



NIABA News

Men and women sharing a common heritage in a chosen profession

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Paul Finizio

Executive VP

Francis Donnarumma

Regional VPs

Cristina Salamone
New England

Louis R. Aidala
Mid Atlantic

Domenic Lucarelli
South

Kenneth Jenero
Midwest

Damian D. Capozzola
West

Dino Mazzone
Canada

Valerio Spinaci
Italy

Treasurer

P. Charles DiLorenzo

Secretary

Daniel Elliott

Historian

Hon. Paul Victor

Imm. Past President

Joseph Sena*

Chairman

Domenic Lucarelli (FL)

Directors

Claire Ambrosio (CA)

Phil Boncore* (MA)

Cirino M. Bruno* (NY)

Lorraine Corsa (NY)

Joseph D'Antony (CA)

Joseph D. Frinzi (WI)

Hon. Joseph Giamboi* (NY)

Anthony Gianfrancesco* (RI)

Gina Jenero (IL)

Domenick Lazzara (FL)

Prof. Robin Paul Malloy (NY)

Daral Mazzarella (CA)

James Michalski (CA)

Anthony Modarelli (CA)

Raymond A. Pacia* (RI)

Peter Previte (OH)

Sigismondo Renda (NY)

Franco Schiro (QC)

Frank Joseph Schiro* (WI)

Frank Sommaro (IL)

Daniel J. Stallone (FL)

*Past president

President's Message

Connecting Through NIABA

Caro amici of NIABA,

I write this column as we leave winter and approach spring and our June New Haven Connecticut gala and installation of officers event. We constantly celebrate the relationships we make and maintain in NIABA as we recognize the bond of our heritage at work. 2019 has and will be a wonderful year to see the NIABA platform in action. Starting with our January San Francisco conference which included a joint event with the San Francisco Italian Bar, followed by the little Italy visit and tour and trips to the vineyards, it was all "Italiano"!



Now, it is time to focus on Connecticut and the installation of our new president Fran Donnarumma, along with the officers and board members. We hope to see as many members, spouses and families in attendance as possible. It promises to be a memorable weekend at Yale filled with music, tours and planning the future year of activities. Please plan on attending as New England at that time of year is spectacular.

Our NIABA is becoming more administratively efficient with our new website updates and facebook usage. We now have Cindy Martin, our central administrator in Connecticut and Vanessa Vergara of Florida taking all steps possible and necessary to increase our presence online and make NIABA the best platform possible. If you have any photos of events you have attended or local NIABA member events please forward them to Vanessa and Cindy for posting

Our Rome September 23-25, 2019 CLE is approaching quickly! Please save the dates and visit the link for registration and encourage other members of the bar in your area to enroll and attend. It will be wonderful! As the last time was filled with music, tours, friendship, education and most importantly networking with Italian lawyers and judges and their families.

As always, we appreciate and applaud all supporters of NIABA who assist in underwriting with their sponsorships and donations that appear on our website and programs at our events. Connecticut and Rome are excellent opportunities to showcase your firm and your support. Will you please consider doing so and communicate with Cindy asap? We want and thank you! Your support makes what we do possible including scholarships and event quality.

As your president, I, on behalf of the board and officers wish you and your famiglia the best of all 2019 can offer and hope to personally embrace you when we are together.

Saluti e forza!

Paul G. Finizio

Upcoming Events

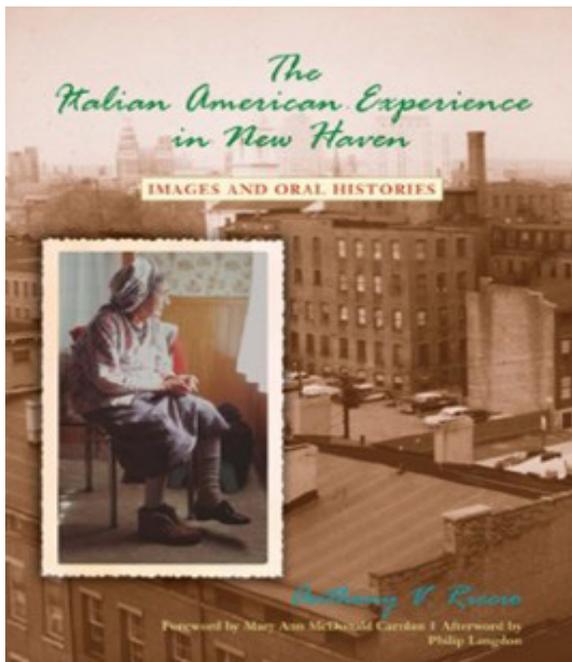


Plan to join us for these other upcoming meetings. As more details become available, we will send them out via email and post them on our [website](#).

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 complete flyer for details.

Board of Director's Meeting
Washington, DC
October 31 to November 3, 2019
Look for details on our website



New Haven, Connecticut June 6, 7 & 8, 2019

Reserve your room at the Omni Hotel. (155 Temple Street New Haven CT 06510)

Call 203-772-6664 and mention the name of the event: National Italian American Bar Association or book online (see www.niaba.org for registration link).

Register now for the following events at <https://www.niaba.org>

Thursday, June 6

6:30 pm: Welcome dinner at L'Orcio (806 State Street New Haven CT) for NIABA and CIABA Members and Board Members. Private room welcome dinner. Fixed price per person is \$55.00. Maximum space is reserved for first 45 attendees.

Friday, June 7

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Board meeting. Zangari, Cohn, Cuthbertson, Duhl & Grello, PC (59 Elm Street New Haven CT 06510).

12:30 pm: Walking tour with Anthony Riccio, New Haven author and tour guide. (Optional)

Meet at entrance to Yale's Sterling Memorial Library (120 High Street, New Haven, CT) \$10.00 per person

6:30 pm: Dinner at Tre Scalini (100 Wooster Street New Haven CT 06511) for NIABA and CIABA Members and Board Members. Fixed price per person is \$65.00. Maximum space is reserved for first 45 attendees.

Saturday, June 8

9:00 am to 12:30 pm: Board meeting. Zangari, Cohn, Cuthbertson, Duhl & Grello, PC (59 Elm Street New Haven CT).

12:30 pm: Walking tour with Anthony Riccio. (Optional) Meet at St. Michael's Church (29 Wooster Street, New Haven CT), stop for famous New Haven pizza and tour of Wooster Street neighborhood, New Haven's Little Italy! \$10.00 per person

6:00 pm to 10:00 pm: Gala dinner hosted by Connecticut Italian American Bar Association (CIABA) at Anthony's Ocean View (450 Lighthouse Road New Haven CT 06510). Event will include a beach front cocktail hour, brief induction of Board of Directors and remarks, dinner, open bar and band entertainment. Fixed price per person is \$75.00

We look forward to seeing you there!

Anthony Riccio, New Haven author and tour guide has signed books available for sale. \$45 includes shipping. Please email at anthonyriccio@gmail.com to purchase yours.

Fran Donnarumma

NIABA Incoming President

Reprinted with permission from [We The Italians](#). Originally published in 2015.

One of the most important and powerful fields of the American society, what we can generally call "the judiciary system", has seen and sees a very large number of successful Italian Americans. This is very important, because it means that not only they were able to reach economic success and make money, as we've already seen; but that they also gained the trust of the American people, being lawyers or prosecutors or judges, from the local level up to the Supreme Court.

To address this topic we're meeting one of those successful Italian Americans: Francis Donnarumma is a lawyer, the Secretary of the National Italian American Bar Association [at the time of publication] and Past President of the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association

Fran, what's the story of your Italian family, and when did it become an Italian American story?

My family's story really began on one mountain top, in Italy, in the province of Avellino. It is a typical story. Francesco Donnarumma, my grandfather, was born in the town of Frigento and my other grandfather, Michele Giordano, was born on the very same mountain top, in the town called Sturno. The two young men – twelve and fourteen years old – left

Italy and came to US around 1910. They had not known each other in Italy. Each arrived in Waterbury, Connecticut. Serendipity: Francesco's son, my father, Carmine, met Michele's daughter, Louise, my mother, and they married.

All came to Waterbury because of the factories that were begging for workers at that time. Waterbury's population total was maybe 30,000 people. In the course of twenty to thirty years about 10,000 emigrants came from Italy, just to Waterbury. It was a phenomenal attraction here, perhaps, led by poverty in southern Italy and emerging industry here in the States. Francesco became a butcher, Michele became a school custodian, and they had their children, my mother and father.

My father, Carmine, was an academic natural. He studied in New York and was hired with the initial faculty at the Jesuit Fairfield University. He enjoyed his whole career there, until he retired. Upon retirement, the University memorialized him, naming "Donnarumma Hall", the faculty office building. Almost all the other buildings are named after saints, so it was really a wonderful honor.

The coincidence is, again, Giordano and Donnarumma were from the same little mountain top: in Italy, they did not know each other and, yet, their lives intersected, somehow.

At the beginning of the mass emigration, Americans had a very low consideration of the Italians immigrated to the US. Now we have two Italian Americans Judges in the Supreme Court, and other important Italian Americans all over the US are successful judges, prosecutors and lawyers. How did this 180-degree turn happen? How did those people realized and succeeded to become that important and recognized?

I was given a great book about the earliest Italians in Boston, *The Boston Italians*. The author is Stephen Puleo. He tracks another Italian who arrived from Salerno before 1900, James Donnarumma, who founded a newspaper called *La Gazzetta* which is still published by his granddaughter, Pamela Donnarumma. The author chronicles the abusive rhetoric directed to our ancestors, upon arrival in the States. Newspapers described them as similar to monkeys and chimpanzees. Public officials of the time spoke about their propensity to violence. In response, I believe, the Italians who came in that generation were driven to work harder than anybody, to preserve cohesive families, and to be assimilated into the US. During World War II, Italian Americans proportionally served in the US armed forces in far greater numbers than any other immigrant group. After the war, the young men who survived spread out all over the US and became successful in every field of endeavor.



My grandfather, Michele Giordano, fought in the World War I in the US Army. He was driven by the will to become American. He did not lose his Italian identity, but was driven to serve his new land. Later he became a national leader among Italian American war veterans as the vice president of the National Association of Italian American War Veterans.

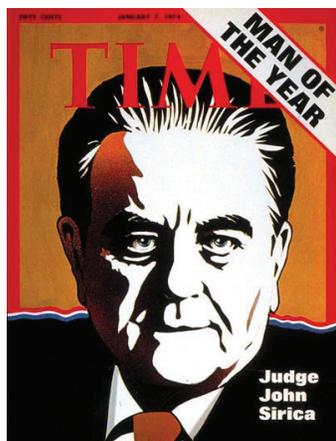
Is there an Italian American who - according to you - can perfectly represent the contribution of the Italian Americans to the American judiciary system?

There is a quality of humanness and openness which I think is really distinctive among Italian American judges. Here, in Connecticut, in our own CIABA organization, we have several judges; Richard Marano, Salvatore Agati and Alice Bruno. I think that their Italian heritage gives them a great opportunity to identify with the litigants who are before them. There is the willingness to see the reality beyond the facts represented, obviously applying the law to the facts before them, but, also, seeing into someone's soul a little bit.

continued on next page

There is one historical figure, to answer your question: Honorable John Sirica. He was born in 1906, in my town, Waterbury, Connecticut. In those years, there were not many Italians able to study and, then, to become lawyers. He became an attorney and, later, was appointed as a U.S. District Court Judge in Washington, DC. He handled criminal matters. When President Richard M. Nixon engaged in what everyone ultimately recognized as grossly illegal conduct, some of the earliest associates of Nixon were presented before Judge Sirica. He was much criticized for his very aggressive questioning of the witnesses.

From my understanding, it was akin to the inquisitorial style of the Italian judiciary, where the judges were very active at examining witnesses. That was not the norm here, so Judge Sirica would often be criticized for stepping too far and being too involved. In the Watergate criminal trials he was very aggressive, as was his typical manner, because he knew the truth was not being revealed. Ultimately, he made the critical decision in the case known as *United States v Nixon*, wherein he ordered the White House, the Nixon White House, to turn over the secret tapes that ultimately broke open the case. His decision was immediately appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which upheld Judge Sirica's courageous decision. This is the beauty of the Italian history on the United States: the Sirica family from Italy arrives in Waterbury, Connecticut, their son goes to school, does good honest work, and finds himself in a



political and legal storm that consumed our country. He acted boldly and successfully asserted the law against the most powerful man in the nation. He is really a heroic figure.

You are the Secretary of the National Italian American Bar Association. How many Italian American lawyers are members of this institution, and which are your main activities? Do you have local committees?

NIABA has existed for more than 30 years now. Our numbers are changing, what I can say is that the people with whom we are regularly communicating certainly are at least five thousand. We have wonderful constituencies all over the country. It was designed to be a freestanding association. We do not have branches throughout the country, but, we coordinate with other associations: the CIABA in Connecticut; the Italian Lawyers of Los Angeles in Southern California, and we are going to meet soon with an association in the San Francisco area, and another in Orange County, California.

Our directors come from the US - California, Florida, New England, Illinois, from many cities - but, also, Canada and Italy. What we do is promote Italian American lawyers: networking is our most direct benefit. We work with law schools, we publish a newsletter that gives information about Italian American lawyers and judges. We have a scholarly publication called *The Digest*, published with the assistance of Professor Robin Malloy at the Syracuse Law School in New York.

We bring lawyers together. We move our board meetings around the country. We had our first seminar in Rome in October this year, and there were 25 American and 18 Italian lawyers present.

You also are Past President of the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association, CIABA. Are there many Italian judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the Constitution State?

I was president for three years recently. I am the first lawyer from Connecticut to become one of the four national officers, so I left being president in Connecticut. It is not only the law, not only the business networking opportunities: it is the kinship among the participants, what really is unique.

In Connecticut, among our directors is a lawyer, Louis Pepe, a very distinguished lawyer in our State, amongst our highest regarded lawyers. He is a past president of the Connecticut Bar Association and a member of 9 different

lawyer associations. He always tells us: "No matter how many associations I am part of, the most fun is being part of CIABA." It is not just a professional association where you get seminars, knowledge, improve your particular skills, do what you have to do to move up the legal ladder of success: it is really more about coming together in a safe, relaxed environment, not competitive with the other members. During our meetings, there is something that has become a tradition. The first time it happened we did not know that it would become a tradition. One of our members, Mark Iannone, put a brown paper bag on the table and said "I'd like to discuss something with the board." I had no idea what he was getting at, and I said "Sure, Mark." He opened the bag and took out beautiful garlic, which he grows, a particular kind of garlic and he shared it, and somehow we look forward it year after year: "When is Mark bringing the garlic?"

And I am not saying it to play any stereotype, of course... but we do not only talk about law, we talk about food, we have wonderful meetings all focused around food and wine, who is travelling to Italy, and we develop so many wonderful relations. In Italy, I visited the family of one of our members, Lorenzo Agnoloni, in Tuscany, and it was fantastic. I, also, went to Naples and met with the Neapolitan lawyer Giancarlo Pezzuti: he cleared his schedule and spent the whole day bringing us through Naples, and it was tremendous.

continued on next page

Donnarumma, *continued*

If you should mention one aspect of the American judiciary system that you'd like to bring into the Italian one, what would it be?

I confess I do not know so much about the Italian system. I do know that many Americans were perplexed about the Italian criminal system as we observed it through the eyes of American reporters in the Amanda Knox

case. Then, I talked to Italian lawyers who spend work, as well, in the US, like Valerio Spinaci and Giancarlo Pezzuti. Both of them are sure we had a misimpression of the judicial system in Italy because, again, our knowledge comes through the glasses of American journalists reporting.

What I should emphasize is that in the American criminal justice system, the

overarching goal is to protect the individual, at the expense of law enforcement, at the expense of the system. The protection of the individual rights is supreme, not to say that it is not in Italy. We have a much spoken explanation that "it is better that ten guilty persons go free than one innocent person being wrongly convicted." I think that is the trait of the American system. Certainly, in our system, we

have many people who have been wrongly convicted; but the nature of the system is to focus on the individual and his rights. This emphasis sometimes causes public upset and, even, outrage; nonetheless, as lawyers, we must do as Judge Sirica did before us and follow the law as it leads us.

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 you can buy yours easily on our website at <https://www.niaba.org/merchandise>.

* * * * *

Find Us on Social Media

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



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

* * * * *

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 our NIABA membership, contact Cindy Martin at niabagroup@gmail.com.

* * * * *

Can We Refer You?

Is your profile up-to-date on the NIABA [website](http://www.niaba.org)? 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.

* * * * *

NIABA Brochures

An electronic version (PDF) of the NIABA membership brochure is available on our [website](http://www.niaba.org). 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](http://www.niaba.org).

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

Member Logo Available

It's easy to show your NIABA affiliation on your firm's website or marketing materials. Contact the NIABA office at niabagroup@gmail.com and we will send you a file that is suitable for online or print use.



Member

* * * * *

How to Contact Us

NIABA Administrator
Cindy Martin
203-859-1018 or
niabagroup@gmail.com.

NIABA Members: Register Now!



ROME, ITALY CLE
SEPT 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.

Real Property Transfers

Paulo Zagami (Monday, September 23 • 9:00-10:45AM)

Attorney in Rome and Legal representative of U.S. Chamber for South Italy

Emigration to U.S. and Becoming a U.S. Citizen

Antonietta Branaccio-Balzano (Monday, September 23 • 11:00-12:45PM)

Attorney in Stuart, Florida, NIABA Member

Complex Commerical Litigation

Fillippo Frigerio (Tuesday, September 24 • 9:00-10:45AM)

Attorney in Rome, Portolano Cavallo Firm

Italian Tort Law

Claudio Ceriani (Tuesday, September 24 • 11:00-12:45PM)

Attorney from Milan

Will, Intestacy, Spouse and Child Statutory Shares

Raimondo Zagami Esq (Wednesday, September 25 • 9:00-10:45AM)

Problems of U.S. citizen being an executor

Problems of U.S. citizen being a beneficiary

Notary in Rome

Becoming an Italian Citizen

Antonello Pierro (Wednesday, September 25 • 11:00-12:45PM)

Doing Business in Italy

Attorney in Rome, NIABA Member

Register now at www.niaba.org/events



Welcome New NIABA Members

Welcome to the following members, who joined NIABA between October 1, 2018 and April 1, 2019.

Attorney/Judges

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

John Amari
Amari & Gray
Birmingham, AL
205-655-8484
jamari@amariandgray.com
Adoption, Business, Civil, Commercial Litigation, Criminal, Divorce, Estate Planning, Landlord/Tenant, Litigation, Mediation, Misdemeanors, Municipal, Personal Injury, Public Service, Wills and Trusts

Joseph Bartozzi
CIABA
National Shooting Sports Foundation
Newtown, CT
joebartozzi@mossberg.com

Frank Cammarano
CIABA
Rocky Hill, CT
frank.cammarano@stewart.com

Jason Castro
Law Office of Jason Castro
Naples, FL
jkcastro.legal@gmail.com
239-775-8889

Amanda Chiarello
Staten Island, NY
achiarello@lawert.com
Arbitration/Mediation, Business, Civil, Corporate/Business, Employee Benefits, Employment Discrimination, Labor/Employment,

Management Relations, Litigation, Malpractice - Medical, Personal Injury, Product Liability, Torts, Workers Comp.

Vito Costanzo
Holland & Knight, LLP
Los Angeles, CA
213-896-2400
vito.costanzo@hkllaw.com
Litigation

Domenico Cristofaro
Cristofaro & Ciruolo Law Firm
Fort Lauderdale, FL
studiolegalecristofaro@gmail.com
Administrative, Arbitration/Mediation, Corporate/Business, Criminal, Customs/International Trade, Divorce, Energy/Utilities, Family Law, Insurance, Italian Law, Personal Injury, Business

Vincent DeOrchis
Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoades
New York, NY
917-566-9623
vdeorchis@marinelex.com
Arbitration/Mediation, Commercial Litigation, Commodities, Litigation

Kelly DeSalvatore
CIABA
Connecticut
kdesalvatore@gmail.com

Rocco DiCicco
Fresno, CA
rdicicco2@gmail.com
559-978-4624
Commercial Litigation, Corporate/Business, Landlord/Tenant, Real Estate

Charles Esposito
Press of Fremont Payne, Inc.
New York, NY
espoesq@gmail.com
212-966-6570
Appellate

Frank Ferruggia, Jr.
Castano Quigley, LLC
Fairfield, NJ
973-878-9498
fferruggia@cq-law.com
Real Estate, Property Tax Appeals, Landlord/Tenant, Environmental, Litigation

Michael Galluzzi
Cascione Galluzzi, LLC
Tuckahoe, NY
mgalluzzi@cpglawyers.com
General Practice, Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury

Renee Gentile
CIABA
Marion, CT
reeneegentile@gmail.com
203-623-1244

Michael G. Iovanna
CIABA
Hassett and Donnelly, PC
Hartford, CT
860-247-0644
miovanna26@gmail.com

Thomas Librizzi
CIABA
McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter
tlibrizzi@mdmc-law.com

Nicholas Marino
Gibson, McAskill, & Crosby, LLP
Buffalo, NY
716-856-4200
nmarino@gmclaw.com
Litigation, Personal Injury, Product Liability

Rosalie Marshall
Piedmont, CA
510-499-0586
rosaliemarshall@comcast.net
Real Estate

Matthew Matejcek
Bay Area Family Law
Walnut Creek, CA
mtm@bayareafamilylegal.com
925-322-9373
Family Law

Michael Minardi
Minardi Law
Tampa, FL
813-995-8227
michael@mirardilaw.com
Criminal

Francesco Mioli
CIABA
Zeldes, Needle & Cooper, PC
Bridgeport, CT
fmiolo@znclaw.com

Jillian Orticelli
CIABA
Carlton Fields, PC
Hartford, CT
jorticelli@carltonfields.com

Robert Peretti
Law Offices of Robert A. Peretti
Providence, RI
401-273-7747
bob@lp.legal.com
Arbitration/Mediation, Civil, Corporate/Business, Estate Planning, General Practice, Judge, Land Use Law, Personal Injury, Real Estate, Traffic, Wills and Trusts

Michael Petruccelli
Petruccelli Law
Fort Lauderdale, FL
954-117-4118
mpetruccelli@equaljustice.law
Employment Discrimination, Malpractice - Medical, Personal Injury

Fulvio Picerno
Law Office of Fulvio A. Picerno
510-933-8335
Newark, CA
fulvio@picernolaw.com
Civil, Litigation

continued on next page

New Members, *continued*

Patricia Powis

Law Office of Patricia A. Powis
Garden City, NY
516-240-5180
patricia@powislaw.com
Elder Law, Mediation,
Probate, Wills and Trusts

Silvia Riberti-Young

Arqua Law & Consultancy,
LLC
McNeil, TX
silvia@arqualaw.com
Immigration, Corporate/
Business

Louis Robbio

Law Office of Louis F. Robbio
North Port, FL
941-429-2194
lfr911@verizon.net
Administrative, Civil,
Employment Discrimination,
Immigration

Gregory Salvato

Salvato Law Offices
Los Angeles, CA
213-484-8400
gsalvato@salvatolawoffices.com
Bankruptcy, Commercial
Litigation, Litigation, Real
Estate

Robert Saraco

CIABA
Zeldes, Needle & Cooper, PC
rsaraco@znclaw.com

David Scotti

Scotti Law Group
Pittsburg, PA
412-892-8876
dascotti@scottilaw.net
Arbitration/Mediation,
Commercial Litigation,
Construction, Real Estate

Adam Seligman

Ward Damon
West Palm Beach, FL
561-594-1779
aseligman@warddamon.com
Banking, Business, Civil,
Commercial Litigation,
Construction, Corporate/
Business, Divorce, Estate
Planning, Family Law,
General Practice, Landlord/
Tenant, Probate, Real Estate,
Wills and Trusts

Mayra Talarico

The Law Office of Mayra
Talarico
Naples, FL
239-287-2915
mayra@talarico-law.com
Criminal, Divorce, Domestic
Violence, Family Law

Bruce Zawodniak

CIABA
CATIC
Rocky Hill, CT
bzawodniak@catiacaccess.com

Kenneth Zuber

Zuber Law, LLC
Colgate, WI
262-328-6611
ken@zuberlawllc.com
Civil, Civil Rights, Elder Law,
General Practice, Health Care,
Insurance, Litigation

Law Students

Joseph Antonakakis

Rutgers School of Law
Voorhees, NJ
joe.law@rutgers.edu

Antonio Apolito

Columbus School of Law
Arlington, VA
apolito@cua.edu

Riccardo Baldini

riccardobaldini@outlook.it
Bari, Italy

Paige Calabrese

Dallas, TX
pcalabrese@smu.edu

Ronald Cantin III

Gretna, LA
rcantin123@gmail.com

Vincent Chiaverini

San Diego, CA
vechiaverini@law.cwsl.edu

Daniel Cione

CUNY School of Law
daniel.cione@live.law.cuny.edu

Domenica Esposito

Los Angeles, CA
desposi2@lls.edu

Veronica Femminineo

Warren, MI
femminineov@colley.edu

Brianna Ferrante

Syracuse University College
of Law
Staten Island, NY
bferrant@sy.edu

Cecilia Ferrari

Nova Southeastern University
Davie, FL
cf1143@mynsu.nova.edu

Kaitlyn Flynn

Rutgers Law School
Somers Point, NJ
kaitlyn.flynn@rutgers.edu

Sarah Gallo

UC Berkeley School of Law
Berkeley, CA
sarahgallo@berkeley.edu

John Hindley

Washington, DC
jhindley@law.gwu.edu

Cody Lello

Monee, IL
clello@law.jmls.edu

John Longo

Syracuse University
Wurtsboro, NY
jlongo@syr.edu

Rene Macioce

Brooklyn Law School
New York, NY
rene.macioce@brooklaw.edu

Jeremy Oddo

Youngstown, OH
jeremyoddo@gmail.com

Anae Petito

New York Law School
Middle Village, NY
anae.petito@law.nyls.edu

Jeremy Pushkin

Charlottesville, VA
jnp6aj@virginia.edu

Iolanda Severino

Los Angeles, CA
ioleseverino@libero.it

Daniella Tutino

San Francisco, CA
dltutino@usfca.edu

Member News

NIABA BOARD SLATE OF NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

Based on nominations we received, which were reviewed by the Nominating Committee, the following slate is put forth for a vote. Please note that there were no nominations of more than one person for each position. Pursuant to the NIABA bylaws section 4.01, "The Board of Directors shall be elected by majority vote of the General Membership in attendance" at the June 7, 2019 meeting in New Haven.

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)

Directors

Claire Ambrosio (CA)

Phil Boncore (MA)

Cirino M. Bruno (NY)

Joseph D'Antony (CA)

Daniel Elliott (CT)

Honorable John Barone (NY)

Cristina Carabetta (CT)

Lorraine Corsa (NY)

David DiJulio (CA)

Joseph Frinzi (WI)

Anthony Gianfrancesco (RI)

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

Dominick Lzaaaro (FL)

Lydia Gala Liberio (CA)

Ralph Liguori (RI)

Daral Mazzarella (CA)

James Michalski (CA)

Raymond A. Pacia (RI)

Sigismondo Renda (NY)

Alice Salvo (CA)

Frank Schiro (QC)

Joseph Sena (NY)

Daniel J. Stallone (FL)

Winter Meeting in San Francisco, CA

NIABA hosted a wonderful winter Board Meeting in San Francisco, CA over the weekend of January 10-12, 2019!

Those arriving on Thursday January 10, met with event host and NIABA West Region Vice-President, Damian Capozzola, and enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Poesia restaurant. We got ready for Friday's board meeting (graciously hosted by Holland & Knight). The Board was treated to a fantastic view of San Francisco Bay throughout their meeting. The Board discussed important NIABA business, including

the confirmation of Francis Donnarumma as the incoming NIABA President!

Friday evening's dinner was held at Alioto's, a classic San Francisco Italian restaurant on the fabled waterfront, and connected with Fulvio Picerno, President of the local Bay Area Italian American Bar Association, and others from that group.

Then on Saturday morning the Board met again at Holland & Knight to wind up business discussions for this meeting. Saturday afternoon the group participated in an enjoyable (and delicious) walking tour of

Italian restaurants and culture in San Francisco's North Beach "Little Italy" area, and then it was time for the main event.

The Saturday dinner was a gala event held at the legendary San Francisco Italian Athletic Club, and the event was graced by a number of local judges and lawyers as well as beautiful live Italian music from our wonderful singer, Gloria Acerboni. But in the end, it was outgoing NIABA President, Paul Finizio, who stole the show with a captivating speech that summarized all NIABA had accomplished under his term

and where he hoped NIABA would go in the future. Well done on a terrific final Board Meeting and inspiring term as President, Paul!

Thank you and credit to Damian Capozzola for this review of NIABA'S winter meeting!





Affiliate Reports



THE CONNECTICUT ITALIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

invites you to the 2019
FESTA DELLA PRIMAVERA
an induction dinner for

THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Honoring

Francis M. Donnarumma - National President

Cristina Salamone - Regional Vice President

Daniel Elliott - Director Cristina Carabetta - Director

Saturday June 8th, 2019, 6:00 PM

Anthony's Ocean View

450 Lighthouse Road, New Haven

Tickets \$75.00 per person

Open bar, Italian dinner, and Entertainment

ANNA CARABETTA - CHAIRWOMAN

RSVP by May 15

**Make checks payable to "NIABA" and
return to NIABA c/o**

The Donnarumma Law Firm LLC

428 Main Street South, Woodbury, CT 06798



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: **William C Silverman**
April 11, 2019

In the United States, people of limited means suffer a tremendous unmet need for legal services in civil proceedings. Why does the United States fall so far behind in providing that service in comparison with other western democracies?

Background on the Right to Counsel

In 1963, the Supreme Court decided *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the landmark Sixth Amendment decision requiring that states provide legal counsel for indigent criminal defendants. No such right to counsel, however, has been established in civil proceedings despite the fact that for many low-income individuals, the outcome of certain civil legal proceedings can have an impact as significant, lasting, and life-altering as some criminal cases.

In the absence of a federally recognized right to counsel in civil matters, state and local authorities have been primarily responsible for

Best Practices

The Right to Counsel in Civil Proceedings: An International Perspective

protecting the rights of low-income individuals in civil proceedings where they see fit. As a result, the provision of free legal services differs greatly from state to state, and even within a given state. A 2017 study demonstrated that 71% of low-income households experienced at least one civil legal problem that year, including health care, housing conditions, veterans' benefits, disability access, and domestic violence matters. In 86% of those civil legal problems, low-income Americans "received inadequate or no legal help." In addition, in over three-fourths of all civil trials in the United States, at least one litigant does not have legal representation.

International Perspective

The United States falls far behind other countries in providing civil legal representation to low-income individuals. The World Justice Project's 2019 Rule of Law Index ranks the U.S. as tied for 99th out of 126 countries on "accessibility and affordability of civil justice," which measures "the accessibility and affordability of civil courts, including whether people are aware of available remedies, can access and afford legal advice and representation, and can access the court system without incurring unreasonable fees, encountering unreasonable procedural hurdles, or experiencing physical or linguistic barriers." Even more concerning, the U.S. has dropped nearly 30 spots in the

ranking from 2015 to 2019. In contrast to the U.S., the 49 Council of Europe (COE) member countries, as well as nine other countries, provide some sort of federal right to counsel for low-income individuals. In France, for example, there is a right to counsel in all civil and administrative cases. Lawyers provide assistance with litigation, mediation, transactions, and general legal advice on an income-based sliding scale. Representation of minors, those in immigration proceedings, and individuals involved in veteran pension matters are provided representation regardless of financial need. While some countries are more restrictive in their scope of and qualification for representation, most COE members provide "extensive protection" for immigrants. In the COE member countries, as well as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, public funding for civil representation (calculated in any manner; by budget amount per indigent person, per capita, or as a percentage of gross national product) far exceeds spending in the United States.

Where Do We Go From Here?

In response to the statistics above, and in the absence of any established constitutional right to counsel in civil cases, the federal government would better protect fundamental rights of countless people by increasing its financial commitment to legal services for the poor. Unfortunately,

when adjusted for inflation, federal funding for the Legal Services Corp. (LSC), which provides financial support to 132 legal aid programs around the country, has declined by 56.8% since 1980. Now, a proposed budget cut is threatening to reduce the federal government's support even further. In March, the administration's proposed 2020 budget recommended completely eliminating funding for LSC.

To the extent we don't address the growing "justice gap," we are jeopardizing more than just the right outcome in individual legal matters. As stated by Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., "Equal justice under law is not merely a caption on the facade of the Supreme Court building; it is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society. It is one of the ends for which our entire legal system exists . . . it is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status."

*William C. Silverman is a partner responsible for leading Proskauer's global pro bono efforts, which provide assistance to individual clients and nonprofit organizations in litigation as well as transactional matters. He focuses on identifying and securing pro bono opportunities and partnerships for Proskauer lawyers and ensuring widespread participation in these projects. Bill has robust private and public sector experience and a strong criminal and civil background. He has worked extensively on government investigations and white collar...
wsilverman@proskauer.com
www.proskauer.com/*



National Italian American Bar Association - Application for Membership

Duplication and redistribution of this document is encouraged.

You can also apply online at www.niaba.org

Name _____

Firm Name _____

Firm Address _____

City, State, Zip and Country _____

Office Phone _____ Fax _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Web Site _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone _____

Law School, w/ graduation year _____

In which states and/or countries are you licensed to practice law? _____

Which languages (besides English) can you read and/or speak fluently? _____

Areas of Practice (please select no more than three)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Defamation | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor/Empl/Mgmt Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Tax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce | <input type="checkbox"/> Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator | Malpractice | <input type="checkbox"/> Securities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate | <input type="checkbox"/> Employee Benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Accountant | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration/Mediation | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking | <input type="checkbox"/> Estate Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical | <input type="checkbox"/> Torts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy/Reorganization | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Franchise | <input type="checkbox"/> Patent & Trademark | <input type="checkbox"/> Training/Consulting/Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights | <input type="checkbox"/> General Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury (Plaintiff) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wills and Trusts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Actions | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury (Defendant) | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Comp (Plaintiff) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commodities | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Comp (Defendant) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> In-House | <input type="checkbox"/> Product Liability (Plaintiff) | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance | <input type="checkbox"/> Product Liability (Defendant) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Disciplinary | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal | <input type="checkbox"/> Investment Banking | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customs/International Trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | |

Membership Level & Dues: Regular (\$50) Sponsor (\$100) Patron (\$250) Lifetime (\$1,000)

Judge (free) First year attorney (free) Law student (free)

How did you learn about NIABA? Local Association Web Site The Digest Law Journal Referral Other

Would you like to make a contribution to the NIABA Scholarship Fund? \$100 or more \$50 \$25 Other

I certify that I am at least one of the following: a lawyer of Italian birth or extraction; a lawyer related by marriage to a person of Italian birth or extraction; a lawyer who is willing to support the purposes and objectives of NIABA. I further certify that I have been admitted to practice law and am in good standing in any country or jurisdiction; or have been granted and possess a law degree from a college of law in any jurisdiction and would qualify for admission to practice law; or am currently a law student in an accredited law school in any country or jurisdiction. All information I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____ Date _____

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

NIABA
PMB 932
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20006-1846

www.niaba.org

Phone: 203-859-1018