



NIABA News

Men and Women
Sharing a Chosen
Profession and a
Common Heritage

In this Issue:

President's Message.....1
Hellhound of Wallstreet
.....2
Meeting Notes.....3
Committee Report.....4
Chapter News..... 5-6
Web Site Form.....6
Dues Form.....7

2009 - 11 OFFICERS

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This will be my last President's message as my term will come to an end in May with the investiture of new officers in Milwaukee. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed each and every minute of my Presidency. We met in Chicago, Hollywood (FL), Montreal, Washington, DC, and San Diego. At each meeting we made new friends and accomplished new business ensuring the continued growth and success of this wonderful organization. During my term I met and spoke to President Giorgio Napolitano, the President of the Republic of Italy, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, General Raymond Odiano, Commander of Forces in Iraq, John Marino, the Executive Director of NIAF and Dr. Phil Piccigallo of OSIA.

Our membership base continues to expand with new individual members as well as inquiries to start new affiliate organizations in Pittsburg, Washington D.C., Buffalo, Waterbury, CT. and New Jersey. Our new direct mail solicitation has proven to be very successful indicating there is a strong demand and desire among Italian American attorneys throughout the country to belong to an organization such as ours. In fact, there exists a Canadian Italian advocates association, British Italian barristers association and Australian Italian lawyers association. It is my hope

that some day NIABA will be able to associate with these organizations as well as the various Italian American bar associations that exist throughout the United States.

I will miss being President of this wonderful organization but I fully intend on continuing to work hard and being committed to tutti i miei paesani, to whom I feel a special connection. It is difficult for me to describe the sense of pride I feel when I meet a fellow attorney of Italian decent or any Italian American for that matter. We have a special connection that stems from our upbringing rooted in the struggles of the peasants who persevered for centuries in all those paesas that dot the Italian countryside. They struggled so their children could survive and enjoy a better life. We must never forget the difficulties our ancestors endured for us. If for no other reason, make it a point to join us at one of our many meetings to raise up a glass of wine to them and say "grazie e saluti, thanks to you we made it!"

Fraternally yours,

Anthony J. Gianfrancesco

Anthony J. Gianfrancesco,
National President

BI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Milwaukee, Wisconsin will be the host city of the next general membership meeting and board of Directors Meeting scheduled for Friday May 20th and Saturday May 21st, 2011. The board will meet Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the new, state of the art, Marquette University Law School recently dedicated by United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Plans are in progress for a CLE presentation or seminar to take place on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon. The topic will be current developments in immigration law. The speakers are Joseph Sena, a prominent immigration lawyer who has practised throughout the United States and Judge Tina Sciochetti from the United States Department of Immigration.

The Wisconsin Justinian Society will be hosting a cocktail hour on Thursday evening at the prestigious Wisconsin Club. All members of NIABA are welcome.

Rooms can be reserved at the Hotel Metro, 411 E. Mason Street in downtown

Milwaukee at a special discount rate of \$149 per night. Call 414-272-1937 or go to our website www.niaba.org for more information. In addition, rooms are also available at the Pfister Hotel, The International and the Milwaukee Athletic Club, 758 N. Broadway, located in east town of Milwaukee's central city, a short distance from the internationally acclaimed Calatrava addition to the Milwaukee Art Museum.

On Saturday evening there will be a black tie dinner and investiture of new officers and board members at the Milwaukee Athletic Club. All members of NIABA are invited to attend any or all of the activities scheduled for this weekend.



THE HELLHOUND OF WALL STREET

Ferdinand Pecora was little known outside New York until 1933. The former New York prosecutor was called to Washington to become chief counsel of Senate hearings looking into Wall Street's wrongdoings that led to the Crash of 1929. Pecora is a surprising hero of the time — he was a poor Italian immigrant who earned his legal education at night school. And over a ten-day period, he grilled some of the titans of Wall Street, toppling one of them — multimillionaire Charles Mitchell, aka Sunshine Charley — who was chairman of National City Bank, the predecessor of the current-day Citibank.

Ferdinand Pecora was born in Nicosia, Sicily Nicosia, Sicily, the son of Louis Pecora and Rosa Messina, who emigrated to the United States in 1886. He grew up in Chelsea on the west side of Manhattan. After briefly studying for the Episcopal ministry, Pecora was forced to leave school as a teenager when his father was injured in an industrial accident. After securing a job as a clerk in a Wall Street law firm, Pecora eventually attended New York Law School and became a member of the New York bar in 1911. Originally a Progressive Republican, Pecora became a member of the Democratic Party and Tammany Hall in 1916. In 1918, he was appointed as an assistant district attorney in New York City. Over the next twelve years, Pecora earned a reputation in the city as an honest and talented prosecutor. Although he had little experience with Wall Street, Pecora helped shut down more than 100 Bucket shops.

In 1922, Pecora was named chief assistant district attorney, the number-two man in the office under the newly elected Joab H. Banton. In 1929, Banton chose Pecora as his heir apparent, but Tammany Hall refused to nominate him, fearing that the honest Pecora might bring prosecutions against its members. Pecora left the district attorney's office for private practice, where he remained until 1933.

Ferdinand Pecora was appointed Chief Counsel to the U.S. Senate's Committee on Banking and Currency in January 1933, the last months of the Herbert Hoover presidency by its outgoing Republican chairman, Peter Norbeck, and continued under Democratic chairman Duncan U. Fletcher, following the 1932 election that swept Franklin D. Roosevelt into the President of the United States and gave the Democratic Party control of the Senate.

The Senate committee hearings that Pecora led probed the causes of the Wall Street Crash of 1929 that launched a major reform of the American financial system. Pecora, aided by [John T. Flynn] a journalist, and Max Lowenthal, a lawyer, personally undertook many of the interrogations during the hearings, including such Wall Street personalities as Richard Whitney, president of the [New York Stock Exchange, George Whitney (a partner in [J.P. Morgan & Co.) and investment bankers Thomas W. Lamont, Otto

Hermann Kahn, Albert H. Wiggin of Chase National Bank, and Charles E. Mitchell of National City Bank. Because of Pecora's work, the hearings soon acquired the popular name the Pecora Commission, and Time magazine featured Pecora on the cover of its June 12, 1933.

Pecora's investigation unearthed evidence of irregular practices in the financial markets that benefited the rich at the expense of ordinary investors, including exposure of Morgan's "preferred list" by which the bank's influential friends (including Calvin

Coolidge the former president, and Owen J. Roberts, a justice of Supreme Court of the United States) participated in stock offerings at steeply discounted rates. He also revealed that National City sold off bad loans to Latin American countries by packing them into securities and selling them to unsuspecting investors, that Wiggin had shorted Chase shares during the crash, profiting from falling prices, and that Mitchell and top officers at National City had received \$2.4 million in interest-free loans from the bank's cofers.

Spurred by these revelations, the United States Congress enacted the Glass-Steagall Act, the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. With the United States in the grips of the Great Depression, Pecora's investigations highlighted the contrast between the lives of millions of Americans in abject poverty and the lives of such financiers as J.P. Morgan, Jr.; under

Pecora's questioning, Morgan and many of his partners admitted that they had paid no income tax in 1931 and 1932; they explained their failure to pay taxes by reference to their losses in the stock market's decline.

After Pecora closed his investigations, on July 2, 1934, President Roosevelt appointed Ferdinand Pecora a Commissioner of the newly-formed U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In 1939 Pecora wrote a book about the Senate investigations titled "Wall Street Under Oath: The Story of Our Modern Money Changers". On January 21, 1935, Pecora resigned from the SEC and became a judge of the New York State Supreme Court, a position he held until 1950, when he ran unsuccessfully against Vincent R. Impellitteri for Mayor of New York City. Returning to the practice of law, Pecora represented such major clients as [Warner Bros.] Pictures Distributing Corporation, "et al". as respondents before the United States Supreme Court in the 1954 case, "Theatre Enterprises v. Paramount Pictures" 346 U.S. 537.

Ferdinand Pecora died in 1971.

Michael Perino, a law professor and former Wall Street litigator, has written a new book, *The Hellhound of Wall Street: How Ferdinand Pecora's Investigation of the Great Crash Forever Changed American Finance*.



MEETING NOTES - SAN DIEGO

The NIABA board of directors conducted a board meeting from January 14 to January 16, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Resort in San Diego, California. Following are highlights of the boards meeting.

The membership committee reported that NIABA's recent membership drive, the largest ever undertaken by this organization. Over 9,000 solicitations have been mailed to Italian-American lawyers in 10 states. The committee will now identify and solicit lawyers in four additional states (Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Texas).

The board overwhelmingly approved a bylaw change to create a new membership division for judicial officers. The amendment was adopted, in part, to facilitate a merger with the American Society of Jurists. We are pleased and proud to announce that this organization of Italian American Judges and judicial officers will now be a part of the National Italian American Bar Association.

Efforts to coordinate and collaborate with other Ital-

ian American organizations are continuing. A committee met with officers of the Order Sons of Italy in America on February 26th, 2011, in Bonita Springs, Florida. Plans are under way for a future event to be held with the National Italian American Foundation following our very successful Washington D.C. board meeting held in October. Hopefully, the event will involve a United States Supreme Court Judge.

In May NIABA will hold its annual general membership meeting and election of officers in Milwaukee Wisconsin. This event will also consist of a CLE, speakers and meetings with local Italian American bar associations. Details will be posted on the NIABA website.

The next issue of NIABA's prestigious law Journal, *The Digest*, will soon be published along with the next issue of *The Newsletter*.

Our website continues to be updated and improved. NIABA has a Facebook account and soon will add Linkup Further improvements are coming.

MEETING NOTES - WASHINGTON D.C.

NIABA COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL BOARD MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC

The NIABA board of directors met in Washington, D.C. on October 24, 2010 through October 27, 2010. Following are the highlights of some of the important accomplishments of that meeting.

ITALIAN EMBASSY CONFERENCE The meetings began with a conference hosted by the Italian Embassy at the Library of Congress where Supreme Court Judge Antonin Scalia spoke on the friendship between Italian philosopher Gaetano Filangieri and Benjamin Franklin and the influence he may have had on Franklin's drafting of the U.S. Constitution. Judge Scalia also mentioned other Italian contributors to U.S. jurisprudence who received no recognition in the public school education system. They include; Felipe Massei and Cesare Beccaria. The conference was hosted by the embassy as part of the Italian governments celebration of the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy.

Later that evening many NIABA members attended a dinner at the Capitol Grille sponsored by the Italian Embassy while others met with local DC attorneys at Café Milano.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE The board approved the continued membership drive initiated by President Anthony Gianfrancesco and Chairman of the Board Raymond Pacia.

Three new States will be added to the drive (VA, WVA and MN). In addition, Canadian Regional Vice President, Dino Mazzone, reported on a new initiative to increase membership in the Montreal region. Membership Chairman, Charles DiLorenzo, also gave a report on his efforts to solicit new members. Treasurer Sally Janulivus reported that membership dues for 2010 exceeded dues received for the past six years.

A committee was formed to explore the possibility of a merger or union with the Justinian Society of Jurists, a national organization of Italian American judges. Two representatives from that organization, Judges Joseph Golia and Paul Victor greeted the NIABA board and addressed the possible merger.

OUTREACH A scholarship of \$2,500 was donated to the National Italian American Foundation to be awarded by them to an individual interested in legal studies. The contribution was made as part of NIABA's continued collaborative efforts to work with other Italian American organizations. The board meeting itself took place at the Washington Hilton to coincide with NIAFs annual gala. Thirty NIABA members attended the Saturday night gala. NIABA is also currently working with the Order Sons of Italy in America to form a similar relationship.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has put forth the following slate of officers for the 2011-2013 term and nominations will be open at the General Membership meeting on May 21, 2011 at the Marquette University Law School at 10am.

Report of the Nominating Committee

For the 2011-2013 Term

President	Frank Joseph Schiro (WI)
Executive Vice President	Paul V. Schiocchetti (NY)
Regional Vice President (Canada)	Dino Mazzone (Canada)
Regional Vice President (West)	Al Affinito (CA)
Regional Vice President (New England)	Sally Ann Janulevicus (MN)
Regional Vice President (Mid Atlantic)	Lorraine C. Corsa (NY)
Regional Vice President (Mid West)	Joseph Frinzi (WI)
Regional Vice President (South)	Daniel Stallone (FL)
Treasurer	Sigismondo Renda (NY)
Secretary	Peter Ballistreri (WI)
Historian	P. Charles DiLorenzo (NJ)

Directors

Louis R. Aidala (NY)	Raymond A. Pacia (RI)
Philip R. Boncore (MA)	Prof. Peter A. Previte (OH)
Mark Cameli (WI)	Michael C. Rainone (PA)
Mario Capano (MA)	Hon. Anthony J. Cutrona (NY)
Jonn S. Sciacotta (IL)	Raymond Dettore, Jr. (RI)
Joseph Sena (NY)	Joseph M. Gagliardo (IL)
Prof. Robin Malloy (NY)	Hon Joseph N. Giamboi (NY)
Carol Ann Martinelli (MI)	Anthony J. Gianfrancesco (RI)

NEW ASSOCIATION

The American Society of Jurists, an independent organization of Italian American Judges has recently agreed to a merger with the National Italian American Bar Association. As a result, the NIABA board of Directors agreed to a change in it's bylaws to create a new subsection of members for Judges and Judicial officers in recognition of their achievement of ascension to the bench. We welcome our new members and look forward to working together to promote the achievements of Italian Americans to the legal community.

LAW SCHOOL NEWS

We are proud to announce that the **Albany Law School Italian American Law Student Association (IALSA)** has agreed to become an affiliate organization of NIABA! Special thanks to President George Franny III for agreeing to become the NIABA contact. The Albany Law School website has updated their webpage with the following excerpt:

Italian American Law Student Association (IALSA)

Albany Law School's Italian American Law Student Association is a group in pursuit of a common goal of representing the legal community while celebrating a common Italian-American heritage. IALSA is also a student chapter of the greater upstate Capital District National Italian American Bar Association (NIABA). IALSA/NIABA welcomes members of all ethnicities, heritages and religions.

NEWS FROM LOCAL CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES

Justinian Law Society of Rhode Island. The JLS in conjunction with the RI Italian American Society and Opera Providence hosted Carnivale Venezia on March 6th at the Italo-American Club in Providence. Judge Jeanne LaFazia, Chief Judge of the Rhode Island District Court hosted a CLE entitled, "A View From the Bench" on March 23rd at the Aurora Civic Association.

The Justinian Society of Lawyers of Illinois conducted a CEF fundraiser at Galleria Marchetti on March 24th, and will hold nomination of officers at Monastero's on April 14th. The installation of officers will be conducted on May 18th at Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse.

The Justinian Society of Philadelphia honored Rudolph "Rudy" Garcia, Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association on February 23rd at the Union League of Philadelphia.

Italian American Bar Association of Michigan held a Winter Gala on December 3, 2010 at the Detroit Athletic Club. Clara DeMatteis Mager, the bar's current President, presented the Kenneth L. Rancilio and the Philip F. Greco Memorial Awards to Lawrence M. Scott and Joseph P. Puzzuoli, respectively, during the evening's program. Matthew Piccirilli, IABAM's 2010 Law Student Scholarship Recipient was also in attendance and recognized during the presentation.

The Justinian Law Society of Massachusetts, Inc. will hold a general meeting of its members on Thursday March 24th at 6pm at Boccelli's Restaurant in Medford, Massachusetts. On the agenda is a presentation of "A View from the Bench" presented by several Italian-American District Court Jurists: Hon. Richard Mori of the Salem District Court, Hon. Michael Laurenzano of the Lynn District Court, Hon. Dominic Paratore of the Malden District Court.

The Wisconsin Justinians are holding their annual CLE Seminar in the Sand in Las Vegas on May13-15, 2011 at the newly built Encore Hotel.

Also, on May 19, 2011, by the grace of our board member and current President of the Wisconsin Justinians, Mark Cameli, they will host a cocktail reception for NIABA at the private and exclusive Wisconsin Club, near to Marquette University campus and the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

Italian American Lawyers Association of Los Angeles conducted a general membership meeting on March 16 at the Jonathon Club.

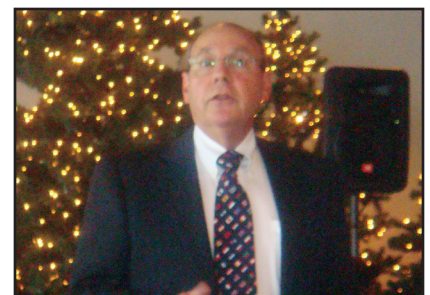
Justinian Society of Houston had a busy fall calendar this past year. There was a meeting of the Thomas Moore Society In September, followed by Festa Italiana at The University of St. Thomas and a Red Mass in October. There was also a Networking Happy Hour in January.

In December, the **IABA in Northern California** hosted its annual Judge's Holiday Luncheon overlooking the San Francisco bay at the St. Francis Yacht Club. This year's honoree was Hon. Richard S. Flier who is a former member of the judiciary and current member of ADR Services. After a recitation of a twist on "Twas the Night before the Judge's Luncheon" by former President, Clare Badaracco, the attendees enjoyed an Italian-inspired lunch. Next, Judge Flier was introduced and then, as is tradition, was awarded the Golden Salami. Next, the torch was passed along to new President, Jessie Huff. Finally, in true tradition, the luncheon was followed by the annual bocce ball tournament.

To start off 2011, IABA Northern California will be hosting a joint Happy Hour on March 23rd with our colleagues in the local Irish American Bar Association at the famed Irish Bank in celebration of St. Paddy's month. In April, IABA Northern California will continue its tradition of an event with the local Hellenic Law Society, which usually involves a lively debate.



Outgoing
Co-Presidents -
Michon Spinelli &
Clare Badaracco and
President Elect -
Jessie Huff



Hon. Richard S. Flier



Outgoing
Co-Presidents
Michon Spinelli &
Clare Badaracco

NEWS FROM LOCAL CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES CON'T

Columbian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn.

On **Tuesday March 1st, 2011** a dinner was held at the Rex Manor. The Honorable Peter Sweeney, acting Supreme Court Justice, King's County served as the guest speaker. The Association also presented its 5th Annual Atlantic City CLE seminar from April 7th to April 9th at the Trump Plaza.

April 30th, 2011 - Columbian Lawyers, First Department - Annual Charles A. Rapallo Award to Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, Presiding Justice, Appellate Division Second Judicial Department - at the Waldorf Astoria, 12 noon.

\$160 per person, RSVP-Thomas L. Laquercia, Esq. Co-chairman, 291 Broadway, 16th floor, New York, New York, 10007.

June 10th, 2011 - Columbian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn - Forty-Third Annual Installation Dinner Dance honoring outgoing President Carl J. Landincino and installation of new President Domenic J. Famulari presentation made by Anthony J. Cutrona, Supreme Court Justice at El Caribe, 6:30pm cocktails followed by dinner at 8pm. \$125 per person includes music by The Chris Michaels Band.

ORDER FORM for NIABA Web Site Options

Option 1: E-mail and/or Web Site Link -- \$25 (one-time charge) Your listing in the online Membership Directory will include your e-mail address and/or Web Site URL. Clicking on listing will activate direct connection. This will be a completely private communication. NIABA *only provides the links!*

Option 2: Mini Web Site -- \$300 per year This feature will function as your very own web site, hosted by NIABA. It includes a Home Page with a direct URL (www.niaba.org/lawfirm), color logo, color picture, e-mail link and link to Service Information Section. Also included in the Mini Web Site is a Service Information Section, which may contain service descriptions, case studies and/or photos and bios of your principals and staff. Additional sections and content updates are available for a nominal charge. All you need to do is provide tile pictures and text.

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Signed _____

National Italian American Bar Association

2011 Dues Information & Request Form



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Last First Middle

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Number Street Suite

City State Zip + Four

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

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Address:

Number Street Apt. # City State Zip + Four

Home Phone:(_____)_____

Students : Law School:_____ Anticipated Graduation Date:_____

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT NIABA?

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

NIABA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please make your dues check payable to: NIABA.

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

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION

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

Please make your check payable to: NIABA SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 or more Other

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SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT FOR LAW JOURNAL *THE DIGEST*

The next issue of NIABA's law journal, *The Digest*, is being put together and Professor Robin Paul Malloy, our Editor-in-Chief, has put out a call for material. NIABA members are invited to submit articles for consideration. Articles on all topics are welcome and may be sent at any time. Student editors are available to help with some of the footnote work.

Professor Malloy is Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law & Economics at Syracuse University. Articles should be sent to him in Word format at rpmalloy@law.syr.edu, or by mail to Professor Robin Paul Malloy, College of Law, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244. NIABA is grateful to Professor Malloy and the student editorial board which he oversees for their commitment to producing a worthy publication.

NIABA WEB-SITE NEWS

www.niaba.org

The NIABA webpage has been recently upgraded and improved to better serve out membership. By accessing the website at www.niaba.org members can now view a current and updated membership list for networking purposes, view what is going on at their respective local chapters and affiliates, keep up with NIABA activities, take advantage of membership benefits and services and more.

If you have not done so already you can also become a friend of NIABA on Facebook. You will find an up to date exchange of ongoing messages, activities and photographs of NIABA members throughout the country. Please join us to assist in keeping up with current activities and events.