



NIABA News

Men and women sharing a common heritage in a chosen professional

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President's Message

Connecting Through NIABA

Broadening NIABA Horizons - 2023

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

NIABA News finds us with relationships abounding.

Having realized formal relationships with the Unione CRINT Italiana, the network of international committees of Italian bar associations across the Republic of Italy, as well as with the Australian Italian Bar Association, our association has extended its contacts, opportunities, network exchanges, and more in wonderful and developing ways.



In September 2022, NIABA leadership met in Milan, with Francesca Zanasi, originator of CRINT, as well as bar association presidents and leaders of a broad collection of Italian bar associations. This was followed by our highly successful Italy Seminar 2022 led by our directors Anthony Gianfrancesco, Antoinetta Brancaccio- Balzano, and Ralph Ligouri. The Bar of Naples, through its president and vice-president, Antonio Tafuri and Gabriele Esposito, respectively, broadly welcomed us to the heart of the south, Naples.

When the board of directors of NIABA meets in several days, February 3 and 4, 2023 in New York, a virtual conference will be held with our colleagues of the Australian Italian Bar Association. Announcement will be made, then, of a live and joint venture of both associations to take place in 2024. Fifty (50) lawyers from each of the two (2) associations will assemble live and together. Look forward to our details upon the formalization of our new venture in a matter of days!

Executive Vice President Frank Sommario and Anthony Gianfrancesco, past president, have been working feverously in reestablishing, strengthening, and collaborating with the many regional Italian heritage bar associations across the country. Having moved from a traditional dues model of NIABA member participation to an individual member contribution model, Frank and Anthony are presenting an opportunity for participation in NIABA by regional Italian heritage bar

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members. The process is ongoing and associations across the country are readily participating.

I have had the privilege of serving upon the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations for the past four (4) years. Our association was proudly represented by our Chairwoman, Cristina Carabetta, and board member Maria Chiara Parisi in the first ever Italian American Future Leaders Conference which was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from January 13 – 16, 2023. The Conference of Presidents enjoyed a grant from the Ohio Italians Sons & Daughters of America and in kind contributions from John Viola and his family. The event brought Italian American young and emerging leaders, ages 21 through 35, together to knit networks, enthusiasm, and participation among their peers across the United States.

NIABA board member Marianna Noli ,a past president of the Italian Lawyers Association in Los Angeles, is working towards a relationship with Italian heritage lawyers in Argentina. This will be a natural fit and model the relationships we have already established, as noted above. Our NIABA members and colleagues in Italy, Romolo Reboa and Massimo Reboa, have facilitated an interview with me which will appear in the widely distributed magazine, Gente d’Italia, an Italian magazine published in North and South America. Once published, it will suggest NIABA opportunity and invitation to Italian heritage lawyers throughout that southern continent.

Domestically, wonderful strides are being made in both St. Louis and Phoenix to establish Italian heritage bar associations. Honorary Consul in Phoenix, Roberta Gentili-Purcell, has been nominated to join the board of NIABA and will continue to establish the relationship among Italian heritage lawyers there. Attorneys met, just days ago, in St. Louis and are formally acting to file and register their new entity. We will have a new regional Italian heritage bar association, there, with news to follow.

The horizons for NIABA are broad and limitless. The ultimate delivery to our NIABA members is referral opportunities, live and virtual seminars and webinars, opportunities to participate in the NIABA committee system, conveniently arranged and easy to manage trips to Italy, and exposure to colleagues and peers interested in personal exchange, professional exchange, and sharing of our common history, culture, and profession.

Francis Donnarumma
President



Upcoming Events



Winter 2023 BOARD MEETING:
New York City

Forty Years Later: NIABA to Meet in
New York City

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Italian American Bar Association will take place February 3 and 4, 2023, in New York City. All NIABA members are welcome to attend!

The meetings will take place at the Columbus Citizens Foundation on the upper east side.

The meeting in New York celebrates the 40th anniversary of the initial meeting of lawyers who created the National Italian American Bar Association in Greenwich Village in 1983.

The meetings at the Columbus Citizens Foundation will be kicked off with a welcoming dinner at The Taverna at the foundation on Thursday, February 2, 2023.

Please visit www.NIABA.org for the weekend's events and registration



Please check www.NIABA.org for all our upcoming events



Naples Seminar 2022, A Success!

The Bar of Naples, led by its President Antonio Tafuri and its Vice President Gabriele Esposito, welcomed our seminar attendees with open arms in September, 2022. Event Chairperson Anthony Gianfrancesco worked closely with our director Antonietta Brancaccio-Balzano, a native of Naples, Italy, in arranging for the wonderful opportunity. Attorney Brancaccio-Balzano, is Honorary Consul of Italy in south Florida. She conducts an immigration law practice there and in Naples, Italy.

Italian lawyers presented on six (6) subjects of interest. Attendees from across the United States enjoyed the continuing legal education opportunity. A wonderful exposure to places, people and event through Naples and the region followed.

Dinners were arranged and shared by the attendees in Naples and upon the Isle of Capri.

The Italy seminar series was originated by NIABA through the efforts of its current treasurer, P. Charles DiLorenzo. The 2022 adventure was the first outside of Rome. It is anticipated that there will be seminars held, every other year, throughout other regions of Italy!



NIABA Leadership Meets With CRINT Italiane - 2022

The leadership of the National Italian American Bar Association attended a joint meeting with Francesca Zanasi, one of the founders of the Unione CRINT Italiane, a network of the international committees of Italian bar associations, and her colleagues. Leaders of CRINT and of bar associations throughout the north of Italy were present for the meeting. In the first opportunity to gather, live and in person, the gathering was facilitated by NIABA board members, each resident in Rome, Marco De Fazi and Giampaolo Girardi. The strengthening of the CRINT relationship with NIABA was accomplished through a meeting, enjoyment of dinner at the residence of Attorney Zanasi, and participation in a formal, joint meeting in the Court in Milan.

The relationship with CRINT is a direct, formal, and exciting opportunity for exchange with our colleagues throughout Italy



Reminder and Appreciation of Honorary Member



Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Associate Justice

The National Italian American Bar Association continues to enjoy the honorary membership of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Samuel Alito. Since 2019, Justice Alito has continued in our relationship as an honorary member.

Justice Alito has extended every courtesy, within the bounds of conduct permitted Justices of the Court. Most memorably, Justice Alito greeted the association board, visiting attorney guests, and students participating with us from the law schools at the American University and The Catholic University of America, each located in Washington, DC. At that private meeting, the Justice was engaging and shared insight into the Court and its history.

In 2021, the Honorable William Nardini, a Judge upon the United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, based in New York, participated in our post-covid return to live board meetings in June. The meeting was held at the very first law school in the United States of America, preciously preserved in Litchfield, Connecticut, with its original building, The Tapping Reeve Law School. Judge Nardini, having served in the United States Department of Justice as counsel for criminal matters in Rome, Italy, made easy the virtual meeting with lawyers and bar leaders throughout Italy. He was able to converse in fluent Italian and English. He was a wonderful vessel for the exchange, our first formal meeting with our colleagues in Italy.

Our association is always supportive of lawyers of Italian heritage who serve in the judiciary at every jurisdiction and level.

ITALIAN HERITAGE LEADERS RISE IN CONNECTICUT JUDICIAL SYSTEM - 2023

The Connecticut Chief Court Administrator, Patrick L. Carroll, III, will take senior status on January 30, 2023, Connecticut Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard Robinson announced.

Two (2) lawyers of Italian heritage, each in long service as Judges of the Superior Court in Connecticut, have been designated to assume leadership of the judicial branch.

Honorable Elizabeth Bozzuto has been appointed the new Chief Court Administrator in Connecticut. Judge Buzzuto has attended events of the National Italian American Bar Association in Connecticut. She was selected to present on behalf of our nation upon celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in the United States. Judge Buzzuto, in the live virtual conference held with our colleagues of the Australian Italian Bar Association, was fierce and moving in her description of the history of women in this country. The 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage coincided with the very same time frame and anniversary in Australia.

Our association was graced by Judge Buzzuto's presentation. The international audience, joining virtually, was moved to considerable praise and reaction following her presentation.



The second in command of the Judicial Branch, as Deputy Chief Court Administrator, will be **Honorable Anna Ficeto**. Judge Ficeto, prior to elevation to the bench, served as legal counsel to former Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell. She was nominated to the Superior Court in January 2012 by then Governor Dannel P. Malloy. Judge Ficeto was honored in 2022 by the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association for her service as the Judge of Superior Court. It is a remarkable feat that the two (2) top leadership positions within the Connecticut Judicial Branch will be held by women of Italian heritage. Congratulations to Judge Buzzuto and Judge Ficeto in being exemplary representatives arising from our heritage.

The president of the Connecticut Italian American Bar Association (CIABA), **Danielle Rado**, commented upon the appointments.

“Both Judge Bozzuto and Judge Ficeto have been contributing members and supporters of CIABA for many years. They are valued members and we are so happy for their success. I expect the judicial branch under their leadership to usher in a new era of technology-forward processes and a renewed, productive working relationship with the Bar. Judge Bozzuto is a tireless administrator who has always been willing to listen to all who came before her when she sat on the bench and in her prior role as deputy chief court administrator. She works until the job is done and cares deeply about the judicial system which makes her a remarkable choice to take the reins and take judicial out of the pandemic smoothly.

“Judge Ficeto has shown herself to be an amazing jurist as well as an effective leader as Administrative Judge and Presiding Family Judge in the Judicial District of Waterbury. She has a tremendous ability, not unlike Judge Bozzuto, to cut to the chase and find pragmatic solutions to complex issues. She will surely complement Judge Bozzuto with her skills in Hartford, but she will be sorely missed in the Waterbury Judicial District.”

**PUBLICATION TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AS
SUBMITTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN AND ITS SECRETARY PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VII OF THE
BY-LAWS OF THE NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

Term – 2023 to 2025

Annual Meeting June 9 and 10, 2023 in Chicago, Illinois

OFFICERS

President Frank Sommario (IL)
Vice Pres Alice Salvo (CA)
Secretary Domenic Luccarelli (FL)
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VP New England Cristina Carabetta (CT)
VP Midwest Angela Lavin (OH)
VP West Marianna Noli (CA)
VP Mid Atlantic Charles DiLorenzo (NJ)
VP Canada Dino Mazzone (Canada)
VP Marco DeFazi (Italy)

BOARD MEMBERS (in addition to past Presidents and above officers)

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Joseph Andolino (NJ)
Honorable John Barone (NY)
Phil Boncore (MA)*
Antonella Brancaccio (FL)
Cirino Bruno (NY) *
Lorraine Corsa (NY)
Francis Donnarumma (CT)*
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Vincent Garozzo (MO)
Roberta Gentile (AZ)
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Giampaolo Girardi (Italy)
David DiJulio (CA)
Kenneth Jenero (IL)
Raymond Pacia (RI) *
Maria Chiara Parisi (CA)
Lydia Liberio (CA)
James Michalski (CA)
Antonello Pierro (Italy)
Chris Salamone (FL)
Franco Schiro (Canada)
Frank Schiro (WI) *
Sigismondo Renda (NY)

At the meeting of the National Italian American Bar Association held in Washington, DC in October 2022, the board enjoyed remarks from Doug Lanzo. As vice-president and general counsel of a finance industry company, Doug has moved well from large law to in-house position in finance. A graduate of Harvard College and of Harvard Law School, he is an example of success and hard work in the profession. During covid, Doug pursued his long-held interest in writing. He has emerged as a much-published author and poet. Gracious and giving in his participation with our board, with his leave, a piece of his work is set forth below.

The Beacon of Light We Share, By Douglas J. Lanzo, Copyright 2022

*Strong ties of our connection
and bonds of values shared
are deeper than divisions
daily trumpeted and aired.
Democracy resilient,
institutions standing fast,
show wisdom of our Founders,
building liberty to last.
From the birth of our nation
there were differences at play,
yet principles unite us
despite tempers that may fray.
Imperfect as are humans
are the forms of government,
yet the most perfect systems
that we ever did invent...
are ones enshrining freedom –
that no one should circumvent.
With cries for freedom ringing
from Beijing to Teheran,
with courageous protesters
in Russia and Kazakhstan,
there is no sanctuary
for those who would freedom ban.
So stand fast with our beacon
of light high upon a hill,
for no power can deny
divine gift of our free will.*



Notes from the NIABA Office

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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 NIABA at cindylu616@comcast.net 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 out 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](#)? If not, you may be missing valuable referrals! Members of the public use the Lawyer Search function, and sometimes contact us directly, looking for an attorney. The more information in your profile, the more likely they will choose you. Don't miss valuable opportunities. Login and update your profile now.

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Member Logo Available

It's easy to show your NIABA affiliation on your firm's website or marketing materials. Contact the NIABA office at 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](#). We encourage you to share the brochure with anyone who might be interested in joining NIABA. For hard copies to distribute to your colleagues or group, please contact the NIABA [office](#).

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Our 2019 Scholarship recipient, Francesca Simone wrote a legal research article on Italian American Congressman Peter Rodino and how his Italian heritage influenced his legislation, particularly immigration reform and Columbus Day. Most of the research is from the Peter Rodino archives at Seton Hall Law; no one has ever written a paper using them before Francesca. See the full article on our website at niaba.org/scholarship

THE ITALIAN LAW JOURNAL

The National Italian American Bar Association is now a proud sponsor of the Italian Law Journal. The Italian Law Journal is the leading international legal journal on Italian law, fostering academic debate on areas like Italian legal theory, comparative law, international law, and European law. Current and past issues are available at www.theitalianlawjournal.it.

We encourage scholars, students, and practicing attorneys to submit articles that could be of relevance to the journal for review. Manuscripts should be sent through Scholastica or by emailing info@theitalianlawjournal.it. More details on submissions can be found at <https://www.theitalianlawjournal.it/submissions/>.

If you are interested in working with the Italian Law Journal as an editor or in another capacity, please contact the journal at info@theitalianlawjournal.it



If you have additional content you would like to see here, please email your submissions to Cindy Martin at cindylu616@comcast.net



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 & Contributions: _____

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 contributions and any other amounts listed above. Make checks payable to NIABA.

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