



NIABA News

Men and women sharing a common heritage in a chosen professional

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President's Message

Connecting Through NIABA

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the NIABA News, first edition in 2021. As we have all navigated the harrowing pandemic for more than a year, please join NIABA in moving forward.

1. Please see in NIABA News the announcement of a three (3) part series, "Conversations with Leaders In The Law" which is a free event, spread over three (3) evenings, in which distinguished practitioners share concepts, insight, and thoughts on practice. Each presentation will focus on a distinct area of the law; however, the presentations will be universal in nature. Whether one practices in that area of law or not, insight will be gained and appreciation for an expert attorney realized. Please sign up and register for each of the three (3) seminar parts and enjoy the offering.

2. I am pleased to announce, as well, that the Italian Lawyers of Los Angeles and NIABA are cooperating in a fun and informative joint event, "Growing Up Italian American!". The event will take place on May 19, 2021 and is available, free, for all NIABA members. See the announcement inside.

3. Our board of directors will meet, live and in person, for the first time in a year, at Litchfield, Connecticut on June 10-13, 2021. The board has had virtual meetings. Based upon the progress thus far achieved in the pandemic and loosening of restrictions, the board will meet with many in person. Those members who are unable to make the meeting will participate virtually. All NIABA board meetings are open to all NIABA members and those in the reach of the meeting are encouraged to attend.

The meeting is designed, by location, to permit great outdoor venues while avoiding the density of our typical large city locations.

The board will conduct its meeting at The Litchfield Law School, the United States of America's first law school. Tapping Reeve was a young lawyer in Litchfield, Connecticut when he opened his practice in 1772. Litchfield was enviously located between Boston and New York, hubs of early America. In 1782, Attorney Reeve abandoned the old apprenticeship system of legal education and began delivering formal lectures. He built a small, one story framed schoolhouse in his side yard. It is gloriously preserved by the Litchfield Historical Society.

Over the next forty-nine (49) years, the Litchfield Law School graduated more than 900 lawyers from 22 States and US Territories. One hundred (100) of the school's graduates became members of the United States House of Representatives, twenty-eight (28) became United States Senators, six (6) were cabinet members, two (2) served as United States Vice Presidents and three (3) sat as Justices on the United States Supreme Court.

The meetings of the NIABA board in June will take place in that very same one (1) room schoolhouse. One among the graduates of the Litchfield Law School had Italian roots in his ancestry. A presentation will be made regarding him in June.

Please visit us regularly at NIABA.org. We welcome, always, your thoughts, comments, and news. Please forward to Cindy Martin at cindylu616@comcast.net.



Fran Donnarumma
President
NIABA

Upcoming Events



NIABA presents an exciting 3 series Webinar:

Conversations with Leaders in the Law

The National Italian American Bar Association presents conversations with leaders in the law in a three (3) part series of webinars. Each features a lawyer who performs at the highest levels of the profession in that field.

The seminar will be a rare opportunity for a conversational event full of substantive law, firsthand accounts of preparation and advocacy, and focused communication to our broad collection of lawyer attendees.

Patent Litigation April 14, 2021 8:00 pm

Thank you to Edward J. DeFranco of Quinn, Emanuel, Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP for his presentation!

Whistleblower and Qui Tam

Litigation May 12, 2021 8:00 pm

Attorney Joel Androphy of Houston, Texas will present on Whistleblower and Qui Tam litigation. He is a name partner in Berg & Androphy, a firm involved in high stakes in Texas and throughout the United States, including whistleblower and Qui Tam proceedings at every level. His litigation involves white collar criminal defense, personal injury and Holocaust Art Restitution.

He has been Program Director of the American Bar Association's National False Claims and Qui Tam Trial Institute from 2013 through the present. He has been counsel to claimants who have realized millions of dollars of recoveries against government entities, medical providers, drug manufacturers and more. He has authored articles, prolifically, upon the subjects and is a leading national expert. The verdicts and recoveries have been in millions arising from wrongdoing.

Co-presenting will be Michael R. Manthei, Esq. a partner at Holland & Knight. He has litigated healthcare issues for 25 years.

In the last 10 years, Michael has served as lead counsel in over two dozen federal False Claims Act cases. He also regularly advises clients in connection with internal investigations, self-disclosures and payer audits; and advises clients on state and federal healthcare regulatory matters as they impact business operations and, in particular, sales and marketing strategies.

Moderating this presentation will be Attorney Domenic Lucarelli of Naples, Florida. He is an accomplished civil litigator and criminal attorney.

Immigration June 2, 2021 8:00 pm

Fausta Albi of Larrabee Albi Coker LLP in San Diego, California will present. She is leader in immigration law.

Attorney Albi serves as primary attorney to corporate clients, research institutes and universities, predominately in information technology, bio-technology, education, and scientific research sectors. She is expert on immigration laws, agency regulations and policies. She lectures on these subjects throughout California and nationally. Her focus in the field has evolved with the interplay of a global economy and globally mobile work force.

Moderating this presentation will be Attorney Dino Mazzone of Gattuso Bourget Mazzone of Montreal, Canada, a corporate and business firm.

see www.niaba.org for zoom links

NIABA 2021 Board Meeting

June 10-13, 2021

Thursday - Welcome Dinner - tbd

Friday - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Swearing In Ceremony

12:00 to 4:00 pm - Board Meeting

6:00 pm - Dinner - Pontelandolfo Community Club

Saturday - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm - Board Meeting

6:30 pm - Roma Ristorante

Check niaba.org for full details and info for virtual participation



National Italian American Bar Association

Men and women sharing a common heritage
in a chosen profession



ITALIAN AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

In Association with the **National Italian American Bar Association**
An Interactive Zoom Event



WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

6:00-6:15 pm: Music & Networking
6:15 pm-8:00 pm: Program

LEARN THE BASICS ON HOW TO TRACE OUR ITALIAN ROOTS

We will share the basics on how to trace our Italian roots. We will go over how to get started, the resources available, tips and how to interpret historic documents.

RSVP by Friday May 14, 2021 at our Event Page: <http://www.iala.info/event-4141301>

Questions or feedback? E-mail us at iala07@yahoo.com or call (425) 753-5420

In Remembrance of our NIABA Brother

A tribute to Joseph Sena, Jr.

As we start a new year, it's hard to believe that we lost our brother, Joseph Sena, our 16th NIABA president from 2015 - 2017, yet his legacy illuminates our efforts, his efforts grew NIABA's growth on the West coast, and his mentorship converted many into NIABA leaders, members and immigration counsel.

Fortunately for the legal community, Joe opted not to attend military school in accordance with his father's wishes, and instead pursued a political science degree at Williams College en route to Fordham Law School, graduating with honors and elevated into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa honor society. An entrepreneur, Joe opened his own firm in White Plains, New York, in 1985, and like a superhero, assisted a phenomenal 150,000 people from 120 countries with navigating the immigration process to become American citizens. Joe worked tirelessly 6 days a week for over 40 years, and represented clients throughout the country. In addition to running his own firm, Joe also served as immigration counsel for NIABA board member David DiJulio's firm as well. I remember how excited Joe was when I told him I had undergone immigration law training and obtained my immigration attorney registration for federal filings. Joe deeply believed in his clients' success, and went out of his way to assist them, as well to support them by maintaining relationships and supporting them by patronizing their restaurants, hotels and businesses whenever possible.

Many of us knew Joe through NIABA, the New York State Bar Association, and the Columbian Lawyers of Westchester County. Although he may have been best known for his efforts with NIABA, the NYSBA reflected his involvement with a wonderful summary of his career in their June 2020 article on significant lawyers lost due to the pandemic, and Joe was also quite proud of contributing to the Columbian Lawyers Association's programs to provide scholarships and to promote cultural appreciation with parades, music, food and folk dancing to celebrate Italian culture every October, Italian Heritage Month.

A love of Italian culture and community was central to Joe's soul. According to NIABA Director David DiJulio, "Joe was brilliant, yet practical, visited IALA, spoke Italian, was a well-read scholar with bibliographies of research who talk about any subject. He knew immigration law history so well that he totally predicted the current administration's creation of a pathway to citizenship 4 years ago."

NIABA Past President, Dino Mazzone, based in Montreal, Quebec, preceded Joe's term, reflected, in a recent article in *We the Italians* magazine online, that "we will miss his sweet smile. Joe was a beautiful person – I trust that he is in God's living arms and at peace. Until we meet again, my friend..." As Dino and I reminisced about Joe's wonderful war stories, appetite for reading a book a week, passion for history and museum side trips during NIABA conferences, and favorite quotes, a recurring theme was the magical way Joe started every NIABA conference with book lists and cultural delights, and ending every NIABA conference with his trademark expression to a female member or administrator, "buonasera, signorina, e tutte le belle cose."

Joe Sena created a new bond with Italian American Lawyer associations on the West Coast during his term, including the Italian American Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Lex Romana – IAL Orange County, and the Italian American Bar Association of Northern California. Ultimately, these connections over time inspired past IALA President Damian Capozzola to join the NIABA board and become an officer, along with Anthony Modarelli, Joseph D'Anthony, Alice Salvo, David DiJulio and me.

NIABA Past President Paul Finizio, who inherited the gavel of the organization after Joe's term, explained that "Joe understood the purpose of our mission, the inspiration for the perpetuation of NIABA using levity for unity, and the tradition of breaking bread together as a critical component of every gathering." Current NIABA President, Francis Donnarumma, recalled Joe's recommended reading lists, and how "the board was enriched by the depth of his knowledge of all things Italian. He shared generously his joy and enthusiasm for our heritage and law, philosophy, culture and science."

A tribute to Joseph Sena, Jr.

Some of Joe's best known presentations included his annual immigration law updates, such as "Immigration Law in the Age of Trump" (as presented to the New Rochelle Bar Association and the Los Angeles-based Italy-America Chamber of Commerce West), as well as "Terror, Terrorism, and Terrible: A Walk in the Never Never Land of Contemporary U.S. Immigration Law: A Discussion of New Immigration Law Changes and Their Impact on Criminal, Family and Probate Law" (as presented at IALA and Lex Romana-IALOC). Recently, I was reviewing Joe's book list, attached hereto, from his October 9, 2016 Annual Columbus Day Celebration at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, California, used in his "The Future of Christopher Columbus: Reflections of Contemporary Italian American Experience", which tracked the complex creation of the original holiday as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's efforts to increase the support of Italian-American voters. Naturally, even his writings promoted new Italian-American talent, such as his 2016 review of attorney Andrew Anselmi's Autumn Crush first murder mystery set in the context of the immigration process, written for Digest, NIABA Law Journal.

Outside law practice and scholarship, Joe loved great food, travelling, reading, ancient Roman history, and attending Yankees baseball games and training camps. From the Mob Museum in Las Vegas, to the IAMLA museum in the former Little Italy of Los Angeles, to the history walking district of Little Italy in San Diego, Joe absorbed culture and history everywhere he travelled. Over the years, his girlfriend, Pi Yajie, often joined him for NIABA conferences from Connecticut to San Francisco, adding her joyful personality and intellectual curiosity to every gathering. In fact, my favorite moment at the NIAF Gala portion of the Washington, D.C. NIABA conference was post-gala dancing, and seeing Joe set aside his cane and sweep Pi off her feet on the dance floor.

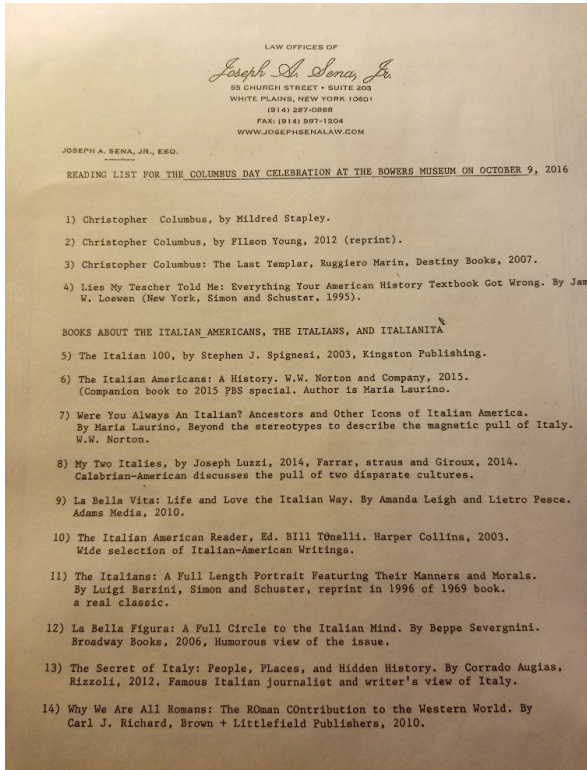
A highlight of NIABA events in Southern California included seeing Joe's brother, Charles Sena, in attendance. From Joe's stories, one felt as if she knew Joe's brother Richard, and Joe's three children. A devoted father, Joe often mentioned his daughter, Jennifer Sena, an administrator at Mt. Sinai Hospital, as well as his second daughter, Allison Sena, a marketing director at Havas. During the NIABA conference in Philadelphia, Joe took several of us on wonderful tour of eateries and favorite places in Philly he had learned about while visiting his son Ethan Sena, an associate director of cloud data at Bristol Myers Squibb, during Ethan's studies at Drexel University. In addition, Pi shared that "Uncle Joe" was instrumental in encouraging her daughter to learn to play the piano and surprising her with music books.

If one looks at NIABA's website logo photo with a wonderful group image from the Washington conference, Joe is smiling down upon us from the back row. In spirit, Joe Sena will always be a guiding force for our NIABA.

**NIABA would like to thank
Lydia Lyberio for this tribute**



A tribute to Joseph Sena, Jr.



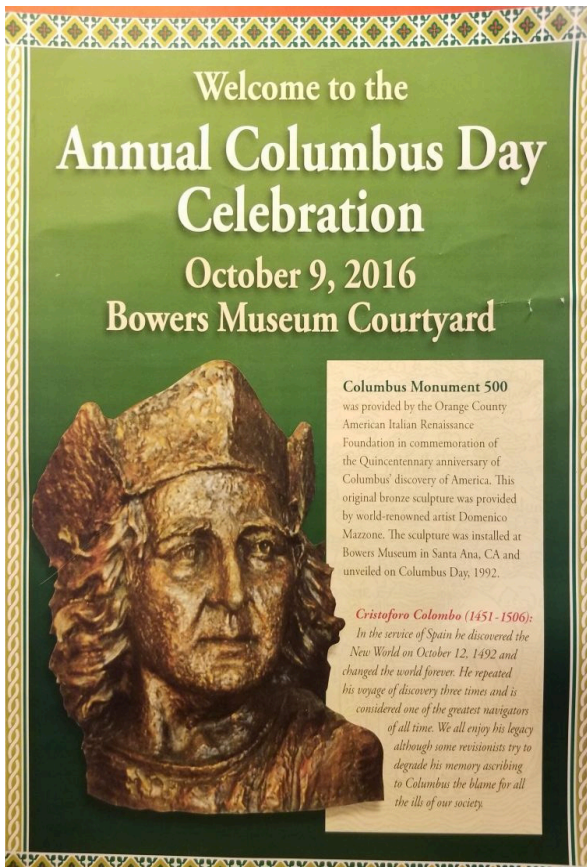
Joseph Anthony Sena, Jr passed away peacefully in Mount Kisco, NY, on April 8th, surrounded by his three beloved children; Jennifer, Allison and Ethan.

Joe had a 41-year career as an attorney specializing in immigration and consular law, the majority of which was spent at his own White Plains-based practice. During this time, he helped over 150,000 people from over 120 countries to become proud Americans; enough people to fill three "Yankee Stadiums". His love of the world and curiosity of all its cultures made him the "master storyteller" in the courtroom, wowing judges with his knowledge of the law, world history and cultures, combined with his intellect, creative arguments, and charisma.

Joe was President of NIABA (National Italian American Bar Association) from 2015 to 2017; a position that was one of his deepest prides. He also leaves a legacy of friendship both throughout the country and internationally, where he befriended and often mentored scores of other attorneys.

Joe's proudest legacy was his three children - Jennifer, Allie, and Ethan - his love for them was immeasurable. His emphasis and value for those he loved - his family, friends, and significant other, Pi Yajie - were felt by all. An alumnus of Williams College and Fordham Law, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, he had a continuous passion for learning and thinking. He was passionate about Roman and Greek history, baseball, and the New York Yankees (including trips for nearly 20 years to Spring training in Florida). An avid reader of at least one book per week, Joe's knowledge was encyclopedic and his thirst for continued learning unstoppable. He had a passion for good food and was personally known throughout restaurants in Westchester, Manhattan and Arthur Avenue in the Bronx. He loved to travel, the arts, and to experience new things, especially alongside his girlfriend, Pi Yajie.

He leaves behind his three kids - Jennifer Sena (Manhattan), Allison Sena (Manhattan), and Ethan Sena (Philadelphia); his two brothers, Charles Sena (San Clemente, CA) and Richard Sena (Boerne, TX); and his girlfriend Pi Yajie (Staten Island/Manhattan).



Notes from the NIABA Office

2021 NIABA Member Directory

You should have received your new NIABA Member Directory in the mail. If you have not received it, please reach out to Cindy Martin at cindylu616@comcast.net.

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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.

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How to Contact Us

NIABA Administrator
Cindy Martin
203-859-1018
cindylu616@comcast.net

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

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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.

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Can We Refer You?

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

* * * * *

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.



NIABA Brochures

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

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Association Presidents

Anthony Modarelli
President
Italian American Lawyers of
Orange County

In Orange County, California, our monthly meetings are normally held at local Italian restaurants. However, with the dining restrictions accompanying the pandemic, we no longer were able to meet in person. Last year, we had a virtual cooking class and wine demonstration put on by two of our members, who cooked a simple, yet elegant, Italian classic, pasta al pomodoro, and provided insight to three famously Italian red wine varietals. In 2021, we hope to continue our virtual agenda. Our current Board of Directors was renominated for the 2021 slate and is up to the challenge of pushing forward despite the challenges.

NIABA is deeply saddened of the passing of our dear friend and colleague Vincent Marchetti. Tribute to come in our next issue. Please forward any photos you would like to share to cindylu616@comcast.net



Notes from the NIABA Office

NIABA Board Member Ralph R. Liguori named a Leader in the Law by Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly



NIABA is pleased to announce that board member Ralph R. Liguori was recently named a Leader in the Law at Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly's third annual "Excellence in the Law" event.

This annual event celebrates the Rhode Island legal community's accomplishments by recognizing honorees in several different distinct categories, including Up & Coming Lawyers, Pro Bono, Judicial Excellence, Leaders in the Law, Lawyers of the Year, and Hall of Fame.

Honorees selected by Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly editorial staff from hundreds of nominees demonstrated the highest level legal excellence and exemplified the legal profession's noble tradition.

When asked what being a Leader in the Law meant to him, Attorney Ralph Liguori responded:

"I'm truly honored to have been recognized by Rhode Island Lawyer's Weekly and to be in the company of colleagues who have my respect and admiration and who have in some way all helped our profession realize its potential."

When announcing the honorees during last week's online program, event host and Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly editor Susan A. Bocamazo, provided a compelling overview of Attorney Liguori's career and contributions to the Rhode Island community. Some of her highlights included his nearly thirty years experience in general liability, personal injury, litigation, insurance subrogation, motor vehicle claims, medical malpractice, premises liability, and criminal litigation. She also remarked upon his volunteerism and leadership within various legal associations, including his participation as NIABA board member, a Fellow with the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, a member and past-President of the Justinian Law Society of Rhode Island, and a member of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. Susan also noted that Ralph is a Board of Governors for the Rhode Island Association for Justice. He has also served as President and is the current Chair of the organization's COVID 19 Response Committee.

During the event, the firm's leadership also acknowledged Ralph's award by providing video greetings, including a heartfelt congratulations from the firm's founding partner, Patrick Jones.

Member Spotlight



Cristina Carabetta, Esq.

Business owner and Attorney Cristina Carabetta has become the founder of her own company. The Legal Consult Group Inc. is an enterprise that allows Carabetta to creatively combine her business acumen and legal prowess.

Carabetta earned an undergraduate degree in International Business and Fashion Merchandising from Lynn University. After studying at prestigious Oxford University and Ireland's Trinity College, Carabetta then earned her law degree and Masters in Business Administration simultaneously, graduating from Quinnipiac University's Schools of Law and Business in 2018.

Although she is a practicing attorney, Carabetta said "I didn't see myself in a courtroom," but with her grandfather's guidance, she recognized the value of a law degree to augment her business. Through The Legal Consult Group Carabetta offers strategic business advice, financial literacy, and legal guidance to entrepreneurs, in particular small businesses and start-ups whose budgets are generally limited, putting high-powered, pricey law firms out of reach. "The cost of hiring a large law firm or having an attorney on staff isn't practical for them," said Carabetta, who structured her business model and pricing to offer clients flexibility and affordability.

Carabetta and The Legal Consult Group have already made a mark on the legal and business professions providing invaluable services from routine business planning and related legalities, to legal challenges. Since the Covid-19 pandemic she has helped small businesses navigate the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security or CARES Act and Paycheck Protection Program, aiding them in the loan application process and making recommendations for a course of action. "I want to help small businesses succeed and grow. Their success is my success," said Carabetta, who divides her time between Connecticut and New York City.

Carabetta's goal is to expand her own business into other states and abroad. She is currently licensed to practice law in Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, and Florida. In 2019 she was formally inducted to serve on the Board of Directors for the National Italian American Bar Association.

Being an active member of NIABA allows her to grow her career while staying connected to her heritage. Carabetta's maternal grandparents immigrated to the US from Caserta, Italy and her paternal great grandparents immigrated from Calabria. Her parents instilled the importance of Italian culture. "I am proud to be Italian-American" said Carabetta, who after attending her first NIABA meeting as a student, instantly discovered the familial connection of NIABA. "Being a part of NIABA allows me to grow my professional network nationally and internationally. However, equally important, NIABA allows me to promote and preserve my culture. I truly consider NIABA to be my family-in-law."

Italian Global Connections

JUDGE ELIZABETH A. BOZZUTO THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ZOOM MEETING OCTOBER 31, 2020

First, many thanks to Connecticut's very own Fran Donnaruma, for not only his passionate national leadership, but his friendship and commitment to CT. Fran, you make us all so very proud. On behalf of the Connecticut Judiciary to our colleagues down under, greetings and welcome to this inaugural event joining our two countries and more importantly our embrace of our respective Italian Heritage.

Today we take a moment to pause and celebrate our countries respective history regarding a woman's right to vote. One hundred years ago, the 19th Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution, which set in stone the right to vote for women. Perhaps it is part of the American nature or just simply human nature in general, but when people feel strongly enough about something, they're not afraid to fight for it. This is particularly true of the American suffragettes, among whom was a group called the Silent Sentinels. These women demonstrated peaceably, but over the course of daily protests, right in front of the White House, that spanned the course of 10 months, President Woodrow Wilson, the police, the courts and the public grew increasingly intolerant of their cause. At the time, we were in the midst of WW1 and the activities of the suffragists was seen as unforgivably unpatriotic. Ultimately, the women were imprisoned in a facility that would be completely unacceptable by today's standards – filthy cells, worm-ridden food, dirty drinking water and bug infested beds.

And make no mistake, it is reported in many historical accounts, they were brutalized, on the orders of a warden who wanted to teach these impertinent women a lesson. One woman had her hands shackled to the top of a cell, forcing her to stand all night; guards also threatened her with a straitjacket and buckle gag. Guards slammed down another protester on the arm of an iron bench. Yet another lost consciousness after a guard smashed her head into an iron bed, and a witness to the assault suffered a heart attack, but did not receive any medical attention until the next day.

I try to put myself in their shoes and to imagine how these women suffered physically and mentally for something we all so easily take for granted today...the simple, yet very powerful, right to vote. But these woman never gave up. They kept up the fight, and from a U.S. perspective regarding the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, it's important to always remember their sacrifices, their courage, and resolve.

Moreover, when you think about it, the action suffragettes took on behalf of themselves and future generations of women also laid the groundwork for equality in the workplace and at home for American women. The 19th Amendment furthered the cause that women were not property, that we clearly have a mind of our own, independently have the right to work and earn equal pay outside of the home, and may stand up to assert these rights the same as any man. By gaining the right to vote, woman joined in voice on important matters of the day. We must ask ourselves.... without that right to vote would any of us have had the opportunity to be where we are today? Maybe a few, but not a lot. The 19th Amendment not only granted a woman the individual right to vote, but created a whole new bloc of voters, and while we may approach issues from different angles, we can be a mighty force when united.

Italian Global Connections cont.

It also stands to reason that without the right to vote, women never would have been allowed to run for office. I find it hard to imagine a landscape without women in elected federal, state and local offices. Many of them fight vociferously for women's rights, or for issues that may greatly impact a woman, such as domestic violence. It is a perspective that must be heard and represented within our institutions, and honor the 19th Amendment as the gateway to these advances.

I believe the same goes for the legal profession, and I want to take you back to 1860 when a woman named Myra Bradwell filed an application for a law license with the Illinois Supreme Court. In denying her application, the justices cited, quote, "the disability imposed by your married condition" rendered her unfit to practice law.

A few years later the Wisconsin Supreme Court rejected the application to practice law filed by Lavinia Goodell. These justices ruled, and I quote, "Nature has tempered woman as little for the judicial conflicts of the courtroom as for the physical conflicts of the battlefield ... Women are modeled for gentler and better things ... Discussions are habitually necessary in courts of justice that are unfit for female ears."

I could say something unfit for everybody's ears right now, but I will refrain. My point is this: the 19th Amendment enshrined the right to reject this mindset and move forward in society, hopefully with the goal of further improving it for the generations who will follow us. We owe them – and those who fought for us – no less. Long live the Suffragettes and the men who supported them! And thank you for allowing me to share a piece of our history of a woman's right to vote in the United States.

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ITALIAN GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Join us on a discussion on:

**Italics
and comparative legal
anthropologies**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

G. T Pagone - Patron of AILA
Francis Donnarumma - President of NIABA
Piero Basetti - President of Globus et Locus
Carlo Gamberino - Professor at Bocconi University
Milan

WHEN AND WHERE - FOLLOW THE LINK
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85821294047>

ITALY - Thursday 10 December 2020 at 10.00pm
USA: Thursday 10 December 2020 at 1.00pm PST
Thursday 10 December 2020 at 4.00pm EST
AUSTRALIA: Friday 11 December 2020 at 8.00 am AEDT

Christopher Columbus ~ What We All Need to Know

Christopher Columbus' voyage was a world altering event that forever shaped the course of human history. As a result of Columbus' heroic voyage, the Old World and New World became One World, and for over 525 years his story has inspired impoverished people from throughout the world to pursue the American dream in an effort to provide a better life for their families.

Italian Americans have a unique and inseparable bond with Columbus because he provided our community with the ability to overcome the prejudice, bias and violence we encountered in our long and difficult journey to assimilate into America's mainstream culture.

All Italian Americans have ever sought to do, is to be allowed to celebrate our Italian American culture, achievements and contributions to our country, as so many other groups are able to do. Yet we find ourselves being forced to defend Columbus Day, and protect Columbus statues, in city after city, state after state, and now in Congress, from some Native Americans and their radical revisionist supporters, who want to rewrite American history to have it conform to their own misguided political and social agendas.

In our efforts to defend Columbus Day throughout the country, we have found that those who seek to change the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day do so by promoting a false narrative, which at best exaggerates the facts, and at worst, fabricates them. Their goal is to condemn the European colonization of America, with an often underlying theme centered on an anti-Italian and anti-Catholic bigotry. It is of importance to note that the first attacks on Columbus and his legacy occurred 100 years ago when the Klu Klux Klan resorted to violence and intimidation to abolish Columbus Day celebrations, and just as the radical bigoted right sought to do then, the radical bigoted left seeks to do now.

Here is what we, as Italian Americans, need to know to intelligently and effectively advocate our point of view.

In 1891, the largest mass lynching in American history took place in New Orleans, when 11 Italian immigrants were hung and shot by a mob of over 5,000 people for the alleged murder of the city's police chief, for which they had been tried, and none had been found guilty. A wave of anti Italian bigotry and hatred swept the country in part do to editorials that appeared in the New York Times and other prominent papers applauding the lynchings. The following year, in 1892, President Benjamin Harrison, being distraught over the lynchings in New Orleans, called for a national celebration of Columbus to attempt to promote patriotism and unity in America, do to the fact that Columbus was held in high esteem by all Americans.

At the heart of the Native American's argument to abolish Columbus Day, and destroy Columbus statues, is their effort to demonize Columbus in an effort to minimize his contributions to world history. They use emotionally charged terms such as slavery and genocide when speaking about Columbus.

What they fail to acknowledge is that it is intellectually dishonest to attempt to judge any historical figure by contemporary values and standards. Historical figures must be judged in the context of the time in which they lived.

As a further distortion of the facts, Native Americans promote the belief that they existed in a utopia before Columbus arrived, and that he was the cause of all the problems that befell them, from the time of his arrival to this day.

The truth of the matter is that many of the native tribes Columbus encountered in the Caribbean were engaged in bloody tribal wars. The Carib, Canib and Arawak tribes engaged in slavery, torture, and in some cases cannibalism. Their culture was primitive and often very violent.

As far as the issue of slavery is concerned, Columbus never owned a slave, nor did he bring any slaves from Africa to the Americas. Slave ships from Africa to the Americas did not arrive until 1619, and was a practice begun by the British and the Dutch over 100 years after Columbus had died.

Columbus did take 500 captured Native Americans, who had massacred 40 of his men to Spain to be sold as slaves, which was a common practice in the 15th century for those captured in war. Native Americans in the Caribbean, as well as the more advanced Native American civilizations of the Aztecs, Incas and Mayans kept slaves, and practiced torture, ritual murder and human sacrifice, a fact Native Americans choose not to mention when they attempt to vilify Columbus. Further, there is now credible evidence that some Native Americans tribal leaders owned African slaves.

The term genocide is used by Native Americans who argue that Columbus brought diseases to the New World from Europe which caused the death of many Native Americans. Diseases have always been part of the natural course of human evolution and until recently have been a blight that humanity has had little or no control over. To blame Columbus for the spread of disease is as absurd an argument as blaming the Native Americans for all the ills that tobacco, cocaine and syphilis have caused the world, as it was the Native Americans who passed these drugs and diseases along to the Europeans.

The Italian American community has strongly supported the creation of an Indigenous People's Day so that Native Americans may celebrate their heritage. The United Nations has designated August 9th, as Indigenous People's Day world-wide. This would seem to be the appropriate day for Native Americans to celebrate their heritage, however Native Americans can select any day they choose, so long as it isn't Columbus Day. That is our one day to celebrate who we are, where we came from, and what we have accomplished.

As Italian Americans we should never be intimidated or embarrassed to publicly proclaim our support for the important contributions Christopher Columbus has made to world history, and for maintaining Columbus Day as both a Federal holiday, and a day of celebration in every city throughout our country.

Basil M. Russo is the President of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, COPOMIAO.org and National President of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America, orderisda.org

Suggested reading list for those seeking to learn the truth about Christopher Columbus:

Christopher Columbus The Hero: Defending Columbus from Modern Day Revisionism by Rafael Ortiz. Create Space. 2017

Christopher Columbus vs Indigenous Peoples' Day: The Truth Behind the Anti-Columbus Movement by Raphael Ortiz. Create Space. 2017

Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem: How Religion Drove the Voyages that Led to America by Carol Delaney. Free Press. 2012

Debunking Howard Zinn: Exposing the Fake History that Turned a Generation Against America by Mary Grabar. Regnery History. 2020.



You will find three sign posts on Caterina Ranieri's path through the legal profession: a personal connection, a passion, and a deep need to honor family roots that stretches back to the old country in Davoli, Calabria, Italy.

It started with her parents. Be self-reliant, they told her. Get a good education. Work hard. So, Caterina went to college and became the first person in her family to earn a four-year degree. The idea of justice resonated with her, so it was on to law school and a J.D. degree at Syracuse University, College of Law. She discovered a passion for helping people who couldn't help themselves, so she became an advocate for children in the family court system, and then as an attorney representing criminal defendants who couldn't afford an attorney. And that was just the beginning.

A love of dancing led Caterina to a new passion: immigration law. She was taking lessons at a dance studio, when the owner asked if she'd be interested in helping international dancers find work in the U.S. It reminded Caterina of her parents and the journey they took from Italy to find a new life here.

In 1958, Caterina's mother, Anna Primerano was 17 years old when she and her family came to the United States from Davoli, a little mountainous town that overlooks the Ionio Sea. They settled in Syracuse, N.Y., a robust city teeming with Italian immigrants. Anna became a seamstress, learning the family trade. Five years later, she became an American citizen. But something – someone – was missing. Anna had left behind the love of her life. Back across the Atlantic she went to marry Giuseppe Ranieri. A year later, with Anna pregnant with twins, the couple returned to Syracuse with faith in God and faith in each other that they could make a beautiful future for their family.

Remember, Caterina's connections are personal. She discovered that, because her father was an Italian citizen when she was born, she could apply for Italian citizenship via *iure sanguinis*. She received her Italian passport in the summer of 2013. "This connected me back to my roots," Caterina would remember proudly, when she decided to focus her practice solely on dual citizenship, to give legal help to others so that they might honor their heritage and family history and achieve their dreams to be recognized as citizens of Italy.

As an immigration attorney, Caterina presented on panels and co-authored articles and legal alerts in this increasingly demanding industry. She has returned to the old country several times, accompanied by her children, to visit and bond with their extended family, so that the next generation can hear and pass on stories and keep the personal connection moving forward.

"I can work at anything that I am passionate about or that I can connect with. Immigration I connected with because I was helping dancers and I was already dancing. Dual citizenship I connected with because it was part of my family journey. Coaching lawyers is connected to me because of my lawyerly experience with burnout and wanting to change professions. There's got to be a connection there that resonates with me to want to do it."

—Caterina Ranieri

Caterina connected one more personal experience to another passion of hers, which she remembers all too well. It was the day she took a phone call under a conference room table – she literally crawled under the desk so that no one in the law office would hear her acknowledge that the job wasn't worth the stress and headaches and high blood pressure that she was experiencing.

Caterina learned how to align her values, get clarity around her own needs and wants, and improved the quality of her life. Today, she is certified Integrative NLP Coach, offering that same expert coaching help to attorneys and other professionals who are experiencing burn out and stress in their own careers.

A personal connection, a passion, and a deep need to honor family roots: sign posts on one lawyer's entrepreneurial path.

"In the late 1970s, when we were going through a massive recession, that was the year my parents decided to open a tailor shop," Caterina remembers. "Talk about doing the opposite of what everyone else was doing! But they were successful."

"I got that spirit from them. It's just something they instilled in me."

**Caterina Ranieri lives and works in suburban Syracuse, N.Y.
She can be reached through her website: dualcitizenshiplawyer.com**

Messages from Italian Heritage Bar Associations

My name is Mariana Noli and only a few weeks ago, I was “virtually” sworn in as the 2021 President the Italian American Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (IALA), along with our new Officers and Board of Governors. I have been a member of this group since 2007, when IALA scholarship recipient and my good friend Jennifer Grady, invited me to join her for dinner at one of the famous Casa Italiana nights in downtown Los Angeles.

IALA was founded in 1977, though officially incorporated a year later. What brought our founders together in the first place is what continues to bring us together: the celebration of our common Italian American heritage. Italian Americans in the US faced race and employment discrimination before and after WWII. Our founders’ vision was to join efforts and terminate with the prejudice against Italian Americans, assisting Italian American lawyers in the development of their legal career and with the hope to get more Italian American lawyers get appointed to the bench and the judiciary.

Before Covid19, our group has been well-known for decades in the legal community of Los Angeles for hosting wonderful monthly dinners at Casa Italiana, having incredible speakers, organizing interesting MCLE programs, and of course most importantly delicious mostaccioli. Some of our IALA signature monthly events include our GARLIC and GAELIC night with the Irish-American Bar Association, a fantastic annual New York Italian street fair, a joint event with many other bar associations in Los Angeles for MARCO POLO NIGHT, and our pride, the signature California Supreme Court Night.

Our immediate past President, encouraged and supported by other leaders in our group, was able to turn an unfortunate circumstance such as Covid19 into a positive! Taking advantage of the fact that we are all “staying at home”, last year our group coordinated several virtual meetings with high profile guest speakers outside the Los Angeles area, even outside California, such as US Supreme Court Justice Alito or NIAF Director Dr. Fauci, to name a few.

Covid19 has certainly presented many challenges to bar association leaders across the world but it has also created the opportunity to “virtually” bring many of us together. When I took my oath last month, I promised to use my leadership role in this group to do my very best to keep us together and engaged. In 2021, our plan is to continue to get together on Zoom (until we can meet in person again) to celebrate what brought our founders and us together in the first place, OUR COMMON ITALIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE. We started this year with our virtual installation by learning about Italian brands, Italy’s appellation of origins, the history of pasta, had fun with famous Italian hand gestures. I am excited to share that we are co-sponsoring with the Italian American Bar Association of Northern California (IABA) a Diversity and Inclusion Award Night honoring Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Eric Taylor and San Francisco Super Court Judge Loretta Giorgi. Part of this program will include learning about the architecture of iconic buildings and streets in LA by Italian Americans from Italian Architect Elena Manferdini. If you want to join us, please see: <http://www.iala.info/event-4105863>

In the coming months, we are planning an Italian American Entertainment Night where we will hear from Italian Americans in the Entertainment World and we will play the famous Tombola game. We also want to coordinate a panel on how it was to grow up Italian in America, and invite all the leaders and members of other Italian American lawyers’ groups across the United States to join us.

Of course, my hope is that we get together in person soon, but until then, that we will continue to gather and celebrate our common Italian American heritage safely from the comfort of our homes. You are all very welcome to join us! For more information, please visit events on our website <http://www.iala.info/page-1836071>

Mariana Paula Noli
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Welcome New NIABA Members

Welcome to the following members, who joined NIABA between September 1, 2019 and April 1, 2021

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Report of the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee meet on December 1, 2020, all members present. After careful deliberation, it was unanimously voted to approve the following slate for officers and directors of NIABA for the 2021-2023 term.

OFFICERS

President- Francis Donnarumma

Exec Vice Pres.- Frank Sommario

Secretary- Alice Salvo

Treasurer- Charles Di Lorenzo

Historian- Dino Mazzone

Exec VP New England- Ralph Liguori

Exec VP Mid Atlantic- Gerald Bilotto

Exec VP Midwest- Kenneth Jenero

Exec VP South- Domenic Lucarelli

Exec VP West- David Di Julio

Exec VP Italy- Antonello Pierro

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Claire Ambrosio (CA)

Judge John Barone (NY)

Phil Boncore (MA)*

Antonitta Brancaccio (FL)

Cirino Bruno (NY)*

Damian Capozzaola (CA)

Cristine Carabetta (CT)

Lorraine Corsa (NY)

Joseph D'Anthony (CA)

David Di Julio (CA)

Marco Di Fazi (Rome)

Francis Donnarumma (CT)

Charles Di Lorenzo (NJ)

Daniel Elliott (CT)

Paul Finizio (FL)*

Anthony Gianfrancesco (RI)*

Kenneth Jenero (IL)

Lydia Liberio (CA)

Ralph Liguori (RI)

Domenic Lucarelli (FL)

Joseph Maria (FL)

Dino Mazzone (Montreal)*

James Michalski (CA)

Anthony Modarelli (CA)

Raymond Pacia (RI)*

Antonello Pierro (Milan)

Sigismondo Renda (NY)

Chris Salamone (FL)

Cristina Salamone (CT)

Alice Salvo (CA)

Franco Schiro (Montreal)

Frank Joseph Schiro (WI)*

Frank Sommario (IL)

Valerio Spinaci (FL)

Judge Paul Victor (AZ)

*Denotes past President



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)

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

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 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.

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