria Aragona President (212) 920-9313 maria.aragona@gmail.com Carmelo Grimaldi Vice President (516) 470-0121 cgrimaldi@meltzerlippe.com

Frank X. Bruno, Jr. Corresponding Secretary (718) 418-5000 frankbrunolaw@gmail.com

Sean J. McGowan Recording Secretary (631) 972-0042 smcgowan@kaufman-associates.com

Member Associations

<u>Brooklyn</u> Susanne Gennusa President (212) 867-3345 susannc@sgennusalaw.com First Department Joseph Maria President (914) 260-6100 jamcolumbianlawyersfirst@gmail.com Nassau George C. Fontana, Jr. President (516) 344-6400 gfontana@gmail.com Queens Pat Gravino President (929) 328-2857 patgravino@yahoo.com Rockland County Lawrence A. Codispoti President (845)639-7800 lcodispoti@mkbllp.com <u>Suffolk</u> David A. Loglisci President (516)248-1700 suffolkcla@gmail.com Westchester Raymond Nicotera President (914) 253-6563 ray@nicoteralaw.com Past Presidente Romal V. Zosima Frank A. Composto Hon. Patricia M. Filiberto Vincent Gelardi Hon. Carl J. Copertino Joseph F. Defelice Gregory M. LaSpina Gregory M. LaSpina Gregory M. LaSpina Domenick Napoletano Concerta I. Meunella Authory J. Enanuel Maria A. Guecione

We as the Confederation of Columbian Lawyer Associations take great exception to this insinuation by the New York Post and every other person, group or entity that dares make this unjustified association.

Both Governor Andrew Cuomo and his brother, Chris Cuomo, have the benefit of a national stage and by sheer force of their station in life, the wherewithal to strongly respond to the New York Post's ridicule. On the other hand, Italian-Americans who are not in the public eye, who are hardworking, honorable and law-abiding patriots are owed an apology by the New York Post newspaper.

Italian-Americans are amongst the top two largest ethnic populations in New York State and proportionately, have a similar significant ethnic presence in the United States. The many successes of Italian-Americans are too numerous to chronicle in this correspondence. Similarly, the contributions and losses suffered by persons of Italian descent in our country's World War involvements, are legendary.

Yet, the New York Post continues to disparage Italian Americans by continuing the vulgar insult that their ethnicity has a perpetual nexus to organized crime, as inaccurately depicted, but unfortunately glorified, by "The Godfather" trilogy.

Even the New York Post's own op-ed contributor, Steven Cuozzo, has acknowledged that Italian-Americans are often demeaned without appropriate recourse and certainly in the absence of a rigorous defense by the more important social institutions, including the free press.

The Confederation of Columbian Lawyer Associations is a wellrespected ethnic Bar organization located in New York State and comprised of approximately 1,500 Attorneys and Jurists of Italian ancestry. The continued assailing of Italian-Americans with a broad brush and the sensationalized connection with organized crime attributed to all members of our community, both professional and lay, is disgraceful, particularly when published and held out as Journalism.

Our association was in 1995 with the goal joining together all our members to provide a unified voice to support issues of concern to all Italian-Americans. Today, in accordance with our mission, we call upon all journalists to show restraint when reflexively associating any ethnic group with an undeserved stereotype.

> Sincerely Yours, The Confederation of Columbian Lawyer Associations

CC: The New York Law Journal The New York Times The Daily News The Brooklyn Daily Eagle The Wall Street Journal The Washington Post

# NIABA ~ Board Member Appointed

Please help us to congratulate our very own Antonietta Brancaccio Balzano from Brancaccio & Associates for the achievement of being confirmed as Correspondent for the Consulate in Miami. She will be responsible for the areas of Stuart and Orlando where the Italian community is in need of a strong presence and guide.

Attorney Antonietta Brancaccio Balzano was newly confirmed by General Counsel Cristiano Musillo Correspondent for the Consulate in Miami. The letter of confirmation arrived from the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Rome on August 23. Attorney Brancaccio Balzano will be responsible for the areas of Stuart and Orlando where the Italian community is in need of a strong presence and guide.

She will be the voice for thousands of Italians, will assist them in all bureaucratic aspects, and will facilitate the communication with the Consulate. She already started working on a cultural project in collaboration with the Consulate, Florida Atlantic University, and Il Circolo of Palm Beach that will allow students of all ages to perform on stage on October 24, 2019.

The newly confirmed correspondent says: "I had the opportunity to learn that our community was in need of someone who could give voice to what they had to say, of someone who could realistically help to make it easy for both the Consulate and the citizens to achieve their goals. I feel it is my duty to help, I am a proud Italian and I want to reinvigorate our values and culture". For years attorney Brancaccio Balzano has dedicated her time to the Italian community by serving on the board of Il Circolo and recently joining the board of directos of the National Italian American Bar Association.



NIABA News • 2019, Volume 1 • page 5

# **Notes from the NIABA Office**

#### Directory Coming Soon: Order Printed Copies Now

We're working on our 2019 Directory. All NIABA members will receive a digital copy in PDF format. Limited quantities will be printed. Pre-orders for printed copies are strongly encouraged! Cost is \$25 each and your can buy yours easily on our website at <u>https://www.niaba.org/</u> merchandise.

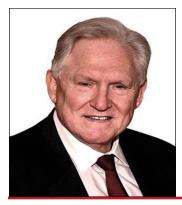
## Find Us on Social Media

NIABA is on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com</u>. Join us to share news, referrals, and discussions with other NIABA members all over the world.

We're also on YouTube at <u>http://bit.ly/2pubGxM</u>, where you can watch videos from our Rome CLE program.

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The Italian American Lawyers Association (IALA),would like to advise you of the passing of Hon. George P. Schiavelli, a respected retired judge of both the Los Angeles Superior Court and the United States District Court, and longstanding member and strong supporter of IALA.



#### Writers Needed

The newsletter needs you! We're looking for articles that focus on the "overlap" of Italian culture or history and the law. If you have an experience or area of expertise that you'd like to share with out NIABA membership, contact Cindy Martin at <u>niabagroup@gmail.</u> com.

#### Can We Refer You?

Is your profile up-to-date on the NIABA <u>website</u>? 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. Don't miss 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 at <u>niabagroup@gmail.</u> <u>com</u> 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 <u>website</u>. 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 <u>office</u>.

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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 <u>niabagroup@gmail.com</u> and we will provide brochures or other information to the organization you recommend.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### How to Contact Us

NIABA Administrator Cindy Martin 203-859-1018 <u>cindylu616@comcast.net or</u> <u>niabagroup@gmail.com</u>.

#### Social Media/Marketing

Vanessa Vergara vanessa@themarketingmusa. com

#### NIABA/OSIA Scholarship Receipient

NIABA would like to congratulate Victoria Votino of Pepperdine School of Law as this year's NIABA/OSIA scholarship receipient!



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#### Upcoming

President Donnarumma will join the leadership of The Confederation of Columbian Lawyer Association at a dinner meeting in Queens New York on September 16, 2019. The Confederation, led by its President, Maria Aragona, is a group of member associations throughout the greater New York area. This will be an opportunity for NIABA to interface directly with leaders of seven (7) well established and successful Italian American Bar Associations.

The Rhode Island Justinians will hold their twenty-fifth (25th) annual Installation of Officers in Providence on October 6, 2019. Donnarumma will attend and join NIABA board members Raymond Pacia, Anthony Giannfrancesco and Ralph Liguori, all members of the Rhode Island Justinians.

# **Notes from the NIABA Office**

NIABA President Francis Donnarumma visited Cleveland, Ohio on August 10, 2019. He was warmly invited to join The Justinian Forum by its President, Honorable Basil M. Russo.

The Justinian Forum is a membership organization comprised of attorneys and judges of Italian descent living and practicing primarily in Northeast Ohio. The Forum focuses its efforts on legal, social and cultural issues effecting the legal profession and the Italian American community.

On August 10, the Forum conducted the 2019 26th Annual Shoreby Club Judicial Appreciation party on the shores of Lake Erie. The annual event attracts countless judges and Forum members. The association enjoys a vibrant and active membership of about 350 attorneys.

Basil M. Russo currently is National President of the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America (ISDA), one of the largest Italian American organizations in the United States. He serves as a director of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) in Washington, D.C. NIAF serves as the national spokesperson for the 18 million Americans of Italian descent with both the United States government and the government of Italy. He was recently elected vice chair of the National Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American organizations which unites forty (40) of the

largest Italian American organizations in the country.

Donnarumma stated, following the visit, that "The Justinian Forum is a model organization with decades of public service and service to the law in Northeast Ohio. Judge Basil M. Russo is an icon among Italian American lawyers. I look forward to collaborating with Judge Russo on service and interaction by and among the lawyers of the Justinian Forum and the NIABA.

Pictured in the photograph are Judge Russo, Fran Donnarumma, Angela Privitera-Lavin, Secretary, Gian M. de Caris, Treasurer, and Rose A. Zitiello, Vice President, each of the Justinian Forum.





Anthony J. Santoro, Age 77, passed away on September 9, 2019 after a short illness. He spearheaded the formation of the Roger Williams University Law School in Bristol, Rhode Island and served as its first Dean. He later served seven years as President and Chancellor of the University where he created the Mario J. Gabelli School of Business. He returned to the Law School faculty in 2000 teaching until his retirement in 2018.

Anthony Santoro was an enthusiastic supporter of the Rhode Island Justinian Law Society and was a keynote speaker at its inaugural dinner on April 28, 1994. He generously hosted Justinian and NIABA receptions and seminars at the law school and promoted their law student chapters. In appreciation of his efforts, the Justinian Law Society of Rhode Island granted the law school \$50,000 to fund a scholarship.

Anthony was beloved by his students, members of the bar, and the judiciary. He was admired for his intellect, integrity, and kindness. Through his leadership the legal culture of Rhode Island was enhanced. His Italian ancestral roots traced back to Avellino, Italy.

The law school granted him an honorary degree in 2016, for his "inspired and foundational contributions to the law school and to the cause of law and justice in the State of Rhode Island as a whole." A group of his former students created the professor Anthony J. Santoro Business Law Lecture, the school's first entirely alumni-endowed lecture series, and in 2017, the law school dedicated a classroom in his name, and he was named a professor emeritus.

He began his career teaching at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. He was a professor at Western New England College of Law, Dean at the University of Bridgeport School of Law, and Dean at Widener University School of Law. He earned his bachelor's degree from Boston College and a J.D. and LL.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University School of Law.

Santoro is survived by his wife, Pauline; and his children, Lynne Sullivan; Anthony J. Santoro Jr.; Lauren Gentile; and Anne Erhard; 10 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

# Welcome New NIABA Members

Welcome to the following members, who joined NIABA between April 1, 2019 and September 1, 2019.

#### Attorney/Judges

Hon. Suzanne J. Adams Civil Court of City of New York New York County suzanneadamsny@gmail.com

#### Larry Avallone

Avallone Law PA New Smyrna Beach, CA larry@avvalonelawpa.com Criminal

### Margaret Baisley

Baisley Law Group, PC New York, NY mb@baisleylaw.com Real Estate, Construction

#### Maria-Costanza Barducci

Morales, Goldstein & Barducci New York, NY mc@barduccilaw.com Corporate/Business, Immigration, Italian Law

## Diane Bartolone, Esq.

Staten Island, NY dbartolonelaw@gmail.com

#### William Caldarelli

Caldarelli Hejmanowski Page & Leer, LLP San Diego, CA wjc@chpllaw.com

#### John Calvino

John N. Calvino, Esq., Law Associates Providence, RI jcalvinosr@calvinolaw.com

#### **Daniel Cercone**

Chelus Herdzik Speyer & Monte, PC Buffalo, NY cersone1@msu.edu Appellate, Civil, Insurance, Construction, Commercial Litigation, Torts, Personal Injury

Michael Cerniglia Krekeler Strother SC Madison, WI mjcerniglia@ks-lawfirm.com Bankruptcy, Business, Civil

Hon. Gloria Coco State of Illinois Judiciary Hinsdale, IL

#### Allison Cogliano

Keches Law Group, PC Taunton, MA acogliano@kecheslaw.com Torts, Personal Injury

#### Nicholas Dahl

San Diego, CA nicholas.dahl@hotmail.com Litigation, Tax, Business, Civil

#### **Dion Davi**

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#### Peter Del Toro

The Del Toro Law Group Stuart, FL peter@deltorolawgroup.com Real Estate, Health Care, Criminal, Civil, Business

#### Christopher D'Ovidio D'Ovidio Law Warwick, RI chris@dovidiolaw.com

Joseph Farrar Tokyo, Japan jfarrar@isshiki-law.com Intellectual Property Ger

Intellectual Property, General Practice, Antitrust

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#### Anthony Garganese

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#### Jillmarie Gendreau

Gulfport, FL jillmarieguarino91@gmail.com Divorce, Family Law

#### John Gerardi

Boies Schiller Flexner, LLC Washington, DC johnc.gerardi@gmail.com Litigation

Rusten Hurd Colombo & Hurd, PL Orlando, FL rustenhurd@colombohurd.com Immigration

#### **Duchant Johnson**

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#### Mark Labate

Mark J. Labate, PA Ft Lauderdale, FL markjlabate@gmail.com International, Real Estate, Commercial Litigation, Immigration, Civil, Administrative

#### Angela Lavin

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#### Fabio Leonardi

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#### **Edoardo Maffia**

Sovereign Claims, LLC Brooklyn, NY edoardomaffiawis@aol.com

#### **David Maglio**

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#### **Bruno Mazzotta**

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#### **Frank Merola**

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#### **Steven Moretti**

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#### **David Morowitz**

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#### Mariana Noli

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continued on next page

## New Members, continued

Property, Corporate/Business, Commercial Litigation, Patent & Trademark, International

#### **Richard Pacia**

Richard A. Pacia, Esq. Cranston, RI rpacialaw@gmail.com Personal Injury, Real Estate

#### **Donato Palumbo**

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#### Anita Paoli

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Paul Ragosta Paul D. Ragosta, Esq. Providence, RI pdresq@aol.com

**John Romano** Yonkers, NY

Armand Sabitoni Laborers' International Union Providence, RI asabitoni@neliuna.org

**Hon. Regina Scannicchio** Chicago, IL Circuit Court of Cook County

Hon. Charles Scott Upper House of the United States Senate Suffolk, VA

Joseph Sette Miner Kelly & Sette Sacramento, CA jsette@minerandkellylaw.com Personal Injury, Litigation, Product Liability, Torts, Insurance, Civil

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#### Law Students

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# Member News NIABA Board 2019-2020

## **Executive Board**

**President** Francis Donnarumma (CT)

**Executive VP** Damian D. Capozzola (CA)

**Treasurer** P. Charles DiLorenzo (NJ)

**Secretary** Frank Sommario (IL)

Historian Honorable Paul Victor (NY)

**Immediate Past President** Paul Finizio (FL)

Chairman Paul Finizio

## Directors

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### **Regional Vice Presidents**

New England Cristina Salamone (CT)

Mid-Atlantic Louis R. Aidala (NY)

Mid-West Kenneth Jenero (IL)

South Domenic Luccarelli (FL)

West Anthony Modarelli (CA)

Canada Dino Mazzone (QC)

Italy Valerio Spinaci / Marco DeFazi

## Connecticut Italian American Bar Association hosts NIABA

On June 7, 2019 Honorable Lubbie Harper Jr., (Ret.) Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court conducted a ceremony in which the contributions to the law of the National Italian American Bar Association were recognized and at which the officers and directors selected for service in 2019-2021 were inducted.

NIABA held its annual meeting and installation of elected officers and directors in New Haven. This was the first time that NIABA has met in the State of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Italian American Bar Association, led by its President, Cristina Salamone, served as host to the events of the entire weekend. Justice Harper, an honorary member of the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association, graciously opened the doors of the Connecticut Superior Court, in New Haven, and conducted a formal proceeding. Justice Harper commenced the day with welcoming remarks spoken in the Italian language. He adorned the Court room with the flags of the United States of America and The Republic of Italy. Justice Harper recited the many accomplishments of NIABA and formally swore in the slate of officers and directors. Following the formal proceeding, Justice Harper personally hosted a reception in the Court House. He met with and enjoyed learning about the diverse collection of directors.

Those in attendance at the weekend conference dined at L'Orcio, a chef owned restaurant featuring Francesco D'Amuri. Chef D'Amuri is from Brindisi, in Italy. Attending the dinner at L'Orcio was Deputy Chief Court Administrator, Elizabeth Bozzuto, a Judge of the Connecticut Superior Court. Judge Bozzuto was delighted to meet officers and directors from near and far and expressed amazement upon the friendly and inviting spirit of those assembled.

On Friday evening, dinner was held at Tre Scalini, a New Haven culinary institution. Longtime owner, Joseph Maiorano, warmly greeted each guest. The evening was highlighted by a spontaneous performance by opera singer Carlos DeAntonis.

Connecticut author Anthony Riccio conducted two (2) tours within New Haven, one featuring the many Italian connections at Yale University. The second highlighted the life and progression of the earliest Italian Immigrants in New Haven. His work is found at www. anthonyriccio.com.

The Gala Induction dinner on June 8 was attended by 250 people and featured a reenactment of the swearing ceremony. The Band, Enterprise, featuring Areleen D'Agostino Mautner, PHD, provided enthusiastic Italian music leading to traditional Italian dancing and passion among the attendees.

During the weekend, long time NIABA board member and renowned New York City criminal defense attorney Louis Aidala was recognized and presented an award for his legal achievement over the years. NIABA Treasurer, P. Charles DiLorenzo, was recognized by the board for his service and dedication to the organization during the recent transition of administrators.

The Board recognized outgoing President, Paul Finizio of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and outgoing Chairman of the Board, Dominic Lucarelli of Naples, Florida.

Thank you and credit to Francis Donnarumma for this review of NIABA'S summer meeting!





# **Media Partnership Annouced**

The National Italian American Bar Association is pleased to announce its first ever media partnership.

The We The Italians network consists of a myriad of communication tools, described below. The reach of We The Italians is approaching 80,000 people.

The media partnership will permit NIABA and its members across the United States, Canada, and Italy to contribute articles featuring the many good acts, fascinating stories and legal accomplishments of the members. The NIABA members will contribute articles of scholarly interest on the law, philosophy, and commercial opportunities and exchanges by and between Italians and Americans. The reach of NIABA will be immensely enlarged through this partnership.

Umberto Mucci, publisher of We The Italians, has a degree in political sciences international and an advanced degree in marketing and communications. He is the founder and CEO of We The Italians.

Mucci represents in Italy the Italian American Museum of New York. He has been the co-director of "eItalia for USA", a bimestral magazine regarding Italy and the United States and he is founder and has been Secretary General of Fondazione Roma Europea. He has been the head of International Relations for Innovarte for the exhibition "Italian Logos – Testimonies of the Art to Excel" and head of the diplomatic section of the magazine "Romacapitale". He has published five (5) books regarding the relationship between Italy and the United States.

Publisher Mucci describes, here, the media enterprise which is We The Italians.



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We the Italians

We the Italians is a bridge over the Atlantic Ocean, which - starting from its name - links the good things we Italians have done and do, with the tribute to the exceptionality of the United States and the phrase that symbolizes their constitution: We the People.

Every time Italy joins forces with America, the result is winning. Years of integration and contamination have proven that Italian genius with creativity and an aptitude for hard work finds an extraordinary and unparalleled additive in the meritocratic and business friendly environment of the United States. The epic of the Italians who landed on Ellis Island with their cardboard suitcases and are now at the top of every sector of American life, is irrefutable proof of this. The admiration and the winning consideration for Made in Italy that practically every American feels, whatever its origin, are still an exceptional opportunity, with incredible growth margins, given the old and consolidated relationship.

The American community of Italians of the new and recent emigration, the Americans of Italian origin heirs of those who left Italy, those who arrived after the Second World War, those who are still living witnesses of the diaspora at the turn of the last two centuries. All those who belong to one of these categories have one thing in common, in addition to loving Italy and the United States, and it is that of not having had in the past a form of virtual aggregation, of online platform, that would allow them to know, implement, enrich, promote, expand, satisfy or share their passion and belonging to the two countries. In America the admirers of Italy, lovers of the Bel Paese, are scattered in all the States, occupied in all the commercial and intellectual sectors, bearers of ideas and values that are fed by the continuous positive exchange between the two cultures. But there is a lot on offer, the opportunities are enormous, and when it is so the network needs someone to rationalize the information and make it easily accessible. This someone is We the Italians.

Our target, however, does not only include anyone who lives in the United States and is interested in Italy. Even those who live in Italy will find in our portal an unprecedented source of information on what happens in relations between the two countries, and in the community of our fellow citizens who live across the Atlantic. We are convinced that on a social and cultural level, telling what good comes from the mixture of American and Italian elements is also useful to promote, slowly but constantly, a cultural progress in the mentality of our public opinion. A small injection of confidence, a sign of esteem for our country from those who know and love it and look at it from outside, a small contribution that we will give, knowing that of the merits of the integration between cultural, social and

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economic Italian and American elements, here in Italy, nobody speaks. Moreover, obviously, anyone who is in Italy and has commercial interests of promotion and entry or further investigation of the American market, can understand that there is no other online tool of such scope, vision and dissemination, already today but even more in the future.

Three years after its launch, the We the Italians network consists of five tools.

<u>The We the Italians website</u> already shows more than 50.000 contents concerning everything that unites Italy and the United States, on both sides of the ocean. It also contains <u>the only existing online archive</u> of over 1600 sites of those who represent, for noncommercial purposes, something Italian in America. Associations, groups, chambers of commerce, consulates, cultural institutes, festivals, mutual aid societies, Italian teaching departments, charitable initiatives, parishes, various types of promotion bodies: each one is inserted, geo-localized, and ready to be contacted in order to collaborate. Every day we promote 25 news, divided by geographical area, with thematic subcategories and a tagging system that allows anyone to easily find any keyword that is useful thanks to the internal search engine. It is the only aggregator about Italy in the United States, there is no competitor.

There are the almost 200 <u>Umberto Mucci's interviews</u> which every 15 days give voice to a personality who has a role and/or experience in some aspect of relations between the two countries. The interview are also available in a few books: <u>the one with 100 interviews in English conducted up to 2015</u>; <u>the one with 50 of them, but in Italian</u>; <u>the 2016 Yearbook with 24 interviews both in Italian and in English</u> and <u>the 2017 one</u>; the 2018 one is coming out in a few days.

There is a prestigious <u>monthly online magazine</u>, in English, about Italy, in which we talk about Italian excellences in about twenty columns.

The magazine is also sent in the <u>monthly newsletter</u> sent to more than 80,000 Italian recipients in the USA, including all the representatives of the archived sites, many of whom then forward it to their members: the newsletter also contains some newly inserted news, all geolocated by area of residence of each recipient.

Finally, we have a vibrant social media community, made up of those who interact with us on the <u>Facebook page</u>, followers of our <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u> accounts, members of our group on <u>Linkedin</u> and those who follow our channel on <u>YouTube</u>.

There is no real competitor to refer to, but only a few portals that have a much more limited scope in terms of theme, objectives and geographical spread. The goal is to be accredited day after day as the online platform where to follow, read, promote, launch, search and buy what counts in the world of Italianism in the USA.

Rome, winter 2019

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# **Best Practices: The E-2 Visa**

**Best Practices** features articles that we feel will be helpful to those who are engaged in the practice of law. Unlike the rest of this newsletter, they may not have a specifically Italian or Italian-American focus. If you would like to contribute to this column, contact niabagroup@gmail.com with your idea.

### Author: Antonietta Brancaccio-Balzano

The E-2 nonimmigrant classification allows a national of a treaty country (a country with which the United States maintains a treaty of commerce and navigation) to be admitted to the United States when investing a substantial amount of capital in a U.S. business. Currently US maintains a treaty with most of the European and south American countries. Certain employees of such a person or of a qualifying organization may also be eligible for this classification.

An investment is the treaty investor's placing of capital, including funds and/or other assets, at risk in the commercial sense with the objective of generating a profit. The capital must be subject to partial or total loss if the investment fails. The treaty investor must show that the funds have not been obtained, directly or indirectly, from criminal activity. See 8 CFR 214.2(e)(12)

The enterprise must have the present or future capacity to generate more than enough income to provide a minimal living for the treaty investor and his or her family, as well as the capacity to generate jobs for US workers.

Qualified treaty investors and employees will be allowed a maximum initial stay of two years. Requests for extension of stay may be granted in increments of up to two years each. All E-2 nonimmigrants, however, must maintain an intention to depart the United States when their status expires or is terminated.

Each year, United States grants thousands of E-2 visa to investors from all over the world, who enrich our country culturally and financially. The businesses granted status in the United States vary from typical Italian restaurants, to Argentinian tango schools, to newest German technology service.

Believe it or not, the E-2 Visa's roots are deeper than those of the immigration laws themselves. Traditionally, the E-2 arises out of a "Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation" between the U.S. and a given foreign country. The oldest such treaty that presently gives rise to an E-2 Visa is the treaty signed with United Kingdom on July 3, 1815.

E-2 Visa leverages international law enabling bilateral investment and entrepreneurship. While across-the-board repudiation of international investment and trade treaties is theoretically possible, it would cost significantly to US. Shutting down a visa scheme that creates jobs for Americans and enriches our society through foreign investment – make the E-2 relatively more appealing, even to a protectionist demographic.



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You can also apply online at www.niaba.org

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