



NIABA News

Men and women sharing a common heritage in a chosen professional

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President's Message

Connecting Through NIABA

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Welcome to the National Italian American Bar Association! This affinity bar, formed forty (40) years ago, is a welcoming platform for you and your professional growth.

Our association welcomes attorneys of Italian heritage and those who support the goals, interests and passions of Italian culture, history, and law. Participation at every and every level is immediate. Express your writing talent in our NIABA News, explore your creative side in expanding our media presence, organize or present on your expertise in webinars, or travel to Italy and meet your peers in settings, both collegial and personal. There is no barrier to joining, not even a membership fee, and your help and participation will be welcomed by all.

I conclude my service as President of our association, having the opportunity of two (2) terms. In 2019, our officers and directors were sworn in at the Ceremonial Court Room of the New Haven, Connecticut by Honorable Lubbie Harper, Jr., a Justice of the Supreme Court of that State. Two years later, our second administration was sworn in by Honorable William Nardini, a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit. As our first post covid event, we were joined, virtually, by bar association leaders from across Italy, colleagues from Australia and leaders of American lay organizations. The event took place at the Tapping Reeve law school in Litchfield, Connecticut, the very first law school in the United States of America.

Over the last four (4) years, we have formalized relationships with the Unione CRINT Italiana, a network of the Italian bar associations. We have become united with the Australian Italian Bar Association, and we are embarking upon a relationship with the British Italian Law Association. Our international reach has resulted in interaction, friendships, and referral opportunities once unimaginable. We will have the first ever joint meeting of our association and our Australian friends in Italy in September 2024.



Cont. from page 1

We have strong bonds with the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, the National Italian American Foundation, and many more! In recent months, our association has entered into a relationship with Sidley Austin, the national firm, with Attorney Joseph Coniglio as our primary counsel. Representation by that esteemed firm bodes well for our efforts to bring forward our corporate structure and governance. Through our Director Kenneth Jenero, a partner in Holland and Knight, we continue to enjoy and appreciate the generosity of that firm in hosting meetings throughout the country.

At present, there is a surge of success in creating new regional associations throughout the United States, including Phoenix, St. Louis, and Florida. Many of the longstanding regional associations are already participating in our national platform while retaining their deserved independence.

The best news I can share is that a wonderful new team will lead NIABA beginning with the inaugural event in Chicago on June 9, 2023. Frank Sommario of Chicago will become President of our association. He will lead with Alice Salvo of Los Angeles as executive vice president, Ralph Liguori of Rhode Island as treasurer, and Dominic Lucarelli of Florida as secretary. Our new board of directors will include many of long service and a group of first-time directors. The blend, I am certain, will bring vision and efficiency to our delivery of services to you, our members, and those who consider becoming part of this wonderful association.

I thank the Board of Directors and members who permitted me to serve. It has been a privilege and an experience of a lifetime. I look forward to continued participation under the leadership of Frank Sommario. As is our custom, this edition of NIABA News will bring life and color to Frank's professional achievements. Please read on!

I leave you with my gratitude and appreciation.

Francis Donnarumma
President



Upcoming Events



Summer 2023 BOARD MEETING:

Chicago, IL

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Italian American Bar Association will take place June 8 - 10, 2023, in Chicago, IL. All NIABA members are welcome to attend!

The meetings will take place at the offices of Holland and Knight.

The weekend will celebrate and install the incoming NIABA President, Frank A. Sommario.

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

Agenda for June 8-10, 2023 Board Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 6:00 pm ~ Welcome Dinner. Adalina, 912 N State St, Chicago, IL 60610. \$100 per person. Open bar.

Friday, June 9, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm ~ Board of Directors meeting. Holland and Knight, 150 N Riverside Plaza, Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60606.

Friday, June 9, 6:00 pm ~ Dinner. Quartino Ristorante, 626 N State St, Chicago, IL 60654. \$100 per person. Open bar.

Saturday, June 10, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm ~ Board of Directors meeting. Holland and Knight, 150 N Riverside Plaza, Suite 2700, Chicago, IL 60606.

Saturday, June 10, 6:00 pm ~ Installation Dinner. Trump Hotel. \$150 per person. Open bar.

Limited spots for all dinners. Register early!

Room blocks have been reserved at the following hotel:

Trump International Hotel & Tower, 401 North Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, United States, 60611

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



Meet Our Incoming President, Frank A. Sommario of Chicago!

Frank A. Sommario
NIABA Incoming President

Frank A. Sommario will become the 19th President of NIABA at the Board of Directors meeting in Chicago, IL on June 9-10, 2023. Frank has most recently served as the Executive Vice President of NIABA since 2021, as secretary for 2019-2021, on the Board of Directors since 2017, and has been a member of NIABA since 2004.



Frank is a Senior Partner at Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, in Chicago, where he practices as a petitioner's workers' compensation lawyer. Frank is known for vigorously fighting for the rights of his clients, and has obtained several large settlements and favorable trial awards for those who have been injured. He considers it a privilege being able to help injured workers get the benefits they deserve.

Frank was admitted to the Bar in Illinois (2000), Minnesota (2001), and District of Columbia (2001). He received his Juris Doctorate from DePaul University College of Law in 2000. He is a Certified Public Accountant (1998), who received his Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Accounting from DePaul University in 1997. He became a Registered Investment Advisor in 2003.

Frank's commitment to the practice of law and other professional associations extends well beyond his service to NIABA. He has served two three-year terms on the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA). He acted as the Board Liaison to the Workers' Compensation Law Section Council, the Federal Taxation Section Council, and the Standing Committee on Law Office Management & Economics. He is a Silver Fellow of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the ISBA.

Frank was the 2016-17 President of the Justinian Society of Lawyers and currently serves as its Comptroller. He has served on the Executive Committee since 2009, and was elected Secretary in 2011. In addition, he currently is the Chairman of the Justinian Society Endowment Fund since 2018, where he has served as the Treasurer from 2012-2017. In November 2021, Frank was the proud recipient of the prestigious Justinian Society "Award of Excellence", which is given to an individual who has proven leadership and has improved the condition and image of Italian Americans.

Of all his leadership roles, Frank has felt the most pride in being able to assist the greater Italian community well. In addition to his service with the Justinian Society and NIABA, he has done so through participation with various other organizations including the Joint Civic Community of Italian Americans (JCCIA), where he has served as the Justinian Delegate to the JCCIA since 2015. He is now the JCCIA's Legal Counsel since 2021, where he is actively involved in the Columbus Statue litigation against the City of Chicago and the Chicago Park District.

Frank's additional leadership roles have included serving as President of the Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association (WCLA) in 2013, where he currently acts as the Comptroller since 2015. He is also a member of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA), where he is a Member of the Board of Managers since 2016. Frank has made it a priority to give back to his academic institutions, serving as a member of the alumni associations of DePaul University, DePaul University College of Law, and Fenwick High School.

For his successes representing injury victims, Frank was named one of The Best Lawyers in America © in 2017-2023, an Illinois' Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers ® for the years 2016-2023, and an Illinois Top 100 Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers in 2019 and 2022-2023. He was previously named an Illinois' Rising Star by Super Lawyers ® for the years 2010-2015. He also was also named a Leading Lawyer for 2016-2023 and an Emerging Lawyer by Law Bulletin Publishing Company's Leading Lawyers Division for the year 2015. In addition, in 2012, Frank was named one of 40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch by Law Bulletin Publishing Company.

Born in Melrose Park, Illinois, Frank was raised by his parents, Frank and Mary Jo (nee Abruzzini) with his two younger sisters, Deanna and Lisa. Frank currently resides in Elmhurst, Illinois with his wife, Gina, and children, Angelina, Isabella, Sophia, and Frank, Jr.

Romanucci & Blandin Senior Partner Frank A. Sommario successfully obtains an Illinois Workers' Compensation arbitration decision against Cook County Sheriff's Office for Covid-19 Related Death of a Deputy Sheriff Correctional Officer

May 18, 2023

Antoine Jones died after contracting Covid-19 at work at Cook County Jail, and his wife was denied death benefits for three years

CHICAGO (May 18, 2023) – Romanucci & Blandin, LLC announces Senior Partner Frank A. Sommario successfully obtained an Illinois Workers' Compensation Arbitration Decision awarding death benefits, penalties, attorney fees, and costs after a three-year-long battle. Mr. Sommario was seeking death benefits and other financial relief for the widow of Cook County Deputy Sheriff Correctional Officer Antoine Jones. Jones worked at Cook County Jail and contracted Covid-19 while on the job in the first weeks of the pandemic in late March of 2020. He died on May 10, 2020.

On March 20, 2020, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker signed Executive Order 2020-10, known as the Covid-19 "Stay at Home" Order, and pursuant to this order all first responders, law enforcement and corrections personnel were exempt from this "Stay at Home" order. Thus Mr. Jones continued to work at the jail, where he was exposed to Covid-19. On June 5, 2020, Governor Pritzker signed into law the rebuttable presumption for Covid-19 for first responders who were exposed to and contracted Covid-19 on or after March 9, 2020. Pursuant to this law, Mr. Jones' exposure to and contraction of Covid-19 was rebuttably presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of employment, and thus, the Covid-19 contraction was rebuttably presumed to be causally related to his employment.

Before Mr. Jones contracted the deadly disease, the County publicly declared its notice of the risks to him and his fellow workers. In late March of 2020 on WGN news, Cook County Commissioner Toni Preckwinkle stated the jail was a "petri dish" for Covid-19 infections, and Sheriff Tom Dart himself was quoted regarding the conditions at the jail and the exposure/contraction rates among inmates and the Sheriff's Department employees. Further, the Sheriff's Department issued a letter in November 2020, declaring Mr. Jones' death to be "in the line of duty." Despite having publicly admitted its notice of risks, Cook County continued to dispute this case on the legal issue of notice as well as on other every other single issue, causing the widow to have to incur costs related to extensive expert-related litigation. Cook County continued to willfully withhold all legally-entitled death benefits to the widow and family of a first responder, preventing them from getting death benefits from the very Act that the Governor signed into law.

The only way the County could rebut these presumptions per the law was with evidence that: the employee was working from home (which did not apply in this case); the employer engaged in and applied safety practices based on Guidelines of CDC or Illinois Public Health and/or provided Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for at least 14 days prior to the Covid-19 diagnosis (there were none yet in March 2020); or evidence that he was exposed elsewhere (there was none in this case).

After three years of pleading and legal expenses to hold Cook County accountable to state law, Workers' Compensation Attorney Frank A. Sommario successfully obtained an Award of the Arbitrator, which stated Mrs. Jones is entitled to weekly death benefit payments for life, penalties, attorney fees, and costs, where the total amount of the award that has accrued to date was in excess of \$235,000. Mrs. Jones will continue to get the weekly death benefits and eventually will be eligible for cost of living adjustments in the future.

"The result of this matter follows three years of the County unjustifiably choosing to not pay death benefits on an undisputed Covid-19 death for a Sheriff's Officer and now will cost the taxpayers the penalties, attorneys fees, and costs as well. The County chose to pay an outside counsel instead of allowing the State's Attorney's office, which is the normal protocol for all Cook County employees' workers' compensation claims, to defend this case that should never have been defended," said Frank A. Sommario, Senior Partner, Romanucci & Blandin, LLC. "Further, we hope that the County chooses to accept this decision and finally pay the award, rather than spend additional taxpayer money on a frivolous appeal. Mr. Jones' family deserves to receive the benefits that they were entitled to for his death in the line of service, and his widow should be allowed the grace to move on with her grieving and live her life."

To learn more about workers' compensation claims please visit: <https://www.rblaw.net/practices-workers-compensation-claims>.

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National Italian American Bar Association

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Sponsorship Registration Form 2023-2024

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Please indicate the level at which you wish to participate. Complete information on the different sponsorship levels and the benefits associated with each are described on the information page included in this package.

- Gold \$2,500**
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Please reference if you would like your sponsorship to go towards a specific NIABA meeting:

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Please make check payable to NIABA, or email Cindy Martin, cindylu616@comcast.net with your commitment and to pay by credit card online.

**Mailing Address: NIABA, PMB 932, 2020 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington DC 20006-1846**

All proceeds benefit NIABA, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible subject to the extent of the law. Your contribution helps NIABA further it's mission and is greatly appreciated.

NIABA sponsorships and contributions go a long way in supporting a strong and viable Bar Association. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your commitment to the Association. We will be highlighting your contribution throughout the year to our members as well as our legal community. Thank you.

www.Niaba.org



April 27, 2023, National Day of Action organized by the National Association of Immigration Lawyers (AILA) based in Washington DC. Attorney Brancaccio- Honorary Consul of Italy, chosen with other 200 lawyers to speak on behalf of immigrants. Divided into teams, they met Senators and Deputies starting from Washington DC and reaching all states. Attorney Brancaccio was assigned to Florida's 21st District where she met with representatives of Republican Congressman Brian Must.

The meeting took place with the right-hand woman, Dr Isabella Robertson, and Reform Services Officer, Dr. Edward Celays. During the meeting, the attorney discussed issues such as the long waits for visas and the slowness of the proceedings. She also underlined how many immigrants holding temporary visas, including investors, are in a limbo because their visa does not allow them to obtain permanent residency. She further underlined how these problems have a strong impact on the principle of family unity and the country's economic growth, issues that the conservatives holds dear.

Ms. Brancaccio asked support for the approval of the Jumpstart Act and the American Dream Act. The first she explains would allow the streamlining of a long and unnecessarily articulated bureaucracy. The second would make it possible for many holders of temporary visas to obtain permanent residence. One of the issues discussed was the law requiring dependents of visa holders (children) who have reached the age of 21 to leave the country. Very often brought to the States at a very young age they build a normal life like all adolescents, but the system does not offer guarantees. Many immigrants who contribute positively to the American economy do not get the stability they deserve.

The attorney says to be satisfied with the result obtained. The interlocutors expressed strong interest in the topics addressed and promised to follow up with the Washington DC office.

“I am convinced that teamwork will bring positive results and soon we will see changes that will contribute to the improvement of the system. I am grateful to the National Association of Immigration Lawyers for giving me the opportunity to be the voice of millions of immigrants” says attorney Brancaccio.

Founding Partners proud of impact litigation for clients and improving communities

CHICAGO (January 26, 2023) – Romanucci & Blandin, LLC (www.rblaw.net), a national personal injury firm primarily based in Chicago, announces the firm's 25th anniversary and the start of a year-long celebration of impact litigation results for clients and contributions to improving safety in communities across the country.

The firm prides itself on fierce advocacy as a bridge to justice for its clients. Since its inception with a focus on personal injury and medical malpractice, the firm now has experience and results in an array of practice areas including but not limited to: Birth Injuries; Civil Rights & Police Misconduct; Environmental & Toxic Torts; Mass Torts & Class Actions; Medical Malpractice; Nursing Home Abuse; Premises Liability; Product Liability; Sexual Abuse & Hazing; Transportation, Aviation & Car Accidents; Workplace Injury; and Wrongful Death.

2022 was a year of numerous accomplishments for the team including:

Founding Partner Stephan D. Blandin's co-leadership in the class action lawsuit, currently pending in the Illinois Court of Appeals, representing Illinois consumers and businesses against Commonwealth Edison for its bribing of former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Founding Partner Antonio M. Romanucci, Partners David A. Neiman and Michael E. Holden, Managing and Senior Partner Gina A. DeBoni, along with our co-counsel, Everytown Law and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, announced 10 lawsuits representing more than 40 loved ones and survivors of the mass shooting at the City of Highland Park's Fourth of July Parade.

Our Mass Shooting Legal Team, which includes Partners David A. Neiman, Partner Michael E. Holden and Managing Partner Gina A. DeBoni, is also honored to represent those impacted by the Uvalde school shooting in Texas and the Club Q nightclub shooting in Colorado.

Founding Partner Antonio M. Romanucci and Partner Bruno R. Marasso secured a \$6.9 million settlement for two family members killed in a horrific vehicle accident.

Founding Partner Antonio M. Romanucci, Partner Bhavani K. Raveendran, Senior Attorneys Bryce T. Harper and Debra L. Thomas, and Attorney Michelle R. DeSilvestro won a \$1.35 million verdict against Chicago Police Officers and the City of Chicago for the shooting death of a 21-year old father.

Founding Partner Stephan D. Blandin, Senior Attorney Michael R. Grieco and team have now filed over a dozen lawsuits representing residents of Union, Illinois against two former chemical plants responsible for dumping toxic, cancer-causing chemicals into the ground.

Partner Joseph E. Kolar and Senior Attorney Michael R. Grieco secured a \$1 million settlement for the death of an infant boy at a Chicago-area teaching hospital.

Senior Partner Frank A. Sommario and Partner Bruno R. Marasso presented \$20,000 from the Justinian Society of Lawyer's 20th annual Children's Endowment Fund to the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital and CASA Kane County.

Partner Martin D. Gould, Managing Partner Gina A. DeBoni, Senior Attorney Jason J. Friedl and team secured a \$4.5 million settlement on behalf of a client who was seriously injured in a trucking accident.

Senior Attorney Jason J. Friedl and Managing Partner Gina A. DeBoni resolved a sexual assault matter with a national sports team for an undisclosed amount.

Partner Martin D. Gould and Attorney Valerie A. Letko secured a \$1.75 million settlement for a survivor of childhood sexual abuse at St. Cyril's Catholic school in Chicago.

Cont. from page 7

Senior Attorney Michael R. Grieco and Partner Joseph E. Kolar won a \$1.3 million verdict for the death of a woman following a routine dental procedure when the patient had a cardiac event and the dentist did not provide life-saving care.

Founding Partner Antonio M. Romanucci was honored by the American Association for Justice (AAJ) with the Howard Twiggs Award, a distinction that recognizes the AAJ member whose “passion, civility, cordiality, and professionalism reflect the high standards set by Attorney Howard Twiggs.”

Partner Bhavani K. Raveendran was honored by Crain’s Chicago Business as a Notable Woman in Law.

Partner Bruno R. Marasso was installed as President of the Justinian Society of Lawyers.

Partner David A. Neiman was honored in Law Bulletin Media’s 40 Under Forty List.

Romanucci & Blandin ranked in the 2023 U.S. News - Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" list regionally in 4 practice areas, including personal injury litigation, workers’ compensation law, product liability litigation and medical malpractice law.

Founding Partner Antonio M. Romanucci, members of the George Floyd family and dozens of police misconduct clients were present at the White House as the President signed an Executive Order on Federal Police Reform.

Throughout the second half of 2022, our team advocated for an Illinois ban of assault weapons and large capacity magazines, and our Highland Park shooting client Lauren Bennett testified before an Illinois House Committee. The ban passed in early January and was quickly signed into law.

In addition to serving clients and working with referring attorneys on high-caliber litigation in all 50 states, Romanucci & Blandin is committed to regional and national legislative advocacy on issues related to cases, making our communities a better place to live and work for all. Several examples of this advocacy include the Matt Haller Act in Illinois to better regulate the use of ethylene oxide to protect the public from the carcinogenic chemical, the 2021 Presidential Federal Executive Order on Police Reform, the Javier Ambler Law in Texas which prohibits law enforcement from appearing on Reality Television, and the federal SESTA/FOSTA communications decency reforms which protect children who have been victims of human trafficking from being advertised online.

“We have history unfolding around us every day, and we are having an impact on that history. These are the moments we are made for. We do great legal work because we have always cared deeply about our clients and our communities. It’s been 25 years and we are just getting started,” said Founding Partner Antonio M. Romanucci.

“Our fierce commitment to our clients is a way of life, even going as far as considering it a street fight when you go up against insurance companies and corporate defendants. Our approach to impact litigation is in our DNA,” said Founding Partner Stephan D. Blandin.

“We are change-makers, and we feel a commitment beyond our cases to do the right thing. It is a differentiator for our firm that we continue to pursue advocacy outside of the courtroom to make our communities better,” said Managing and Senior Partner Gina A. DeBoni.

“Our clients feel like family to us, and we take tremendous pride in doing the right thing for people who have just had the worst experience of their lives,” said Senior Partner Frank A. Sommario.

As the firm advances into 2023, the year will be spent continuing to advocate on the front lines for our clients while taking on several large corporations and entities, including Smith & Wesson, Boeing, Chemtool, GlaxoSmithKline, Amtrak, various Catholic Church Dioceses, St. John’s Northwestern Military Academy and more – all of which are facing incredible scrutiny for their life-altering practices and actions.

To learn more about the firm please visit the website. www.rblaw.net

Romanucci & Blandin Partner Bruno R. Marasso and Senior Partner Frank A. Sommario present \$15,000 in grants at the Justinian Society of Lawyers' 21st Annual Children's Endowment Fund

March 23, 2023

CHICAGO – The Justinian Society of Lawyers held its 21st annual Children's Endowment Fund (CEF) Grant Reception on March 16, 2023. Justinian President Bruno R. Marasso and Justinian Society Endowment Fund's Chairman Frank A. Sommario presented a total of \$15,000.00 in grants as follows: \$5,000.00 grant to the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association, \$5,000.00 grant to the Direct Effect Charities and a \$5,000.00 grant to Saint Anthony Hospital.

The Justinian Endowment Fund, the fundraising arm of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which consists of the Scholarship Fund and the CEF. Currently, the CEF and the Scholarship Fund have combined over \$335,000.00 in their respective accounts, and these monies have been raised by members over the years, as well as by other generous donors. Each year, the scholarship fund awards scholarships to deserving law students and the CEF awards an annual Grant to a worthy recipient. The CEF conveyed a special thank you to Joseph Feinberg and the Feinberg Foundation for their consistent annual donations of significant funding to the CEF.

The March 16, 2023 event was held at Lux Bar, 18 E. Bellevue, Chicago, IL, where over 55 people attended and enjoyed a wonderful meal and cocktails while enjoying the initial NCAA basketball games that were being televised. Alex Engelhardt, Executive Director of Fox Valley Special Recreation Association, and Walden Putterman, Development Writer of Saint Anthony Hospital, were on hand to graciously accept the grants and provide short descriptions of their organizations and how the grant money would be used. Unfortunately, Michelle DiGiacomo, Founder of Direct Effect Charities, was unable to attend so Mr. Sommario gave a summary of what Direct Effect Charities does.

The mission of the CEF is to assist disabled or disadvantaged children in our community. Since establishing the CEF in 2002 during his term as president, Antonio M. Romanucci, Founding Partner of Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, and his fellow Justinian members have raised crucial funds for a wide range of recipients, including Make-A-Wish Foundation, Bear Necessities, Ronald McDonald House of Chicagoland, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Reflections Foundation, Shriners Hospitals for Children, Child's Voice, Maryville Academy Children's Healthcare Center, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, CASA Kane County, and many others.

During this event, several members of the Society made spontaneous personal additional donations to the CEF, which will be tabulated and directed to the grant recipients as an additional donation. This generosity has continuously been done over the years at past events and has become a tradition.

"The Justinian Society is fervent in continuing to give back to our community and we thank all members who have contributed. We take pride in this unique and successful program of the Justinian Society of Lawyers," said Bruno R. Marasso, Romanucci & Blandin Partner and Justinian President.

"Fox Valley Special Recreation Association, Direct Effect Charities and Saint Anthony Hospital are all incredibly worthy recipients of these funds and we commend all that they do for children that are in need," said Frank A. Sommario, Romanucci & Blandin Senior Partner and past Justinian President.

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

The National Italian American Bar Association is a member of The Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations. Honorable Basil Russo of Ohio has well served the Conference as its President.

As a major initiative of the Conference and its work on behalf of Italian Americans across the country, Judge Russo has been a strident supporter of the Christopher Columbus official holidays and historical statues throughout the country. In concert with Attorney George Bochetto of Philadelphia, the Conference has worked directly on litigation related to these matters. Further, unseen and unheralded, Judge Russo has met with a variety of local and regional organizations throughout the country in such matters, as well.

It is with pride in the efforts of the Conference and the lawyers participating to provide to you a copy of the Petition For A Writ of Certiorari which has been submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States on behalf of the Conference of Presidents as well as Philadelphia based plaintiffs.

The question presented for review is whether the United States Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit erred in deviating from the test for standing employed by the 11th Circuit in *Gardner v. Mutz* in holding that plaintiffs, comprised of individuals and groups with vested interests in celebrating a previously recognized ethnic holiday, lacked standing to bring this lawsuit, despite suffering an injury in fact from a purposely discriminatory executive order by a city mayor. I, respectfully, urge your careful and thoughtful reading of the petition.

The advocacy of Judge Russo through the Conference of Presidents mirrors a broad field of Italian American organizations. Certainly, there are some organizations and individuals who voice alternate views and opinions. As lawyers, of course, we must support the utilization of the judicial process to adjudicate disputes, recognize rights, and to administer fairly justice among all of the peoples of our nation. Credit to Judge Russo and the Conference for pursuing a broad consideration of the underlying issues by the Supreme Court.

I look forward to sharing with you developments as they will occur!

Francis M. Donnarumma

President

Please see "Niaba News" (www.niaba.org) for link to view the Petition For A Writ of Certiorari

**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

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Past Events



Notes from the NIABA Office

New NIABA Website

Please visit the newlu updated NIABA website

www.niaba.org

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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

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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.

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

www.niaba.org

Phone: 203-859-1018