

Chartered October 21, 1921

Spring 2011

Justinian Society Newsletter

734 N. Wells, Chicago, IL 60654 ■ Phone 708.338.0760 ■ Fax 708.401.0360 ■ www.justinians.org

President's Message

As we end what has been an exiting year for the Justinian Society of Lawyers, I would like to share personal observations about our Society and to thank all of those individuals who have worked to make this year a success.



When I went to my first Justinian Society meeting as a 1L law student in April of 1994, I had not yet met a practicing lawyer. As the daughter of a Chicago Public School teacher and an Italian immigrant factory worker, my family just did not travel in those circles. Needless to say I was nervous, but the welcome I received from people like Jim Morici, Judge Gloria Coco and Leonard Amari, put me at ease and, indeed, made me feel like I was among people who were no different from my family.

It was with that same warmth and sense of familial love that I was received this year as Justinian Society president. As president of the Society, I have come to realize that at the very core of the Justinian Society is the deep and abiding love that its members share for their heritage, the Society and for each other. It is that indestructible core which has held the Society together through difficult and changing times and which move the Society through whatever challenges the future may hold. That unshakable core is also what motivates so many of our past presidents and members to volunteer their

time to make each president's term a success.

This year I was truly blessed to be assisted by a group of hardworking officers. In particular, Secretary Jessica DePinto organized the monthly dinner meetings and President Elect Katherine Amari O'Dell who served as associate editor of the newsletter. Both Katherine and Jessica have been a wonderful support to me during my presidency and their insights and friendship have been invaluable. Also, Second Vice President Gregg Garofalo played a key role in the organization of events like the Justinian CEF Fundraiser. I look forward to each of their future presidencies.

Sam Tornatore and Richard Caifano have always been and continue to be examples of graciousness, hard work and integrity. This year, Sam and Richard Caldarazzo organized the annual Golf Outing as they have done for so many years. In addition, Sam and Richard organized and ran the annual Bocce Tournament.

Antonio Romanucci continued in his tireless work to provide opportunities for those who follow him into the profession and for those less fortunate. This year saw the establishment of the Romanucci Family Scholarship. Antonio also continued his leadership in the Justinian Children's Endowment Fund and awarded a \$5,000.00 grant to the Otis Wilson Foundation.

Lou Siracusano and Frank Sommario led the Society's charitable efforts by acting as co-chairs the Fundraising Committee. Both Lou and Frank worked countless hours along with committee members Carmen Forte, Gina Rossi, Angelina Fillippo, Gabe Caporale, Mike Pisano, Melissa Taormina, Mark McGuire, Anthony Ingrassia, Anthony Gattuso, Lisa Perna, Christina Ranallo and Ron Ricchioto to ensure that the Golf Outing, Ad Book and Children's

Continued on Page 4

JUSTINIAN SOCIETY OFFICERS

Cristina Mungai
President
Katherine Amari O'Dell
1st Vice President
Gregg A. Garofalo
2nd Vice President
Hon. Robert W. Bertucci
3rd Vice President
Anita DeCarlo
Treasurer
Jessica DePinto
Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Honorable Anthony A. Iosco
Honorable Jill Cerone Marisie
Honorable Cheryl D. Cesario
Michael V. Favia
Frank A. Sommario
Vincent R. Vidmer
Mauro Glorioso
Franco A. Coladipietro
Donald J. Storino Jr.
Lisa A. Marino
Michael Pisano
Student Member

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Anthony Casaccio
Jessica DePinto
Anthony B. Ferraro
Richard Fonfrias
Mary Haight
Joseph F. Locallo Jr.
James J. Morici Jr.
James Moster
Cristina Mungai
Gina Rossi
Joe Zimmerman

Editor:

LEONARD F. AMARI

Associate Editor:

KATHERINE A. AMARI
O'DELL

Staff:

MICHAEL F. BONAMARTE IV
RICHARD B. CAIFANO
DION U. DAVI
WILLIAM J. DAVY
ANGELINA FILIPPO
CARMEN FORTE JR.

MICHAEL ORI
FRANK A. PERRICONE
MICHAEL PISANO
JOHN TUFANO
VINCENT R. VIDMER

Executive Administrator

NINA ALBANO VIDMER

Executive Assistant:

DIANA BOSNJAK

Letters to the Editor

By: Katherine Amari O'Dell

Katherine,

Thank you for a copy of your newsletter and for your kind words. It is a privilege to contribute to your fine publication. Say hi to dad for me.

- Jim Moster

Katherine,

Thank you so much for the recent edition and the obituary of my dear cousin Camille.

- Marge Laurino



From left: Marge Laurino, State Representative John D'Amico, and Katherine Amari O'Dell

Katherine,

Thank you for the Newsletter. I always enjoy reading it. Anthony seems to be doing well in the States Attorney's office. I will make sure he doesn't forget his friends at Amari & Locallo.

- Tony Casaccio

Dear Katherine,

Thank you very much for your recent letter of September 29th, enclosing the Justinian Society Newsletter.

I continue to be impressed with your many accomplishments. To pull together all of the information contained in the Newsletter is quite a time consuming task, I am sure. I hope the members realize how much work goes into the publication.

Keep up the good work!

- Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward



Alderman Ed Burke, center, with Alderman Bob Fioretti and past president Enrico Mirabelli.



Dear Leonard,

The family of David "Bucky" Carfello, acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expression of sympathy of my Justinian brothers and sisters.

- Scott Carfello



Scott Carfello and Sal Barbatano

Leonard,

Outstanding job. Leonard, put together a group, and buy the Chicago Tribune.

- Bruno Tassone

Leonard and Staff,

You have outdone yourselves. What a wonderful newsletter.

- Joe Gagliardo

Leonard,

Thank you so much for a copy of the Justinian newsletter. It was great seeing the photos, and Steven and I appreciate your mention of the restaurant (Fiorentino's, 2901 N. Ashland, Chicago). Hope to see you soon.

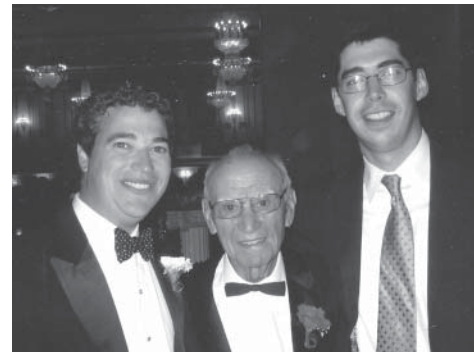
- Frances Fiorentino



Dear Leonard,

The family of Alfred E. Gallo acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated!

- Gina Gallo



Al Gallo, center, with Don Storino and John Storino

Dear Leonard, John and Justinian friends:

Thank you so much for supporting the recent Hellenic Bar 60th Anniversary Dinner/Dance on October 30th with your program book advertisement. The Hellenes expressed gratitude upon receiving the "Justinian" support. Thanks for the friendship.

- Mark D. Hassakis, President
Illinois State Bar Association



From left: ISBA President-elect John G. Locallo, Justinian President-elect Katherine Amari O'Dell and ISBA President Mark Hassakis.

Dear Katherine:

I am advised that member Mary Ann Hynes being recognized by Inside Counsel with its prestigious Transformative Leadership Award at its dinner on May 24th.

What a well deserved and particularly appropriate award for May Ann, whose impact on the profession and the many communities of which she is a part, by lineage, intentionality and commitment, is immeasurable. Congratulations!

And prayers for continuing to transform and to touch the lives of communities, of individuals and the law.

- Dr. Mary Milano

Dear Katherine:

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the Fall 2010 Justinian Society Newsletter. I appreciate your kind compliment and I look forward to reading the newsletter.

- Anne M. Burke

Dear Leonard:

I congratulate your celebration of the 89th anniversary of your publication, Justinian Society Newsletter.

Your commitment is a lesson to all who wish to communicate with a print audience. One must have a sense of mission, of relevance to the lives of people.



Clearly, you have adopted that mission and have that relevance.

A substantial number of people depend on you for information and engagement in the community. Your work is of great importance not only to them, but to all who believe that written communication makes society better.

Thank you for your dedication, and best wishes as you continue on your honorable and vital work.

- Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer

Dear Brother and Sister Justinians:

As most of you know, in August we had the third annual Michael F. Bonamarte III Foundation Charitable Golf Outing and Dinner. Once again the event was a huge success and a ton of fun. Thanks to all your support and generosity this year, we raised \$10,500 to donate to charity. That's \$30,000 plus in three years.

This year \$9,000 will be donated to the Northwestern Memorial Foundation for the use of the primary stroke center for research on the treatment and prevention of strokes. I had the privilege of meeting with some of the doctors at Northwestern last fall and the work they are doing is truly amazing.

- Michael F. Bonamarte IV

Dear Leonard, John, Katherine, and Justinians:

The family of Paul Goeldner is grateful to God for his life, for the friendship of the Justinian's, and kind expressions of sympathy.

Thank you so much for your kind donation to the JMLS Veterans Legal Clinic in memory of my dad. The support of friends during this sad time has been so comforting to me and my family.

- Paula and Jim Holderman

Justinian News

Installation Dinner Report

By Michael F. Bonamarte IV

I'm proud to say I attended this year's Justinian Society Installation Dinner at the Palmer House Hilton in September. However, I'm embarrassed to say this was the first installation dinner I have attended.



President Cristina Mungai with award recipients Richard Caifano and Antonio Romanucci.



Secretary Jessica DePinto, Treasurer Anita DeCarlo, 3rd Vice President Robert Bertucci, 2nd Vice President Gregg Garofalo, President-elect Katherine Amari O'Dell, and President Cristina Mungai

Back to things to be proud of . . . I was married in April and my wife Julia attended the installation dinner with me. We both had an amazing time. One thing she said to me afterwards speaks volumes to our great organization. We have not attended many legal organization gatherings together. She said to me after the installation dinner "The people were so warm and friendly and it was not stuffy in there at all." That's why I'm so proud to be a member of the Justinian Society. Besides the fact that at these events you are surrounded by pillars of the legal community, you are also surrounded by people whose company you can truly enjoy. This society offers all those who are a part of it an opportunity to form lasting professional and personal relationships. Ever since my late dad, a Lake County Justinian, introduced me to Leonard Amari at a Justinian event before I started law school, I knew I was becoming a part of something special. I encourage all of our great members, including law school students,

to make it a point to attend more of our events in the upcoming year.

I enjoyed the company of Chris Niro and Roger Clarke who both were seated at my table. Chris and I share a Big Ten connection and I won our friendly wager when my Wisconsin Badgers recently prevailed over Chris' Iowa Hawkeyes! It was a tough battle Chris.

Everyone at our table and everyone in the room was privileged to be in the company of those being honored and our newly installed officers. With people like Cristina Mungai, President, Katherine Amari O'Dell, 1st Vice President, Greg Garofolo, 2nd Vice President, The Honorable Robert Bertucci, 3rd Vice President, Anita DeCarlo, Treasurer, and Jessica DePinto, Secretary leading this organization, it is safe to say that we are in good hands.

Past Presidents Antonio Romanucci and Richard Caifano spoke eloquently while ac-

Continued on page 4



Judge Gloria Coco swears in the Justinian Society Officers.



Cristina Mungai and Richard Caldarazzo.

cepting awards for their outstanding legal achievements. Richard Caifano was the recipient of the Justinian Award of Excellence. In Caifano's acceptance speech, he focused on how our members should continue to mentor young Justinians. Romanucci, who received the Honorable Moses W. Harrison Award of Recognition, spoke about the all of the success that the Justinian Endowment Fund has rendered throughout the past years.

Congratulations to our President, Cristina Mungai, and a big thank you to Gloria Coco for another wonderful installation dinner!

President's Message, continued from page 1

Endowment Fundraiser were a success.

Franco Coladipieto, Anthony Farace and the entire Amari & Locallo law firm continued in their leadership of the Justinian Endowment Fund and were nothing short of amazing in their support of the Society.

Jim Morici, who introduced me to the Society, and Lisa Marino, who nominated me as Secretary, have encouraged, coached and kept a loving watchful eye over me as I have proceeded on my path in both the profession and in the Justinian Society. The Amari family, Leonard, Donna and Katherine, have provided me loving support and invaluable advice throughout this wonderful experience. Judge Gloria Coco has not only provided countless words of wisdom, but has also been a great example of leadership and generosity.

To all of these people and so many others in the Society, my love and admiration for you cannot be adequately expressed with words.

I thank each of you for the opportunity to be president of this wonderful organization. During my tenure as president of this great Society, I have learned that all Justinians carry with them the spirit of those 30 Italian American lawyers who met 1921 to found the Justinian Society. The proof that their spirit is alive and well is demonstrated in our continued belief in the judicial system, our respect for people from all walks of life, and our efforts to provide others with the same opportunities that have been given to us. Although the Justinian Society came from humble beginnings, it has grown to reflect the greatness of its founders.

As Dante Alighieri once wrote, "a volte da una sola scintilla scoppia un incendio".

Interested in a Ferrari?

Anthony Gemmellaro, the son of friends of career and active Justinians, has dropped us a note to ask if any of our members are interested in buying a used Ferrari. Anthony sells Ferraris, new and used, at Ferrari of Tampa Bay, 2420 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor, Florida 34683. Don't hesitate to contact Anthony directly at (727) 784-3377 or his cell number (727) 437-2681. Licensing regulations permit Anthony to sell new cars only to people in his geographic sales area, west coast, Naples to the panhandle, but used cars to anyone, anywhere.



Anthony Gemmellaro, with the car that every Justinian should have in his or her garage: a black on black with yellow stitching 2010 Ferrari 599 GTB Fiorano HGTE. It has a 6 liter 611 horsepower V-12 engine. It only has 970 miles.

Scholarship Dinner Report:

By: Gina Rossi



As a former Justinian Scholarship recipient, I look forward to the Justinian Scholarship Dinner every October. I remember how much receiving a scholarship meant to me, allowing me to take a trip to Peru with my international human rights class, and I am always excited to see the new group of deserving students bestowed with the same honor. This year the dinner was well attended by past Justinian presidents, current officers, and several of the Justinian Society's most dedicated members, including Richard Pellegrino, president of the Italian American Political Coalition; the Honorable Patrice Ball Reed; the Honorable Bruno J. Tassone; Justice Dan Rizzi (Ret.); and John DeMoss of ISBA Mutual. Also present were past presidents: Lisa Marino, Antonio Romanucci, Leonard DeFranco, Thomas Battista, Richard Caldarazzo, John Sciacotta, Joseph Bisceglia, and Anthony Ferraro.

This year the dinner was held at a new location, the Holiday Inn, which provided a lovely view from its fifteenth floor ballroom. The evening began with some remarks by our Justinian president, Cristina Mungai. Cristina graciously thanked all of the scholarship donors and congratulated the recipients for all of their hard work throughout the year. Sam Tornatore took over next, filling in for scholarship chair Anthony Farace. Sam reminded us how far the Justinians have come in providing these scholarships as he reminisced about scrapping together \$500

Continued on Page 5



The Justinian Scholarship recipients, with Sam Tornatore and Cristina Mungai.

the night before one of the first ever scholarship dinners. We certainly have come a long way, awarding \$37,000 at this year's dinner. All of these awards, Sam noted, could not have been given without the support of the several generous donors who yearly devote their pledges to the society's scholarship funds.

The scholarship recipients came from several Illinois law schools, including the law schools of John Marshall, DePaul, Loyola, Kent, and Northern Illinois. All in total, 16 scholarships were awarded, ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000, many including matching funds from the students' respective law schools.

Receiving a Justinian Society Scholarship were: Cody Vitello from Loyola; Bruno Marasso from Kent; Nicole Frangella from DePaul; and Christopher Mermigas, Mark McGuire, Grace Mangieri, Melissa Taormina and Anthony Pavone, all from John Marshall. Laura Maglio from Northern Illinois received the Fred Lambruschi Memorial Scholarship. The recipient of the Morici-Lobello Family Scholarship was Christopher Cortese from Loyola. Christina Ranallo and Andrea Crivolio from John Marshall both received a John G. Phillips Memorial Scholarship. The Richard Pellegri Family

Scholarship was awarded to Anthony Gattuso of John Marshall, the Romanucci Family Scholarship was awarded to Michael Pisano of John Marshall, and the Garofalo Scholarship was awarded to Jillian Ruggiero of John Marshall. This year a new scholarship was also given, the Alfred E. Gallo Memorial Scholarship, to Anthony Boyle of John Marshall.

Without the generous donors who continue to support these young lawyers our society would not be where it is today. While some may see these scholarships as simply a means to defray the often daunting costs of a law school education, we all know that the thousands of dollars reflect a deeper desire of the scholarship donors to further the education and achievements of the most deserving group of recipients year after year. In attendance at this year's dinner were many past scholarship recipients, and it is my hope that this year's scholarship recipients will continue to help our society grow and achieve. The yearly scholarship dinner is one of the great traditions of the Justinian Society, and I think I can speak for everyone when I say that I look forward to welcoming this group of accomplished law students into our profession in the years to come.

November Mass and Luncheon Report

By: Cristina Mungai

On Sunday, November 7, 2010 the Justinians renewed a tradition set by past president Judge Gloria Coco by celebrating Mass with family and friends at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii. The Mass, followed by a traditional Italian family lunch at Tufano's Vernon Park Tap, was said in honor of the Society's past presidents. The choice in location for the celebration served as a means of bringing the Justinians back to one of the Chicago neighborhoods that was at the center of the development and success of Chicago area Italian immigrants and by extension the Justinian Society.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii is a center of hospitality and spiritual growth, founded in the Italian tradition and culture. The Shrine was founded at the turn of the century, when the influx and growth of the Italian Community of the near west side area of Chicago, was a challenge to all agencies involved in their care, help and development. Today, the Shrine stands as one of the centers of Italian American immigrant culture and is a testament to the enduring faith and love of tradition that are at the center of our community.

Mass was begun with a special intention in memory of Justinian Society past president, Alfred E. Gallo. Beloved by all, Mr. Gallo was a former president of Northern Trust Bank, long time president of the American Sicilian Cultural Foundation and founder of the elite Oenophiles Society of Chicago. He was also a recipient of the Justinian Society Award of Excellence.

Past Justinian Society presidents who attended the Mass and luncheon included, ISBA president elect John G. Locallo, Michael V. Favia, Thomas M. Battista, Antonio M. Romanucci, Judge Celia Guzaldo Gamrath, Lisa A. Marino and Mauro Glorioso. Also in attendance, where Justinian Society officers, Second Vice President Judge W. Bertucci, Treasurer Anita M. DeCarlo and Secretary Jessica T. DePinto.

The Mass and luncheon served as reminder that the strength and success of our Society stem from our cultural roots as immigrants who could only succeed in a new country by banding together and helping each other achieve the American dream. It was fitting that our celebration of our past presidents concluded with a traditional Italian family luncheon where we shared a Sunday afternoon honoring those who have built the foundations of our success. Like the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and the Taylor Street neighborhood in which it stands, the Justinian Society will continue on as a testament to the faith, hope and love of all of the past presidents who have worked to move it forward into the future.



Past presidents from left: Antonio Romanucci, Judge Celia Gamrath, President Cristina Mungai, John Locallo, Lisa Marino, Mike Favia, Tom Battista.

Christmas Dinner Report:

By: Bill Davy

On top of the usual camaraderie, networking opportunities, and of the course great food that is part of every meeting of the Justinian Society, this year's Christmas Party proved to be a particularly special treat. Headed by our President Christina Mungai, we met at a location new to the Justinian Society and new to almost all of those who attended. This year's Christmas Party brought us to Al Teatro Ristorante, in Chicago's southwest side.



Al Teatro Ristorante is located inside the historic Thalia Hall at 18th St. and Allport. One of the centerpieces of the 18th Street commercial corridor of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, the Thalia Hall opened in 1892. It was built just before the Columbian Exposition, and designed in a Romanesque Revival style, including a heavily ornamented terra-cotta facade, with storefronts along the ground floor. Originally a meeting hall for the mostly-Bohemian original populace of the Pilsen neighborhood (named for a large Czech city), the Thalia later became a venue for live entertainment, then, finally, a movie house. The theater served as a hub for social activity and entertainment in the community for nearly a century. Due to changes in the neighborhood demographics and demand the theater closed and has remained totally vacant but largely intact.

Decades after this historic theater closed its doors, current owner Dominick Geraci saw an opportunity to revive the landmark, turning the original storefront into a 200 seat Italian Restaurant and restore the original theater located on the second floor. Still a work in progress, the second floor theater is truly a tribute to the art and architecture of generations past and those who attended the Christmas party were invited to take a tour of the 120 year old auditorium. The auditorium features the original skybox suites and balcony and the original artwork is still very visible even in just the beginning stages of the restoration project. I'm certain that all of us who



From left: Gregg Garofalo, Anita DeCarlo, Cristina Mungai, Katherine Amari O'Dell, Robert Bertucci, and Jessica DePinto.

were invited to enjoy the short tour are excited to visit Il Teatro again just to see the finished renovation. Until then, you can always come and visit for the food.

The restaurant, which is completed and open to the public, is a work of art in itself. The interior, consisting of dark hard wood floors, a marble bar and refurbished tin ceiling is a very welcoming sight compared with what you might expect from the Pilsen neighborhood. The night of the party we were treated to a great variety of thin crust Neapolitan style pizza from Il Teatros wood burning oven, which of course is designed with theater drapes atop the opening. Being a Neapolitan style pizza chef/critic myself, I can honestly say that this was the best pizza I have had outside of Italy. We were also treated to sausage and peppers and pasta which were equally as delicious.

The event had a great turnout including all of the Societies current officers, Christina Mungai, Katherine Amari, Gregg Garofalo, Hon. Robert Bertucci, Anita DeCarlo and Jessica DePinto. Past Presidents Anthony Fornelli, Len DeFranco, Antonio Romanucci, John Locallo, Richard Calderazzo, Anthony Ferraro, and Richard Caifano were also in attendance, as well as judges Celia Gamrath and Patrice Ball-Reed. As always it was a pleasure spending time during the holidays with this great group of people and it was even more special to celebrate the holidays in such a unique and exciting place.



Angelina Filippo and Vince Vidmer



John Locallo and Cristina Mungai

January Dinner Report:

By: Michael Ori



The Justinian Society of Italian American Lawyers held its annual Joint Meeting with its various chapters on January 20, 2011 at Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont. This event, which is always well attended by our colleagues from the surrounding collar counties, was again a success this year. This year's event featured a presentation by the Lake County Justinian Society of its soon to



From left: Gregg Garofalo, Mary Seminara-Schostok, and Michael Ori

be annual Scholarship Award, the result of more than a year's worth of fundraising and organization by the Lake County Justinians. President Mungai welcomed members and dignitaries from each of the collar counties that support local chapters of our great organization.

The Justinian Society has achieved great successes throughout its history, a fact that is evidenced by its strong presence with active local chapters in several surrounding counties, including DuPage, Lake, McHenry Counties, to name a few. The DuPage chapter announced its upcoming annual St. Joseph Day Dinner and was lauded for another successful Cancer Ball in September.

Just as in years past, the members attending this dinner were treated with the ability to make connections with many old friends who primarily practice outside of Cook County. It's always a great

Continued on page 7



Melissa Taormina, Michael Pisano, and Dan Caldieraro



Scholarship recipient Kevin Zickerman and Michael Ori

meeting when the likes of Rick Felice (DuPage), Leonard Amari (Cook) and the Honorable Justice Mary Seminara-Schostok (Lake), just to name a few, get together in fellowship of our great society. Other past presidents in attendance, and there were many, included Joe Bisceglia, Sam Tornatore, Umberto Davi, Jim Allegretti, Dick Caldarazzo, Lisa Marino, Len DeFranco, and John Locallo, who is soon-to-be installed as president of the Illinois State Bar Association. Every office was in attendance and many dignitaries as the photos accompanying this article indicates. Also in attendance was more than just a handful of law students. There were many judges from all counties in attendance, and far too many to mention (and also afraid to miss naming any of them).

Rosewood Restaurant again, as always, provided a wonderful dinner and evening, and it goes without saying that this dinner should be continued for years to come.

A great time was had by all.

Bocce Report:

By: Angela Filippo

At the 2011 Justinian Bocce Tournament, 12 teams fought valiantly for the prizes; however, only two walked away with the major awards. Teams Cataldo, DePinto, Pisano, Curielli, Vidmer, Ricchio, DeFranco, Panichi, Perna, Angelo, Pisano, and Panchal fought like gladiators in the coliseum. Some battles ended with a mere sigh and others ended in a lightning crash.

Rulers were wielded like swords and pallini thrown with surgical precision. Favorites were selected early, but continued to change as teams were eliminated. The final rounds were nail-biters with all wondering if Carmen Forte's good luck medal from last year's victory would make Team Cataldo triumphant. Despite Team Cataldo's (Joe, Carmen Forte, Guy Lisuzzo, Nick Giordano) early arrival to throw a few practice rounds before the big tournament, they could not defeat Team DeFranco (Len, Leo Carcione, Richard Caldarazzo, Judge Pope) for the coveted first place trophies. Team DeFranco, the 2011 Justinian Bocce Tournament victors, crushed Team Cataldo with a score of 11 to 5.

The games were played at the traditional venue, Mazzini Verdi Club in Schiller Park; however, the night was a step outside of traditional. The dinner was ingeniously changed to a buffet-style feast so that play would commence promptly. Our members enjoyed a delectable selection of beef, chicken, risotto and sides. The tournament began, as planned, shortly after the coffee and desserts were set on the buffet.

With sated appetites and drinks in hand, the players convened on the courts. A second diversion from the norm unveiled our own Mr. Bocce, Sam Tornatore, as the tournament organizer. Not only did this Master of the game keep play moving swiftly toward the championship round, but he also provided sparkling glass trophies for the first and second place teams. Once the players saw the awards, the



From left: First Place: Leo Carcione, Judge Mike Pope, Cristina Mungai, Dick Caldarazzo, and Len DeFranco

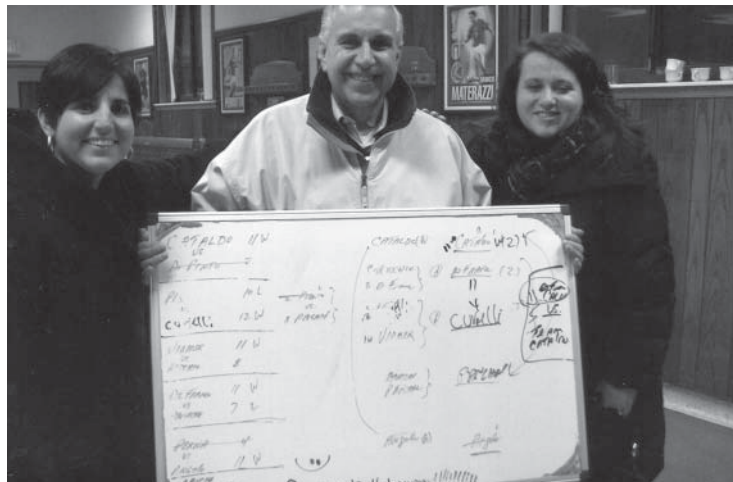
rounds-to-elimination became red hot.

Sam "Mr. Bocce" Tornatore conducted the rounds with the strokes of a maestro. As he wielded his whiteboard, teams were pitted against each other in harmony like a beautiful concerto. His coordination of the final rounds was akin to a masterpiece.

It goes without saying that the old adage is true: If you do what you have always done, you get what you have always gotten. This year the pleasant new twists to the old night yielded an unexpected result – Team DeFranco! Congrats to all the winners (second place trophies were equally brilliant). Mille grazie to the coordinators of yet another tremendous event.



From left: Second Place: Former Cook County State's Attorney Nick Giordano, and State's Attorneys Carmen Forte, Joe Cataldo and Guy Lisuzzo



From left: Jessica DePinto, Sam Tornatore and Cristina Mungai with the results.

Law Student Update:

By: Michael Pisano

Grazie per la tua Generosita!

On behalf of all scholarship recipients, I would like to thank the generous Justinian members for their donation to the scholarship fund. We appreciate the Justinian Society's generosity and willingness to dedicate a dinner to us law students. I know all students enjoyed introducing their parents to the Justinian Society. Grazie!



Mentoring group Coordinator Diana Bosnjak, Co-chair Michael Pisano, Co-chair Tanya Sinclair, and mentor Rosalee Inendino

torneys. While prizes are awarded to the winners, what is really at stake is reputation. As every Italian would argue—"my meatballs are the best"—this is a chance for them to prove it! So please come out to help judge the meatballs and enjoy food, drinks, and the company of future Justinians.

Fundraising and Wine Tasting:

The John Marshall Justinian Student Chapter hosted a very successful fundraiser at Rebel Bar & Grill in September and hosted its annual wine tasting at Waterhouse Bar & Grill in November. Justinians such as Mauro Glorioso, Carmen Forte, Vince Vidmer, and many more joined students from various law school chapters to sample more than a dozen different types of wine. A sommelier was also on hand to provide students a break from learning the law and instead an opportunity to learn the basics of wine tasting—something almost as useful as torts!

Meatball Madness— April 21, 2011:

Join the John Marshall Justinian students for their annual Meatball Madness dinner on April 21, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. The dinner will be at the John Marshall Law School, second floor Student Lounge. Meatball Madness is a competitive event in which Justinian students make their best meatball and gravy recipe, which is ultimately judged by your very own Justinian at-



The September 2010 mentoring group

Felice Elected ISBA 3rd VP Sommario Re-elected

By: Leonard F. Amari

The ballots are in and Richard D. Felice, prominent lawyer in DuPage County, a leader of the DuPage County Bar Association (past president), Justinian Society/DuPage Chapter (past president), was recently elected 3rd vice president of the statewide 32,000-member Illinois State Bar Association, having served as a member of its board of governors and assembly for the past six years. He follows in the footsteps of other prominent Justinians to be elected to this prominent position, including the late Larry



[Editor's note: Rarely is there a young professional of the outstanding quality of Michael Pisano. A numerous Justinian Scholarship recipient and the first ever second time recipient of the JMLS Lupel & Amari Scholarship. He co-chaired wonderfully for the last two years our Justinian Mentoring Program – being responsible, in no small part, along with co-chair Tanya Sinclair, and numerous other 2L and 3L mentors, about 60 students' successful law school matriculation. I look forward to handing Mike his diploma of the JMLS commencement in May.]



Attendees at the February 2011 Joint Dinner. Back row, from left: Rick Felice, ISBA President-elect John Locallo, ISBA President Mark Hassakis. Front row, from left: Frank Sommario, Justinian Society Treasurer Anita DeCarlo, Justinian Society President-elect Katherine Amari O'Dell, and Justinian Society Secretary Jessica DePinto.

Pusateri, Michael Coccia, and Ralph Gabric, as well as Leonard Amari, Cheryl Niro, Joe Bisceglia, and John G. Locallo in June 2011.

Felice is a graduate with honors from Loyola University in 1976 and from the Northern Illinois University School of Law in 1979. Rick has had a distinguished career for the 31 years he has been practicing law. For example, from 1979 to 1985, Rick cut his teeth working for one of the more prominent and highly respected law firms in the outlying collar counties, Laraia and Kilander, where he practiced primarily in the field of domestic relations and various aspects of litigation. He also distinguished himself during that period of time as an outstanding trial lawyer in the family law field. He has been a sole practitioner since 1985 with offices at 511

Continued, page 9

W. Wesley in Wheaton.

As mentioned, Felice has been a leader in every aspect of the legal profession, including the Justinian Society of Italian Lawyers, having been president of its DuPage chapter in 1998, as well as the chairperson for a number of years of its charitable arm, the Justinian Cancer Fundraiser. Other bar association activities in which Rick has shown leadership include his involvement in the DuPage County Association of Women Lawyers, the statewide Women's Bar Association of Illinois, the Kane County Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Bohemian Bar Association, and the Lake County Bar Association. Those who know him know that he is not just a member of these organizations, paying his dues and attending a dinner now and again, but has actively practiced law while serving in various leadership positions.

As a result of his demonstrated leadership, Felice was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to its significant Rules Committee for almost a decade. The Illinois legislature appointed him to its family-law study committee in 2008 and continuing.

Felice's DuPage County Bar Association activities, in addition to being a past president, include chairperson of its Admissions and Membership Committee from 1989 to 1992, its Legislative Committee, Children's Rights Committee, and an active participant in its Family Law committee and President of the DuPage Bar Foundation. He was also appointed to serve on its Court Annexed Mandatory Court Arbitration Committee and presently serves as the chairperson and mandatory attorney fee arbitration in Family Law Cases.

As an active member of the ISBA, he has served as a member of its Task Force on Attorneys for Children; a member of its Special Committee on the Future of The Courts Conferences created in conjunction with the Illinois Supreme Court; a member of its Judicial Evaluation Section (out of Cook County); a member of its Legislative Assembly (past chair of the prominent Agenda Committee); and served two three year terms, consecutively, on its Board of Governors. He served as elected secretary of the ISBA in 2008. He is also on the Illinois Bar Foundation Board of Governors.

Because his election is without opposition, Richard D. Felice will become president of the ISBA in 2014. He will be the 8th Italian American to serve as president of the ISBA in the last 35 or so years.

Of his colleague and friend, Justinian past president and president-elect of the ISBA, John Locallo, says: "I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Rick Felice on various committees and subcommittees of the Illinois State Bar Association. Rick's leadership, passion, even handedness, and clear logical thinking contributed greatly to every aspect of our organization. When Rick speaks, the room becomes quiet and people listen. People know he is going to say something insightful. And equally

as important, Rick is a great friend to all."

Rick is a second generation attorney, his father John J. Felice, the first American born of his family, graduated from Loyola Law, worked in private practice for over three decades and also was an adjunct faculty member at the highly regarded John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

His family came from Palermo, Sicily on his paternal side; his maternal side is from Trieste in Italy. Rick is married to the beautiful Marnell.

Another example of the finest our community has to offer.

Sommario, a demonstrated hard worker his entire legal career, showed the respect he rightfully has earned after one term on the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association. He is recognized as a hard worker, a clear thinker and a contributor to the improvement of the profession. Frank began his career as a workman's compensation lawyer in the offices of past president, at least its descendants, of Scott Vitell, and then the son, Joseph Vitell. He now handles workman's compensation and other responsibilities in the office of our distinguished Past President Antonio Romanucci, who presently serves president of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans.

Like John Locallo, who is about to be sworn in as president of the 32,000 member Illinois State Bar Association, Rick Felice, Frank Sommario, and our other contributors to the organized bar, Umberto Davi, Mauro Glorioso, etc., etc., do us proud. Following are congratulatory emails received by Rick and Frank from our rank in file.

- Leonard F. Amari: Rick and Frank, auguri and congratulations. You both continue to be a credit to the organized bar as you have been to your community.
- Bruno J. Tassone: Rick, congratulations. We all know in the tradition of all the past Italian American ISBA presidents, your term will be outstanding. Go Frankie! Go Frankie! One day an ISBA President.
- Sam Tornatore: Rick, congratulations! The Justinian Society and DuPage County are proud of you! Frank, congrats!
- Joseph G. Bisceglia: Rick, my sincere congratulations! See you soon. Congrats Frankie!
- Franco Coladipietro: Bravo! Congratulations Frank!
- Robert Bertucci: Bravo, Frank. Keep making us proud.
- Gregg A. Garofalo: Congrats to Rick and Frank!
- Anthony B. Ferraro: Dear Rick and Frank, Congratulations on taking office. Thanks for all your hard work.
- Mike Favia: Rick, congratulations! I join many of your friends and supporters in recognizing all the fine attributes and skills you bring in this leadership position in the Bar. Plus, you're a "good" guy. Wishing you well.

Joe Locallo Heads Columbians

By: Carmen P. Forte Jr.

The Columbian Club of Chicago, the well-renowned organization of Italian-American businessmen and professionals, honored new president Joseph Locallo at its installation meeting January 29. Locallo joins the ranks of bankers, judges, doctors, and various other professionals at the lead of this inspiring professional organization.



I was fortunate to spend the evening of fine dining and dancing at the Evanston Country Club, where Locallo was honored for his achievements and contributions, and greeted with much anticipation for his year president. Judge Joseph J. Urso was on hand to administer a quick oath to make it official. Locallo spoke of his early days with the club, brainstorming about new events and laughing about times when the group was smaller, but continued to grow into the sprawling group of professionals that it is today. There to help him celebrate were his loving wife, Kristine and family (Joe I, III, and possibly a IV on the way?) and Amari & Locallo partners: Leonard Amari, John Locallo, Franco Coladipietro, and Anthony Farace.

The Columbian Club of Chicago is an organization of Italian-American business and professional men that strives to promote higher business and professional standards within the several realms that its members traverse. The club also has a charitable foundation and sponsors nearly a dozen scholarships yearly, whose recipients span all levels of higher education.

The evening was a memorable one, filled with laughter, fine dining, and hours of enjoyment on the dance floor (I think the Locallos were the first ones to show us their moves). My congratulations to Joe, and his first lady Kristine, and best of luck on the year ahead.



Seated from left: Robert Trocchio and Joseph Locallo, President. Standing from left: Peter Volpe, Michael Spilotro, John Ferrentino, Michael Pontarelli

Celebrating Italian Heritage Month

By: Katherine Amari O'Dell

Every year, Italians throughout the United States mark October as the month to honor their heritage. The purpose of Italian-American Heritage Month is not just celebratory, but also educational in nature, because it is vital to inform the public of contributions made by Italians and Italian Americans to our society.



The Honorable Celia Gamrath, Cristina Mungai, JoAnn Serpico, and Judge Pileggi

On October 6, 2010, the Circuit Court of Cook County hosted its Italian Heritage Month Courthouse Tour. This endeavor was co-sponsored by our Justinian Society of Lawyers and the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans (JCCIA). The tour offered the public a sense of the day-to-day operations in one of the nation's largest unified court systems. On that morning the large audience, comprised of Kelly High School's law class and other proud Italian-Americans, was treated to a presentation by four law professionals from the Italian-American legal community.

First to address the crowd was JoAnn Serpico, president of the JCCIA. She explained the mission of the JCCIA which is an independent not-profit association dedicated to preserving Italian-American heritage and providing a unified voice for Chicago's Italian-American community. Serpico stated that the JCCIA was founded

in 1952 and serves as a congress for more than 65 Italian American organizations. She also explained that the JCCIA ran the second annual Fiera Italiana in Daley Plaza this year and that the JCCIA also organizes and sponsors the Columbus Day Parade every year.

Next to address the audience was the Honorable William G. Pileggi from the First Municipal District Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Pileggi spoke candidly about growing up as a first generation Italian American on the west side of Chicago, about the struggles that Italian Americans faced both then and now. He also spoke about the positive impact that his Italian heritage has on his life and the importance of appreciating the significance of continuing that legacy.

Past Justinian Society president Honorable Celia Gamrath, from the first Municipal District Traffic Division, spoke about how she was the first in her family to have a formal education. Judge Gamrath also discussed that through her hard work and dedication to the law by clerking for the appellate court and by working in private practice for many years, she was then appointed to be a judge.

Lastly, our newly-inducted Society President Cristina Mungai shared with her listeners her pride in being an Italian American and explained to our audience the mission of the Justinian Society, which is to advance and promote our members within the legal profession. She also discussed how our Italian heritage has carried through in the Justinian Society because of our Society's continued work to help advance the careers and interests of Italian American lawyers. This is done through the many scholarships the Society has provided to law students over the years. This year we have awarded over \$37,000 in scholarships to deserving law students, which when matched dollar for dollar by their law schools, makes over \$70,000 for needy and worthy Italian American law students.

A sincere thank-you is due to Judge Pileggi, JoAnn Serpico, Judge Gamrath and to President Mungai for their participation in the Italian Heritage Month Courthouse Tour. We hope to have an even larger audience response next year!

Brown Honors Justinians

By: Katherine A. O'Dell

Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County Dorothy Brown paid tribute on October 21, 2010, to four distinguished professionals of Italian-American heritage in celebration of Italian-American Heritage Month. The event was held at Ristorante Al Teatro and hosted by ABC-7's Mr. Mark Giangreco.

The 2010 recipients of the Honorable Dorothy Brown awards for Italian-American Heritage Month were: Jessica DePinto, CBS-2's Vince Gerasole, Honorable Richard Pellegrino, and Antonio Romanucci. These awards are given in recognition of outstanding achievement over the course of a career. Past recipients include Judge Gloria Coco, Joe Bisceglia, Joseph Gagliardo, Leonard Amari, Dick Caifano, Lisa Marino and Peter Silvestri. This year's award recipients have brought leadership, professionalism and dedication to their respective field like those honored before them.



Photo: From left, the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Vince Gerasole, Richard Pellegrino, Jessica DePinto, Antonio Romanucci and Mark Giangreco

Vince Gerasole, Chicago's Channel 2 news reporter since April 2001, was awarded with the Truth and Fairness Media Award. He began his broadcasting career as a New York based field producer for the Italian network RAI as he speaks fluent Italian. Over the course of his career, Mr. Gerasole has been presented with countless awards for his accomplishments both in his professional and personal life. Among his many awards are 11 Emmy's, including one for being named the Best Broadcast Reporter and Best News Writer by the Associated Press of Illinois. He is also a three-time James Beard Award nominee for Excellence in Food Reporting. Mr. Gerasole was introduced by his step mother, Mrs. Patti Gerasole. In an emotional acceptance speech when discussing this grandparents coming to America with very little money, Mr. Gerasole revealed that he would rather have frozen than fresh peas in his pasta. This was a running joke through the entire program.

Fellow award recipient of the Excellence in Public Service Award was Richard Pellegrino. He has practiced law for over 30 years and has served as the former commissioner of planning and zoning, a trustee and mayor for the Village of Indian Head Park, a past commissioner for

Continued on page 11

Brown, continued from page 10

the Illinois Supreme Court ARDC Inquiry Board, and Cook County Sheriff's Police and Corrections Merit Board. Pellegrino is currently an adjunct instructor at Nazarath Academy and executive director of the West Central Municipal Conference. Moreover, he is a U.S. Army Veteran who received a commendation medal for his meritorious service in Vietnam. Pellegrino was introduced by and long time friend and 9th District Cook County Commissioner, Peter Silvestri. Pellegrino concluded his acceptance speech by indicating that he will place his award plaque on his wall in his office and think about how much he appreciates all of us each day.

Award recipient of the Entrepreneurial Award was Jessica DePinto. She is the president and founder of Inner/Track Strategies, Inc. Before establishing her publishing company, she worked for the Department of Homeland Security, practiced international trade regulation for Dykema, PLLC and Hodes Keating & Pilon. DePinto is currently an adjunct instructor at Loyola University School of Continuing and Professional Studies. She is also a member of the Women in Leadership Advisory Board at Loyola University and serves on the board of trustees of the Chicago Academy for the Arts. Lastly, she is the secretary of The Justinian Society of Lawyers. Jessica DePinto was introduced by Gina DiCiani. Jessica's speech focused on three attributes that assisted her in achieving her accomplishments. They included creativity, risk taking and perseverance. During her speech, she explained that her perseverance was having to push forward instead of "spitting the bit," which is when a racing horse begins to lag in a race and backs off, indicating to the jockey that the horse is tiring and no longer eager to be at the head of the field. She used this phrase as DePinto's father used this term regularly before he passed. DePinto brought amusement to the emotional discussion of her father by asking Mark Giancreco if he had ever used this term. He was so caught off guard that the crowd laughed.

Antonio Romanucci, principal and partner at Romanucci and Blandin, received the The Excellence in Leadership Award. He has received numerous awards and honors including Lawyer of the Year by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, The John Marshall Law School Distinguished Service Award, Illinois Leading Lawyer's Network Top Lawyer and Top 100 Super Lawyer in Illinois. He is president of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans. Romanucci was introduced by his godfather, Dominic DiFrisco. Instead of Romanucci discussing himself during this acceptance speech, he thanked Dorothy Brown and her staff for all of their help in assisting attorneys through their work conducted in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

On behalf of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, a special thanks to The Honorable Dorothy Brown, her chief of staff, Enza Raineri, and to the committee for a wonderful event and for continuing to highlight the success of the Italian-American people of Chicago. A special thank you event sponsor Mark Giancreco, and to Alioto's Gift Shop of Oak Park for providing the Awards.

Enza Raineri: A mover and a shaker

By: Leonard Amari

It is an old cliché, when you want to get something done, give it to a busy person. With that in mind, meet Enza Raineri: recognized with the Woman of the Year Award from the Order of the Sons of Italy, Lodge 1, and recognized in 2006 with the prestigious Outstanding Leadership Award by Cook County Clerk of the Court Dorothy Brown.

Born in Chicago, Enza is first generation in the U.S. born to immigrants from Sicily. Growing up between two cultures was a difficult time. "It wasn't easy" she recalls, "My parents and I were literally learning English together."

She grew up in several neighborhoods: near the lakefront in Old Town, then Albany Park and finally the far northwest side of Chicago, O'Hare area. Enza Raineri graduated from Taft High School in 1981.

Her grandfather, Peter Perrone, had no choice after WWII but to leave Sicily and come to the United States to find work. As a shoemaker by trade, when no one was buying shoes after the war, he had six children to feed including her mother.

In 1955, the Perrone family settled in Brooklyn, New York and shortly thereafter, her grandfather took his family to Chicago where his brother Joseph was waiting for them. "My grandfather and his brother Joseph hadn't seen each other in 50 years. They were separated as children when my great-grandfather took Joseph to the U.S. in the early 1900's." Unfortunately, they were never to re-unite; while in route to Chicago, Joseph Perrone died of leukemia before he would see his brother and family.

Always dabbling in politics for fun, she decided to pursue a career in public relations. "My father wanted me to study law or medicine. I didn't feel either one was a good fit. Public relations was challenging because I could take a product or client and work to make their goals happen." Projects over the years have included community service work, actual agency work, and press conference arrangements.

After attending Triton College, Enza graduated from Roosevelt University in Chicago with a B.A. in Public Relations. "My interest in politics continued while working on many campaigns, including Paul Simon for President, Michael Dukakis for President, Richard Phelan for County Board President, and helping friends raise money for Patrick Kennedy's first run for State Representative in Rhode Island."

Then came a chance meeting with then future Clerk of the Circuit Court Aurelia Pucinski. The two became friends and mutual admirers. Shortly after Aurelia won her election, she invited Enza to join her. "I accepted the offer to work for her and, as they say, the rest is history." Enza is now in her 19th year in County Gov-



Enza Raineri stops in at our Justinian headquarters, Chief of Staff for our friend, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Dorothy Brown, pictured with Katherine Amari, left, and John Locallo, right.

ernment and can look back at some significant accomplishments.

"While working for Clerk Pucinski I put my PR skills to work by building a communications program for the Child Support Enforcement Division. The program consisted of garnering community support for the Clerk's goals for Child Support enforcement and meeting with community groups on a regular basis to discuss them. The program was a success."

Enza distinguished herself with each significant professional improvement. She moved into administrative positions as an Assistant Chief of Child Support, acting chief in child support to chief deputy clerk for the Juvenile Justice and First Municipal Civil Divisions. In March 2008 current Clerk Dorothy Brown promoted Enza to associate clerk of the Criminal Bureau, which entails the Criminal Division at 26th & California, Criminal Department at the Daley Center, Domestic Violence Court and the outlying branch courts throughout Chicago. "I was humbled by Clerk Brown's confidence in me to run this bureau. Criminal is a 24/7 operation, 365 days a year, we never stop!" said Enza.

Enza has dedicated time speaking with high school students about dating violence through the Clerk's Office dating violence speaker's program, juvenile expungements with community leaders and police departments. She currently serves as a liaison to the Justinian Society of Lawyers for the clerk's office, is a member of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans (JCCIA), serves as a hard working board member of the Italian American Political Coalition, Italian American Human Relations Foundation and the Edwin Aldrin Elementary School PTA. In 2005 Enza was the recipient of the IMPRESA Award from the Women's Division of the JCCIA. "I enjoy being active in community affairs and especially trying to improve the visibility of talented Italian Americans in the Chicagoland area."

Another example of the best our community has to offer.

Dr. Mary Milano: A Woman for All Seasons

By: Leonard Amari

This month we highlight the career of Dr. Mary L. Milano: lawyer, career and hardworking Justinian leader, public servant and priest. Her professional, administrative and academic experiences are extensive and very impressive. She is highly esteemed in the Illinois legal community and in our ethnic community.



From left: Kathy Orr, John Spatuzza, Dr. Mary Milano, and John Nocita.

Since 2005, Dr. Milano has served as executive director of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission. She directs this 12-office, \$10 million a year state human services agency encompassing the Office of the State Guardian, the Legal Advocacy Service and a Human Rights Authority, all dealing with disabled persons and service providers. In her role as director, she deals with the policy, intergovernmental, budgetary and service development and strategy of the largest public guardianship agency in the U.S. She has also instituted agency wide engagement with public policy initiatives. Obviously, these are daunting responsibilities that Dr. Milano handles with great competency, and with her theological training and Italian-American upbringing, she handles everything with great compassion. John Locallo, 3rd Vice President of the 37,000-member Illinois State Bar Association and past president of the Justinian Society of (Italian) Lawyers says of his long time friend and colleague: "In working with Mary, you realize that her integrity deals not only with the task at hand, but transcends well beyond that. A tireless worker, she has a firm grasp and realization of what is right, fair and proper as we deal with each other through legal issues, and as human beings and our society as a whole."

Dr. Milano previously served as associate director/chief of staff for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority where she directed its Federal and State Grants Division, responsible for some \$125 million in federal programs; on the executive staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, developing, planning and managing a comprehensive world hunger education program.

For 12 years, Milano practiced law with the world-wide, highly respected law firm of Baker & McKenzie, as a transactional lawyer in an international corporate practice specializing in commercial real estate matters and representation of foreign investors, as well as working aggressively in community development.

Certainly, this professional background shows that Dr. Mary L. Milano is a woman for all seasons. She received her Juris Doctorate (mcl) at Northern Illinois University, completed fellowships in Sicily, and obtained the Post Graduate Diploma in European Law from the University of Leicester. She also earned a D.Min. from Graduate Theological Foundation, an M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary, and her A.B. (scl) in Theology at Mundelein College. On the public service end, she earned the designation of Kellogg Executive Scholar in non-profit management at the Kellogg School (Northwestern University); completed the advanced public executive program, Arizona State University and obtained a post grad certificate in mediation/alternate dispute resolution at DePaul.

Her civic, educational and community services further indicate her eclectic professional accomplishments. She serves as a board member of our very active and successful Italian American Political Coalition; on the Board of Visitors of The John Marshall Law School; on the State's Alzheimer's Advisory Committee; The ISBA Assembly, the , Episcopal Diocesan Council and the Budget Committee, and is an incoming officer of the ISBA Government Lawyers Committee to mention just a few.

"There is no bar association activity of significance, no impacting community issue or event that Doctor Milano is not in the forefront of involvement. Her quiet leadership in our ethnic bar association, her many years of distinguished service as a board member of the Italian American Political Coalition, her leadership in the organized bar have caused her to be highly esteemed by me and by folks in the profession," adds John Locallo.

Born and raised in Chicago, Dr. Milano traces her Italian ancestry to Marsico Nuovo, in Basilicata – her great-grandfather coming to America in 1882 and Naples. The Milano family originally resided on the near south side, moving from Polk and Wabash to eventually to the 23rd and Wells neighborhood – the old Second Ward and the political organization of Congressman Oscar de Priest. Mary opines that this geographic history explains why the Milano side of the family includes Republicans and White Sox fans. -- as well as a longtime interest in civil rights and public service.

Mary resides on the north side of Chicago with her son, Jean-Paul, a budding ballet star who studies dance about a block away from Polk and Wabash, where it all started with great grandpa Milano in 1882.

Another example of the best our community has to offer.

NIU/Law Dean Rosato Shines

By: Leonard F. Amari

Of late, we've seen Jennifer Rosato at some of our Justinian functions – a new arrival to the Illinois legal community. When Jennifer Rosato became dean of the Northern Illinois University (NIU) College of Law, she also became the first Italian-American female dean of any law school in the country. It should also be mentioned that she also treasures her Latino ancestry, on her mother's side.

Rosato comes to NIU from Drexel University in Philadelphia, where she was part of the administrative team that created and launched the Earle Mack School of Law. An ambitious



Jennifer Rosato visits the Justinian headquarters.

From left: John Locallo, Jennifer Rosato, and Katherine Amari O'Dell.

endeavor, but with 20-20 hindsight, she was obviously up to.

She was acting dean during the school's first year of operation (July 2006 to April 2007) and a consultant on the project for a year prior. The experience she gained in those positions will continue to be useful in her role in the top spot at NIU Law.

The NIU search committee recognized that Rosato's experience made her stand out, even among an excellent field of candidates culled from a national search. NIU Executive Vice President and Provost Raymond Alden III said there were several attributes that made her a good fit.

"Dean Rosato provides an excellent mix of experience, enthusiasm and leadership skills," said Alden. "The insights she gleaned in helping to open the doors at Drexel, combined with her outstanding record of scholarship and leadership in nearly two decades as a legal educator, make her a wonderful candidate to assume the mantle of leadership at NIU Law."

The NIU College of Law has many distinguished Justinians as graduates, including, among others, Alderman Bob Fioretti, Judge Rod Equi, Judge Tony Iosco, Judge Gloria Coco, past ISBA President Cheryl Niro, to mention a few. These and other alumni have achieved impressive positions as judges, prominent members of the Illinois Bar Association, state attorneys and partners in prestigious private law firms.

The appointment to dean marks a significant

Continued on Page 13

Rosato, continued from page 12

transition for Rosato in several ways. For starters, she has moved to the Midwest from the East Coast, where she has spent most of her life and career. She grew up in Bethlehem, Pa., in a family of mixed ethnicity. Her father was Italian; her mother, Nicaraguan. Rosato attended public schools in the 1970s, and like many of her era, she became the first generation in the family to go to college and was accepted at Cornell University. The experience of going to a big school provided her with a new perspective.

Rosato earned a bachelor's degree at Cornell in social work and, as a senior completing her practicum, worked as a caseworker in child protective services in Elmira, N.Y. It was there that her experiences dealing with children in foster care awakened her interest in law, particularly family law.

Rosato decided to enter the University of Pennsylvania Law School and threw herself wholeheartedly into the experience. She became editor-in-chief of the school's *Journal of International Business Law*. She entered moot court competitions and won, even arguing before former U.S. Supreme Court Justice O'Connor as a third-year law student. She wanted to become involved in as many activities as she could handle and interact with as many of her peers and professors as possible.

"I loved law school. I saw it as an opportunity to really challenge myself and get a great education," she said. "It's a chance to talk to smart people, to test your ideas and get to know your professors. I ate it up."

For Rosato, the passion for family law issues continued to drive her career and scholarship. After she left law school, she clerked for a federal court judge for two years, spent a year as an associate in a Philadelphia law firm, then turned to teaching and writing on diverse legal issues. She was an instructor at Villanova University School of Law before moving to Brooklyn Law School in 1992, where she taught courses including civil procedure, legal ethics, bioethics and public policy, and family law.

While at Brooklyn Law School, Rosato was associate dean for student affairs and also co-director of the Center for Health, Science and Public Policy as well as professor of law.

In 2006, Rosato moved to Drexel University, and was hired as a professor and senior associate dean for student affairs for the new College of Law. She had been working as a consultant to Drexel, helping the university create the law school from the ground up, including hiring faculty and curriculum development. Then, as acting dean and associate dean, she had the opportunity to launch a law school to educate lawyers for the 21st century. Part of that vision was to build a law community that championed diversity.

At NIU Law, Rosato is excited about building on the law school's strengths, including access, diversity, experiential learning, and public service. She hopes to engage the law school further with the university and the surrounding community. She and the faculty are already working on collaborations with other colleges, including interdisciplinary programs in environmental and health law. She also would like to enhance the school's national reputation.

What also keeps her young is maintaining a healthy lifestyle with plenty of exercise. Rosato is a runner and often has often participated in 5K races. She also travels a lot: returning frequently to Philadelphia to be with her twelve-year-old daughter, attending conferences, and visiting alumni. Dean Rosato is very happy with her career choice and is looking forward to fulfilling her six-year commitment at NIU.

Another example of the best our community has to offer.

Nursing Home Law

Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Actions in the Elderly Population

By: Michael F. Bonamarte, Levin & Perconti



Elder law practitioners owe it to their elderly clients to consider the possibility of pursuing personal injury and wrongful death cases when the elderly are the victims of neglect and abuse resulting in injuries and death.

Traditionally, lawyers have overlooked or not even considered cases involving injuries and death of the elderly. Due to infirmities, lack of earning capacity and because they rarely are providing economic support to anyone, a misconception has formed in the legal community that personal injury cases involving the elderly do not have value.

Case results suggest otherwise. Nationwide, in large counties and small counties you can find significant verdicts and settlements for injuries and deaths of elderly individuals. The recent acquisition of several national nursing home chains by private equity firms has received a great deal of attention from the media, from politicians, and from elderly residents and their families. The worry is that in an effort to increase revenue at nursing homes these private equity firms are reducing staff and resources while increasing the census. The obvious result is that there is not enough staff and resources to care for the number of residents in the facility. This is referred to as the "profits over people" argument. The issue was addressed extensively in an article in the *New York Times* titled, "At Many Homes More Profit and Less Nursing." When nursing homes and the large corporations that operate them place profits over people, juries become angry. Juries recognize the last years of an individual's life are precious. It angers them when they hear the argument "she was going to die anyway." They realize that we have the right to die with dignity. Juries will award significant amounts when that right is violated.

Elder law practitioners should discuss with family members of loved ones in the nursing home, assisted living or home healthcare setting issues of possible neglect or abuse. The attorney should discuss what family members should look for if they have loved ones in a nursing home or other long term care setting. Family members should look for injuries like bed sores, malnutrition, dehydration, falls and sexual abuse. Family members should call state agencies to make complaints. Elder law attorneys when confronted with injuries and death of an elderly client should question the circumstances surrounding the injuries or death. The elder law attorney should explore the possibility of neglect by the nursing staff, doctor or other healthcare providers in both the long term care and hospital setting and refer the client to the appropriate to a lawyer who specializes in prosecuting these types of cases.

The elderly, their families, as well as elder law attorneys should be aware that several laws have been codified to protect the rights of the elderly and encourage the elderly and their families to assert their rights through litigation. On a national level, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 sets forth requirements for long term care facilities throughout our country. Several states, including Illinois, have adopted more laws to encourage elderly residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to pursue litigation when their rights have been violated and injury or death results. Illinois adopted the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act in 1979 amid concerns of inadequate care in nursing homes throughout the state. The Illinois Nursing Home Care Act contains a provision requiring the defendant to pay plaintiff's attorneys fees and costs in addition to any damages awarded by a jury where a resident of a long term care facility is abused or neglected.

Large verdicts and settlements are not limited to cases against long term care facilities. The elder law bar focuses in on financial exploitation of the elderly but sometimes has a tendency to overlook cases of medical malpractice, premises liability, pharmaceutical liability, motor vehicle accidents and other cases where the elderly are injured or die due to the neglect of others. Because the elderly require more medications elder law attorneys should be sensitive to potential cases involving medication errors and also to potential cases against drug manufacturers.

It is important for elder law attorneys to be able to recognize when a civil action for the injuries or death of an elderly individual may be appropriate. The elderly need advocates to stand up for them. Cases involving the elderly do have value and can be won. Elder law attorneys should encourage their clients in such situations to seek the counsel of experienced trial lawyers who are willing to pursue their claims.

The Di Silvestro Family and the Law

By: Leonard F. Amari

This month we highlight the Di Silvestro family, two generations of Italian-American lawyers and career Justinians, helping people and being leaders of the community. The patriarch of the family, the late Robert F. Di Silvestro, passed on a legacy of great respect, integrity and community leadership to his two attorney sons, Robert J. Di Silvestro and Stephen P. Di Silvestro. His wife, Theresa, survives him. Dad was Jesuit-educated, attending Saint Ignatius High School and Loyola University for both his undergraduate and law degrees. He began his professional career as an attorney in 1955, assisting others until his death in 2003. During his distinguished career, he helped thousands of Italian-Americans with their legal problems. He was always there no matter the problem, as his old-time clients like to say, from creating a new business venture or a construction project to simply buying a home or preparing one's last will and testament.

Along the way, Mr. Di Silvestro was active in the Italian American community and a career Justinian. He was a significant influence for many years in the Columbian Club of Chicago, a leading professional Italian American organization founded in 1939. Mr. Di Silvestro led a life that embodied the tenets of the Columbians: the promotion, adoption and the application of higher social, business and professional standards and civic welfare; enduring friendships, altruistic service and building a better community. Dad was President of the Columbian Club in 1994.

An example of the legacy by example of this wonderful man, respected lawyer and community leader is the fact that his oldest son, Robert J. Di Silvestro is a longtime Columbian Club of Chicago member and served as President of the Columbian Club in 2009.

Preparing this article and talking about their late and truly loved father, both Steve and Bob talked about having been taught the middle-class work ethic from their dad – to lead a life of great honesty and integrity. Their late father characterized the practice of law as helping people and solving people's legal problems; those in the legal community that knew him know that he excelled in the practice of law and even mentored many fellow attorneys.

The oldest son, Robert J. Di Silvestro, graduated from Northwestern University, receiving a B.A. in Economics in 1982 and attended Notre Dame Law School, receiving his J.D. in 1985. He honed his legal skills as an assistant Cook County state's attorney and, more importantly,



The late Bob DiSilvestro with sons Robert J. and Stephen P.

working with his dad for many years. As a practicing lawyer for 25 years, Bob concentrates his representation in the personal injury field, real estate, and administrative law. He has obtained many millions of dollars for injured clients. He is zealous in his desire to see fair compensation for victims resulting from the negligence of others. He is also an outstanding business lawyer, representing commercial property developers, condominium associations and banking institutions. A great deal of Bob's practice involves the creation of new business entities for land development, representing property owners in creating or converting multiunit residential properties, and individuals purchasing or selling real estate. As the former deputy chief of Chicago Traffic Court for the State's Attorney's Office, Bob also assists clients with major traffic violations and driver's license reinstatements at the Secretary of State. Bob, his wife Felicia and their beautiful newborn daughter Carla Rose, reside in the Streeterville area of Chicago.

The younger of the two brothers, Stephen P. Di Silvestro, respected in his own right for being an outstanding attorney and Certified Public Accountant, received his B.B.A. in Accounting from the University of Notre Dame in 1985 and his J.D. from DePaul in 1989. After successfully completing the CPA exam, Steve began his professional career with the accounting firms of Peat Marwick & Mitchell and later Arthur Andersen. Practicing for over twenty years, he concentrates in estate planning, probate and real estate transactions. Steve has

handled thousands of real estate transactions, both commercial and residential. He has drafted thousands of wills, living trusts and powers of attorneys for clients of Di Silvestro and Associates. Having worked alongside his Dad for over 15 years, Steve prides himself on being able to help families work through the consequences of an unexpected death and the complications involved in transferring assets.

Steve is uniquely qualified, with a background in accounting and tax law, to provide income and estate tax advice as part of a general estate planning and real estate practice. Steve is married to Cathy and they are the parents of three children, Michelle, Stephen and Kathleen. They reside in Northbrook.

Di Silvestro and Associates, with offices on Harlem Avenue in Chicago, is AV Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, which is defined as the preeminent rating, indicating the highest level of legal ability and ethics. Bob and Steve are both members of the Illinois State Bar and the respective committee ISBA sections of their practice, the Chicago Bar Association and the Justinian Society. They proudly carry on their dad's legacy in the exceptional legal representation for the third and fourth generations which constitute many of the firm's clients.

The Di Silvestro family traces their roots to the Abruzzi-Molise region of Italy, with their ancestors having immigrated to this country shortly after World War I. The Di Silvestro family is a further example of the best our community has to offer.

Judge Cesario Highlighted by JMLS

[Editor's note: The following article was most complimentary to our beloved and active Justinian, the Honorable Cheryl Cesario. We republish it here in its entirety.]

This past year, The John Marshall Law School expanded its JD Certificate in Elder Law to include more than double the course offerings and a clinical requirement. For students interested in elder law studies, the new program will help to ensure competency in the laws and policies that are necessary to work in probate, estate planning, adult guardianships, or any field involving older clients. Still, attorneys know that classroom learning is just the first step in building the knowledge necessary to practice in a concentrated area of the law.

To become a good elder law attorney, we turn to our colleagues who have demonstrated excellence in the field, and have practical experience and advice to share. The Honorable Cheryl D. Cesario is an alumna of John Marshall, and has nearly 30 years of experience in public service. Judge Cesario was an assistant state's attorney for Cook County, and served as general counsel for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. Today, Judge Cesario is assigned to the Circuit Court of Cook County, Probate Division, where she sees every aspect of elder law.

For new attorneys and law students intending to practice in elder law, Judge Cesario stresses that it is important to "understand the challenges of growing older. It takes a special kind of person to work with this population." Elder law attorneys must understand that their clients are slowing down, that chronic physical ailments are part of everyday life, and that working with older clients requires more patience and compassion.

Young attorneys can gain these skills and learn about these challenges through work experience and reading articles online and in print media, such as the American Association of Retired People Magazine. Judge Cesario predicts that "as the baby boomers age, we'll see both more mainstream and legal literature" about aging and client issues.

Hands-on opportunities to practice in elder law are also available. Students can work with John Marshall's pro bono Fair Housing Legal Clinic, the Veterans Legal Support Clinic, or the independent Center for Disability and Elder Law to gain practical experience.



The Honorable Cheryl Cesario, right, with Celia Gamrath and Enza Rainieri

Young lawyers can get additional experience by clerking for an attorney practicing elder law or by volunteering with lawyers in the field. New attorneys and students should also "observe in courtrooms to get to know the reality of the work. The courtroom is a public forum and a great source of learning." She further suggests that students "compare the pleadings and other documents used in probate court with the probate statute to see how the law translates into practice." Looking to the future, the changing fields of health care and elder law will present new issues for the courts to decide. The Illinois Power of Attorney Act, effective July 1, 2011, provides new power of attorney (POA) language and responsibilities for the individual holding the power. Litigation will continue over terminology used in these health care POAs.

Judge Cesario points out that the words of an act cannot always resolve the "differing personal and religious beliefs regarding life and death decisions, including when to prolong the life of a loved one and how that is accomplished, even in the closest families." These differing values create the challenges, as well as the satisfactions, for an elder law attorney.

Nisivaco Appointed to ISBA Board of Governors

John L. Nisivaco, a partner in the Chicago personal injury firm of Boudreau & Nisivaco, LLC, has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the board of governors of the Illinois State Bar Association.



The 25-member board directs the activities of the state's largest bar association with 33,000 members. Nisivaco replaces Justice Mary Jane Theis, who resigned her seat after being appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Nisivaco has been elected to the ISBA Assembly three times and is a past chair of the Standing Committee on Judicial Evaluations and the Tort Law Section Council. He is also a board member of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the charitable affiliate of the ISBA.

A Chicago native, Nisivaco received his law degree from DePaul University College of Law in 1993 and his bachelor's degree in political science from Northern Illinois University in 1990.

In addition to the ISBA, he is active in other bar associations including the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, American Bar Association, American Association for Justice, the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Phi Alpha Delta National Law Society and the Justinian Society of Lawyers.

Among his community activities, he is a commissioner on the Lyons Township Mental Health Commission. He was a co-founder and past president of the Holidayer Foundation dedicated to the financial support of The Misericordia Home for disabled persons.

Nisivaco resides in LaGrange with his wife, Dr. Colleen M. Fitzgerald Nisivaco, and their two children, Mary Rose and John Fitzgerald.

Located in Springfield and Chicago, the Illinois State Bar Association provides professional services to Illinois lawyers, and education and services to the public. More information is available at www.isba.org or by calling 1-800-252-8908.

Minchella, on the Cutting Edge of Foreclosure Dilemma

[The following article appeared in the *Chicago Tribune, Money & Real Estate* section, on Sunday, January 23, 2011 and written by Mary Umberger, "On Real Estate." Reprinted in its entirety herein.]

Once upon a time, the practice of foreclosure law was a specialty that wasn't in particular demand. But that was before the word "foreclosure" became the stuff of daily conversations and nightly newscasts.

Though the American Bar Association says it has no firm data on foreclosure law as a field of choice among its members, anecdotally it would seem like an area whose time has come.

One thing is certain: There's plenty more for these lawyers to keep up with than there used to be, considering the byzantine ways of mortgage modifications and short sales, which also once were obscure terms.

Then there's the so-called robo-signing furor that erupted last fall, in which bank employees are alleged to have processed foreclosure documents in massive numbers without exercising appropriate due diligence, throwing the validity of some foreclosures into question. It generated an avalanche of legal challenges that convinced Skokie lawyer Erica Crohn Minchella that the once-staid practice of foreclosure law was about to get a lot more complicated.

"Right after robo-signing broke, I realized that the law was going to change substantially, and that, as a solo practitioner, I wasn't going to be able to keep up with the changes myself," she said.

So Minchella founded the Association of Foreclosure Defense Attorneys, a Chicago-area group that meets regularly to discuss recent court decisions and share research on complex cases. It has about two dozen members, she said.

One byproduct of their collaboration, Minchella said, is that it may help keep their costs down and, in turn, the costs to their clients.

She acknowledged that costs, or the fear of them, can keep many homeowners who are in trouble on their loans from reaching out for help.

Some help is free. For example, housing agencies certified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (hud.gov) can provide foreclosure counseling.

And Minchella said homeowners who are representing themselves and looking to fight a foreclosure in Cook County may ask the court to place them in a free mediation program, or they may use the services of volunteer attorneys who can review an individual's foreclosure documents and make suggestions. It's difficult to generalize about the cost of challenging a foreclosure in court, she said.

"Every case is different," Minchella said. "Some might require very little work, and some might be very labor intensive. Part of the decision of what the cost will be for a foreclosure is what the (homeowner's) intent is and whether there are defenses."



Dion Davi and Erica Crohn Minchella.

Some homeowners contest foreclosures to buy time while attempting to negotiate a modification or a short sale, she said. Because the law is cautious about turning people out of their homes, it's not unusual for a contested foreclosure to take a year or more to work out in the courts, with the homeowner remaining in the house the whole time, she said.

Despite some recent headlines in which courts ruled against lenders and in favor of homeowners because the banks' original paperwork was sloppy, those rulings aren't the norm, Minchella said.

A widely watched ruling on Jan. 7 may change that, however: The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts voided the seizures of two houses by two banks because they failed to show they held the mortgages when they foreclosed. Minchella said the ruling amounted to "great news" for foreclosed homeowners, and that lawyers would be watching to see how it would affect cases outside Massachusetts.

Until those effects are more certain, though, "if you want to save your house, you really need to be looking at a loan modification" rather than placing your entire hopes in a court challenge, she said.

Minchella generalized that in the Chicago area the overall attorney cost for representation on a loan modification or short sale could run from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

The key to prevailing in either of those situations, whether a homeowner is going it alone or with representation, is having all paperwork meticulously organized. Missing or confusing documentation eats up critical time, she said.

But even an experienced lawyer, when talking about short sales and loan modifications, expressed the same tone of frustration I've heard from homeowners who fall into the lending rabbit hole, looking for a way out of foreclosure: That is, nothing is guaranteed.

"It depends on who the lender is, and even that doesn't tell you anything," Minchella said.

"I have a case with one bank that has been going on for two years, and another (with the same lender) that was done in three months.

"(Getting a modification or short-sale agreement) is absolutely a crapshoot."

Monico: Mentor, on Video

[Our illustrious past president, Michael D. Monico, was mentioned prominently in a recent *Law Bulletin* article, "Amicus Curious," written by Maria Kantzavelos. We republish her well written column, here, in part.]

In his video-recorded take on the question of what makes a trial attorney effective, Chicago attorney Michael D. Monico engages viewers with an anecdote about his lawyer friend's stint long ago as a door-to-door encyclopedia salesman.

"He said if you can talk your way into someone's house and get them to buy something that they arguably don't need, it was the greatest experience to be a trial lawyer," Monico says in the video clip.



Past President Michael D. Monico, left, with his son Brian Monico.

He shares what he sees as a truth to his friend's touting of his time selling encyclopedias as an experience that helped shape him as a trial lawyer.

"No matter what you do, if you are good at communicating with people and good at trying to tell them a story about something that's important, and that story moves them in some way, to act in a certain way, that's what the skill of being a trial lawyer, I think, is," Monico says.

Monico of Monico, Pavich & Spevack, who is a past president of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association, offers those words with a friendly smile as an answer to a series of questions posed to him about the practice and the legal profession.

He is among some 27 subjects, including both judges and veteran attorneys from around the 7th Circuit, who are featured in a growing, online collection of short video clips as part of a project of the Young Lawyers Committee of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association that aims to gather and communicate wisdom and experience from one generation to the next.

The E-Mentoring Project was rolled out in May, when access to the video clips were limited to members of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association. But the committee recently opened up the project to the public, making it available to everyone who visits 7thcircuitbar.org.

Molaro: Lawmaker-Turned-Lobbyist Brings Rare View

[Editor's Note: This article, written by Bethany Krajelis, originally appeared in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and is being reprinted here with permission.]

During his tenure in the Illinois General Assembly, former Rep. Robert S. Molaro made it his job to stop unnecessary penalty enhancements from becoming law.

"It was a challenge," said Molaro, who became a lobbyist after he retired from the legislature in 2009. "You have to be tough on crime if you want to stay in the General Assembly."

While it may have been difficult, Molaro's position as chairman of the House Judiciary Criminal Law Committee made his mission a little easier to accomplish.

"It is a general unwritten rule that once a bill goes to committee and the sponsor asks it to be called, the chairman would always call it," he said. "I didn't do that."

Molaro was aware that his strategy left some of his colleagues frustrated, but he knew that if he let a proposed penalty enhancement out of his committee, it would go to a vote before the full chamber.

"If it was called on the floor, I knew my colleagues wouldn't be able to vote 'no' because they were afraid their opponents in the next election would say they were soft on crime," he said. "I can't tell you how many state reps and senators got mad at me for not calling their bills, but I felt it was my job not to call them."

Molaro's focus on penalty enhancements grew out of his experiences as a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney, as well as his involvement in the Criminal Law, Edit, Alignment and Reform Commission.

The CLEAR Commission, which Molaro served on when he was a lawmaker, started working on a complete rewrite of the state's Criminal Code in 2005. Its executive director, Peter G. Baroni, has been a regular attendee of the House and Senate criminal law committees for several years, including those in which Molaro was in charge.

Baroni, a lawyer lobbyist with Leinenweber, Baroni & Daffada LLC, said Molaro's concerns over penalty enhancements complemented the mission of the CLEAR Commission, which is to eliminate redundancies and inconsistencies in the Criminal Code in order to make it easier to understand.

Saying that Molaro served as a filter, Baroni said the former lawmaker's strategy of not calling certain bills illustrates his political independence and desire to do what he feels is right.

"He had a real independent stance on criminal justice issues," Baroni said. "It didn't matter what caucus you were in, if it was a bill that just wasn't right, he would ask you to change it or not call it."

Baroni said Molaro brought an interesting perspective to the General Assembly. Besides having experience as both a prosecutor and defense attorney, Molaro served in both chambers.

Molaro, 60, was a member of the Illinois Senate from 1993 to 2003 before he moved over to the House, where he stayed until his 2009 retirement.

Prior to joining the legislature, he served as a Democratic precinct committeeman while he practiced law. He had a stint as an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Chicago, a job that included prosecuting traffic ordinance violations, and a private criminal defense practice, in which he mostly handled misdemeanors.

Sen. Kirk W. Dillard, R-Hinsdale, said his former colleague has a unique view on the legislature. He said it is very rare for a lawmaker to serve in both chambers.

"It gives him a perspective of how both chambers view and treat issues and they do view issues differently," Dillard said. "It's very valuable insight that only one or two other people in Illinois possess."

Dillard, who serves on the CLEAR Commission, said Molaro's legal background, input and ability to communicate with House Speaker Michael J. Madigan's office "was invaluable" to the commission's efforts.

Although he doesn't recall working with Molaro on any of his lobbying matters, Dillard said he doesn't doubt that Molaro's experience, insight, "likeable and engaging" personality and sense of humor make it easy for him to retain clients.

Molaro said he decided to leave the General Assembly in 2009 when he saw no way out of the state's financial troubles. He said he knew he'd have to vote to raise taxes or lay off state workers.

"You can call that chickening out, but I didn't want to do it," Molaro said. "I saw that happening and thought it was time to let someone else go down there and fight the budget."

After he left the legislature, Molaro took a few months to explore his options. He considered a judgeship and talked to a few law firms, but decided on lobbying.

"I am kind of an old dog and don't want to learn new tricks," he joked, adding that lobbying is not too far off from being a lawmaker. As a lawmaker, he often lobbied for his colleagues' bills.

Some of Molaro's lobbying clients include Hawthorne Race Course, the Illinois Small Loan Association, the Municipal Employee's Annuity & Benefit Fund of Chicago and Red-speed Illinois, a company that offers red light and speed photo enforcement programs.

Molaro also works as a municipal prosecutor for several villages and cities, including Burbank, Countryside and Justice.

"I'm not an A-list lobbyist," Molaro said, noting that he is not the main lobbyist for most of his clients. "But, I've found a nice little niche for myself."

Romanucci Named 2011 Super Lawyer

Antonio M. Romanucci, a founding principal and partner in the Chicago personal injury law firm of Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, has been selected for the 2011 Top 100 Illinois *Super Lawyers* list.

Super Lawyers is a nationwide rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The selection process is multi-phased and includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

Since 1987, Tony has practiced solely in civil litigation, concentrating in serious personal injury, wrongful death and workers' compensation. He has successfully tried numerous civil jury trials, and has handled arbitrations and compensation claims on behalf of his clients, obtaining over \$150 million in recoveries.

Romanucci & Blandin, LLC is located at 33 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60602, and can be reached at 312-458-1000 or www.rblaw.net.



From left: Leonard Amari, Joe Bisceglia, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and Tony Romanucci

Having 12 Children Keeps Judge Young

[Editor's Note: This article, written by John Flynn Rooney, originally appeared in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and is being reprinted here with permission.]

Judge Paul L. Mangieri finds handling juvenile abuse cases involving young parents difficult.

"To me, parenting isn't something that can really be taught to somebody in our juvenile justice system," said Mangieri, who along with his wife, Felicia, are the parents of 12 children. "It's much more of a learned behavior than acquired behavior."

So, it's difficult to try to be able to coach or teach a 24- or 25-year-old about their parenting techniques when they may never have experienced parenting by their own parents," said Mangieri, who sits in Galesburg.

Thomas C. Maas, a Farmington lawyer, has represented clients in child abuse cases involving young parents before Mangieri.

"Trying to balance the safety of the children with the parent's rights and do right by both of them is difficult," said Maas, a principal of Baudino, Potter & Maas Law Office. "I thought he did a good job of that."

Before joining the bench, Mangieri served in the U.S. Navy and as the Knox County state's attorney for more than two terms.

Mangieri, was born in Galesburg and raised about 10 miles south of there in Abingdon. He was the fifth and last child born to Joseph and Dorothy Mangieri, who are deceased.

After owning a tavern for about 20 years, Joseph Mangieri launched a construction company that built residential homes from 1964 to 1992. Mangieri and two of his brothers worked with their father during high school and college breaks. Dorothy Mangieri was a homemaker.

"They instilled within us an incredible sense to work extremely hard no matter what you do," Mangieri said.

Dorothy Mangieri taught her youngest son to have a sense of fairness and equality and to always be honest and forthright, he said. His father taught him to be compassionate and about the ability to understand people.

Mangieri and his siblings had 56 first cousins just on his father's side of the family in the Galesburg area.

"There was a wonderful sense of family and extended family," he said.

While attending Abingdon High School,

Mangieri learned that many elected officials had law degrees, which spurred his interest in pursuing a legal career.

After his first year at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mangieri joined the Navy. His father was a Navy pilot during World War II, and his older brother, Michael, served as a Navy pilot during the Vietnam War.

"At the time, I wasn't sure I wanted to go through law school," Mangieri said.

In 1981, however, he enrolled at the St. Louis University School of Law. He served on active duty in the Navy during the summers of his final two years of law school.

Following his graduation from law school in 1984, Mangieri was assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Station in Waukegan. After about nine months there, he volunteered to serve as a judge advocate general for four years and was assigned to the aircraft carrier, USS Saratoga. He was deployed overseas twice.

"My job was basically making sure that all the sailors got back to the ship before it sailed and to make sure all the local residents received just compensation for any damages caused by service members," Mangieri said.

In 1985, he and other crew members on the Saratoga received a Presidential Unit Citation for taking part in military operations against Libya. Mangieri also earned a Navy Commendation Medal and a Navy Achievement Medal.

Shortly after he left the military in 1988, Mangieri got tattoos, one on each of his shoulders. The tattoos are Latin sayings that translated mean the die is cast and by courage and faith, Mangieri said.

After his stint in the military, he returned to Galesburg, where he joined Barash, Storzbach & Henson P.C. and concentrated on civil and criminal trial litigation. He remained there until 1996, when he was elected to his first term as Knox County state's attorney.

Mangieri said he had an interest in politics since a young age. "I couldn't shake it, so I ran for state's attorney in 1996" and became the first Democrat elected to that office.

Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge Stephen C. Mathers, the presiding jurist in Knox County, said Mangieri tried several cases before him when he was practicing law. He was always very well prepared, Mathers said.

Mangieri "comes across very well in front of regular people," Mathers said.

In 2006, he ran unsuccessfully in the Democratic primary for Illinois state trea-

surer. After running for statewide office, he decided to pursue a judgeship.

Mangieri applied for a vacancy in the 9th Circuit, which comprises Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren counties. In early 2007, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Mangieri to a judgeship in the 9th Circuit. He was recommended to the court by Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas K. Kilbride, who screened candidates through a committee of lawyers and others.

In November 2008, Mangieri was elected as a Democrat for a six-year term on the bench.

During his initial year on the bench, he sat in Fulton County and handled various matters ranging from misdemeanor to family law cases.

He then "rode the circuit," handling criminal and civil matters in Knox, Fulton, McDonough and Warren counties.

Craig F. Pierce, a lawyer in Bushnell who has known Mangieri for about 20 years, said the judge treats lawyers and defendants with dignity.

Pierce recalled a case from several years ago in which he represent a 20-year-old man in a criminal case. Mangieri gave Pierce's client a chance to go through counseling and rehabilitation.

"If [Mangieri] had not given him a chance, he probably would have stayed in a life of misfortune and crime and still be in prison now," Pierce said.

But the man is now in his third year of college, Pierce said.

For the past two years, Mangieri has served in Knox County, where he presides over traffic, misdemeanor matters and first appearances and preliminary hearings for felonies.

"I think the most challenging part is when the individuals that appear before me are not so much hard-core or brazen criminals as they are in need of mental health assistance," Mangieri said.

During his free time, he exercises most mornings, plays sports with his children and attends their sporting events.

Mangieri and his wife have a total of six children from their respective first marriages and have had six children together. Their offspring range in age from 6 to 29.

"They keep me young," Mangieri said. "I still feel like I'm 25 years old, and I think it's directly attributable to the number of kids we have and especially the younger ones," he said.

Pellegrino IAPC President

Following in the footsteps of previous past Justinian Presidents and contributors to our legal society and our ethnic community, Richard F. Pellegrino took over as President of the Italian American Political Coalition on January the 18th, 2011. He follows as the immediate successor of Fred Serpe, who did an outstanding job, who followed in the distinguished footsteps of Tom Battista, etc, etc. No one will work harder than Rich, do more for the enhancement of the voice of our community, politically, the Italian American Political Coalition. We reprint here his comments in addressing the hardworking board of the IAPC on the day of his installation:

"In 1962, while addressing the Italian Parliament in Rome, Queen Elizabeth began her remarks by asserting: 'your people gave civilization to my people.'

As we look at history, how unique are we of this Italian-American heritage. How blessed are we to have blended the values and traditions of this great experiment in democracy that we call America.

The question becomes: How will we transition our ancestral heritage to facilitate our American future?

We must build upon the solid foundation of our heritage and through unity forge our future. We must grasp the minds and hands of the younger generations who share our unique Italian-American heritage and cultivate their leadership potential. If we do not, the uniqueness we enjoy will be lost within three generations. If we fail to pass on our traditions and experience, this great tapestry that we call American will become worn and indistinguishable.

I know, however, that this will not happen. I know this because I know that all of the Directors of the Italian American Political Coalition share the following fundamental goals:

1. Belong to something greater than yourself.
2. Work with others toward common goals.
3. Do your part – one person or committed group of people can make a difference.
4. Take pride in a task well done.
5. Channel unflagging energy to turn ideals into reality.
6. Help build something of lasting value.

It simply comes down to two nouns and an adjective: 'Time and a talented team.' This Board of Directors unequivocally has the talent – we must make the time to meet the commitment to our heritage and to our collective future as a team.

May I submit that the only place where success comes before vision and work is in the dictionary.

Our ancestors all came here through some form of public transportation. They gave us a great gift. Let us wrap this gift ever more tightly and brightly for those to whom we will eventually pass this great torch of tradition.

One heritage – one future. Together, what a beautiful thing!



Richard Pellegrino, right, with his protégé, JMLS student, Lenny Cannata

Phillips ITLA 3rd VP

By: Leonard F. Amari

The Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, at its convention in June, elected career Justinian and successful catastrophic injury trial lawyer, Steve Phillips, to be third vice president.

Of course, Steve is the son of a legend in the legal and our ethnic community, John G. Phillips who was a career contributor to mak-



Steve Phillips, center, with "Phillips Scholarship" recipients.

ing the Justinian Society of Lawyers a premier bar association in the State of Illinois. As a bar and community leader, Steve carries on that tradition of leadership.

Steve Phillips, as his late father did for decades, to this day, contributes many, many thousands of dollars each and every year to the Justinian Society Scholarship Fund. These contributions make becoming a lawyer easier for following generations of Italian-Americans. Virtually hundreds of lawyers have benefited from the largesse of the Phillips, father and son, with contributions toward their educational expenses. Because of the generosity of Steve Phillips, and other Justinian's, the society averages \$75,000 per year in grants to needy Italian-American law students. (The Justinian Scholarships are matched dollar for dollar by the law schools.)

From the time Steve graduated from law school, in 1985, from Loyola University School of Law, he seemed to have been born to the law. He has a certain charisma in front of juries, as did his late father, and continues the legend of successfully representing catastrophically injured individuals in our court system, receiving large verdicts, in the millions of dollars, for clients of his firm. Steve has often been asked by his opposing counsel, and even his opponents to represent their families and friends in personal injury and wrongful death claims.

Steve is a member of every national and state bar association related to his area of practice in the State of Illinois - the Illinois State Bar Association, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, and American Association for Justice. In addition to membership, he

Continued on page 20

is a leader in those organizations, as well, e.g. he has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association; the Board of Managers of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, where he has served on the Executive Committee, Co-chair of its Publications Committee, Co-chair of the Medical Negligence Committee, Parliamentarian, and Treasurer. Steve has also been recognized in the International Who's Who of Professionals (1995), Strathmore's Who's Who Registry (1999-2000 edition), Society of Trial Lawyers (1999-present), Illinois Network of Leading American Attorneys (2000-present), Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Illinois (American Trial Lawyers Association), and was the recipient of the prestigious Illinois Trial Lawyers Association President's Award in 2005.

A state-wide survey of top lawyers in Illinois concluded that Steve Phillips is in the top 5% of the lawyers in Illinois in his field. He has also been recognized as one of the "Illinois Super Lawyers" in a state-wide publication. Avvo.com, an independent internet rating service, ranks Steve as the Number 1 personal injury and wrongful death lawyer in Illinois.

Besides representing catastrophically injured individuals in our court system, Steve finds time to lecture, and he teaches law, as an adjunct professor at Loyola University and, like his late and great father, publishes significant and highly respected pieces in the catastrophic injury field on a regular basis.

Legal contributor, protector of the rights of those victimized, bar leader, orator and publisher of legal treatises, Steve Phillips, the son of John Phillips, another example of the best our community has to offer. Obviously, the fruit does not fall far from the tree.

As Third Vice President of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Steve will become President in 2013.

Judges Retirements Signal End of an Era

[Editor's Note: This article, written by Barbara Vitello, originally appeared in the Daily Herald and is being reprinted here with permission.]

Last call took on an entirely different meaning last week at the Rolling Meadows courthouse, where the unexpected retirement of three veteran Cook County Circuit Court judges signaled the end of an era.

Retiring are Third Municipal Presiding Judge Joseph Urso, following a 33-year career marked by numerous high-profile cases; Associate Judge Howard Fink, the Harvard Law School graduate; and Associate Judge John Scottillo, nicknamed "Gentleman John" for his even courtroom temperament. Many courthouse observers said the three departures leave a void that won't easily be filled. Urso disagrees.

"Everything will go on just like it has," he said.

Urso spent 20 years on the bench at the Criminal Courts Building in Chicago before transferring to Rolling Meadows, where he continued to hear cases in addition to performing administrative duties that sometimes kept him at the courthouse late into the night.

Among the thousands of cases he heard — including 200 death penalty cases — were the trials of Skyler Chambers and Turner Reeves, sentenced to life in prison for the 2002 rape and murder of a 14-year-old Carol Stream girl, and Russell Sedelmaier who pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life without parole for the 2005 murder of a minister and his adult daughter in their Buffalo Grove home. Urso also presided over the trial of serial killer Larry Eyler, sentenced to death for murdering a teenage Chicago boy, and the Girl X case, which concluded with a 120-year sentence for Patrick Sykes for raping, choking and poisoning a 9-year-old girl.

"It's going to be a real loss for the Circuit Court of Cook County. He was a tremendous judge, a tremendous leader no matter what side you were on," said Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, who prosecuted the Girl X case. She considers Urso a mentor and took the oath of office from him. "He's a judge's judge," said Cook County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Fecarotta, who presides over one of Rolling Meadows' felony courtrooms. "He's the one person I know I can go to with anything and he always has the right answer."

As a Cook County assistant state's attorney, Urso supervised Cook County's first felony review unit, which provides prosecutors who assist police in taking statements and determining charges to reduce the number of arrests or confessions thrown out because of improper procedures. As a prosecutor, he also spent three years helping to solve the I-57 murders, which concluded with a life sentence for Henry Brisbon, later sentenced to death for killing a fellow prisoner. Urso calls the case his proudest professional accomplishment.

But Urso recognized not every defendant deserves to be a felon.

He had a saying, which other judges have adopted: "Supervision is intended for someone who is otherwise not a criminal, who commits a criminal offense."

"People who do bad things deserve to go to jail for a long period of time," he said. "But we should



John Sciacotta, Judge William Pileggi, Judge Joseph Urso, and Gino DeVito

not ruin people's lives when they do a foolish, criminal act."

"Judge Urso is not just another pretty face," joked Scottillo. "He's a brilliant man. I've learned a lot from him."

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Hyman Riebman says the same of Scottillo, whom he calls one of the kindest and brightest judges he's ever known.

"He's a friend on and off the bench," Riebman said.

Scottillo projected dignity and respect and he ran his courtroom the same way, said Blomquist, who worked with the judge to develop judicial candidate screenings for the Northwest Suburban Bar Association.

"I'm aware of how fortunate I am and how fortunate I've been to be a judge," said Scottillo, who was appointed in 1988 and has been described as a skilled jurist.

Judges earn \$178,835 annually, while associate judges earn \$169,893, said a spokesman for the Illinois Supreme Court. They contribute 11 percent of their salary into their pension plan, which allows them to retire at age 60, after 20 years on the bench, at 85 percent of their pay which is accompanied by a 3 percent cost of living increase per year.

The simultaneous departures are not coincidence. Retiring in January allows the judges to collect their pensions beginning next year. Retiring later would mean waiting until 2013 to collect their pensions, said a retired judge.

Retiring judges invariably leave some work unfinished. That includes Urso and Scottillo, who were both presiding over death penalty cases that will be assigned a new judge by incoming Presiding Judge William O. Maki.

But good judges will take over and complete the task, insisted Scottillo, who spent his last day on the bench managing a busy court call, most of it consisting of hearings on probation violations. As his final ruling, he terminated a young woman's probation uttering the words every defendant longs to hear.

"You're free to go," he said.

[Editor's note: The legal profession got together on Friday, March 11th, 2011 and honored Judge Urso with a retirement party. The room was wall to wall with lawyers, judges and dignitaries whose lives were touched by this truly revered jurist and career Justinian. Auguri, Justice!]

Prof. Wojcik Enters Gay, Lesbian Hall of Fame

[Editor's Note: This article, written by Maria Kantzavelos, originally appeared in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and is being reprinted here with permission.]

As a faculty member of The John Marshall Law School since 1992, Mark E. Wojcik is well aware that there are some people he has never even met who know of him as “the gay law professor.”

And while there is much more to know about the scholar and professor of international law, as well as sexual orientation law — he is versed in several languages and has traveled to Egypt, Singapore, China and Mexico to teach legal English writing classes, and to the Republic of Palau in the western Pacific Ocean, where he served as court counsel to the Supreme Court there — Wojcik is far from bothered by that notion.

“Like Harvey Milk said, coming out is one of the most important things you can do,” Wojcik said, referring to the late American activist who fought for gay rights in the 1970s and became California’s first openly gay elected official.

Wojcik, 49, came out about his homosexuality when he was 16, growing up in Oak Forest as the eldest of three children. He is a 1983 graduate of Bradley University, where he double-majored in international studies and German, received his J.D. from John Marshall in 1986 and a master’s degree in trade regulation from New York University School of Law in 1991.

“It takes a lot of energy hiding who you are if you’re not out,” Wojcik said. “If you have to create a fictitious girlfriend or make up stuff you did over the weekend, at some point it gets to be too much, and it’s so stressful to live a double life. So, I never wanted to do that.”

Fast-forward several decades to today and Wojcik, a self-described “bar junkie” is the founder of the Chicago Bar Association’s Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men, and a past president of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago. He has served on the CBA’s Board of Managers, and he takes pride in being an openly gay member of the leadership of the Illinois State Bar Association, where he currently serves as secretary.

“After I got involved in the Illinois State Bar Association, the association took a position on supporting civil unions and supporting an amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation,” Wojcik said. “The bar association may have gotten there on its own, but it certainly helps to have someone who is active in the association to push for meaningful law reform.

“I don’t see it as pushing a political agenda, I see it as pushing a legal agenda,” Wojcik said.

“Because we’re basically talking about the best practices of law firms, implementing human rights obligations and allowing people to enjoy the benefits of living in a free country.”

During a ceremony presided over by Mayor Richard M. Daley at the Chicago Cultural Center, the law professor was one of 11 individuals and four organizations to be inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Established in 1990 under the auspices of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations’ Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender issues, it is the only known government-sponsored hall of fame that honors members of the LGBT community.

“It’s amazing because 20 years ago, for a city to honor gay and lesbian citizens was really controversial,” Wojcik said.

At the law school, Wojcik teaches international business transactions, international law, legal writing, torts and sexual orientation law — a course he created.

For many students, he is an inspiration “as a professor, a mentor and as the best Amicus Curious Professor enters Gay, Lesbian Hall of Fame resource any LGBT individual in Chicago could hope for,” said attorney Paul E. Johnson, a former John Marshall student and research assistant to Wojcik.

As a 2010 Hall of Fame inductee, Wojcik was honored for his leadership and mentorship in the legal profession, and for promoting legislative change at the state and federal levels, including his efforts in advancing the sexual-orientation amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act, lobbying for civil unions and marriage equity and advocating for repeal of the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy.

“We felt that he had combined scholarship and activism in a praiseworthy way,” said William B. Kelley, a sole practitioner in Chicago who is a 1991 inductee and a GLHF committee member.

Wojcik’s leadership, mentorship and activism dates back to when he was a student at John Marshall and founded the Gay and Lesbian Law Association.

In its infancy, the group rarely met on campus, Wojcik said, and when it did, it met in secret.

“It was seen as a dangerous thing, not physically, but for your career,” Wojcik said. “Back then, it was still completely legal to fire someone for being gay. So, if you came out in your law firm, that was a good reason to fire you.”

The student group met to talk about such issues as “how to keep our jobs, whether to come out on resumes,” Wojcik said. “We were interested in legal protections, like same-sex



Mark Wojcik, far right, with Rick Felice, Katherine Amari O’Dell, and Cristina Mungai.

marriage and serving in the military. Whether or not a same-sex couple could adopt a child was still not settled. So the law has really progressed since I’ve been in law school.”

Today, the student group that Wojcik founded is still in existence. So, too, is the CBA Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men he founded in 1997.

“He so enthusiastically supports all of these causes,” Chicago attorney David M. Amen said.

“To the gay community, these issues are really important,” Amen said. “If there’s a family law or criminal law committee, people want to go to the committee to stay abreast on current issues and updates in the law for professional reasons. But this committee, in particular, is staying abreast of what’s going on in the law for our lives.”

On the scholarship front, Wojcik’s numerous articles on legal issues affecting LGBT communities include a forward-looking article published in the Northern Illinois University Law Review in 2004, “The Wedding Bells Heard Around the World:

Years from Now, Will We Wonder Why We Worried About Same-Sex Marriage?” The article was published just before Massachusetts became the first state to legalize same-sex marriage. He is also a coauthor of the first legal casebook on AIDS law.

Especially in light of reports of teen suicides prompted by anti-gay bullying, Wojcik emphasizes the importance of having openly gay role models.

“Growing up, it was hard to have gay role models of any kind. And that’s a problem that a lot of teenagers still have,” Wojcik said. “It’s just important for gay teenagers, especially, to have role models like lawyers, and judges and professors. ... When you have gay role models, you know that you’re going to make it.”

Restaurant Review:

Rose Angelis A Lincoln Park Gem

By: Anthony Casaccio

When a restaurant removes two of their top selling dishes from their menu (N.Y. strip steak and the chicken Vesuvio on Friday and Saturday nights) to make room in their busy kitchen, you know the place is doing something right.



Tucked away in a predominantly residential section of Wrightwood Ave. in Chicago, Rose Angelis is a true Lincoln Park gem. Since 1992, Rose Angelis has delighted customers with their consistently flavorful food and reasonable prices. With a simple but elegant façade, it is common for patrons to drive right by without noticing. Fortunately, the continuous line out the door and heady aroma of fresh garlic and other wonderful sensations in the air lets you know this is worth the U-turn.

Rose Angelis is a perfect date spot (unless you are stuck next to a group as loud as mine was) and also a restaurant the entire family can enjoy. Beware, reservations are only accepted for parties of eight or more; be sure to arrive no later than 6:30 p.m. if you wish to sit within the hour, particularly on the weekends.

Simple but elegant is the best way to describe the décor at Rose Angelis. As you enter the restaurant, there is a small bar along the right wall and a few elevated tabletops to the left where customers can enjoy an aperitivo while waiting to be seated. The foremost dining area is best if you are looking for an intimate setting. The larger dining area is typically full and bursting with liveliness. Weather permitting, the outside terrace is among the most charming places to eat in Lincoln Park.

With a party of six, we were able to taste many of the fabulous dishes Rose Angelis has to offer. To start, we had the “calamari alla griglia,” which comes in a zesty balsamic sauce with sautéed spinach and onions. Here, it was the sauce that stole the show; the calamari itself was a bit chewy. We also enjoyed the prosciutto wrapped asparagus in a tasty

roasted red pepper sauce, which was an absolute success.



Coming highly recommended by our waiter, we ordered as an entree the spinach pasta stuffed with ricotta and pesto served in a brown butter sauce, a.k.a., the “mezzalune al burro.” From the description alone, you can understand why this is one of their most popular dishes. I have eaten at Rose Angelis multiple times; each time someone at my table ordered this pasta and each time, everything but the plate was consumed.

Additionally, we ordered the baked polenta with homemade lamb sausage and sautéed spinach, a.k.a. the “polenta con salsiccia del agnello.” The best element about this dish was the dense pieces of polenta saturated in the sauce.

We also had two orders of the fresh fish of the day, which was a tilapia in what appeared to be the exact same sauce as the calamari appetizer. The sauce was outstanding, as I mentioned, but I was a bit disappointed that they would use the same sauce from a daily appetizer on the fish special of the day. Sauce issues aside, the combination of the tilapia and the mouth-watering balsamic reduction was an absolute delight.

On the dessert end of the menu, the Italian bread pudding is a must. Large enough for all to enjoy, it comes drenched in a warm chocolate caramel sauce that is divine.

If you like Italian food outside the traditional spaghetti and meatballs, Rose Angelis is the place for you. The innovative pasta dishes and daily meat and fish specials make Rose Angelis an ongoing success. The portions are large, so be prepared to share or take home, and remember to always leave room for dessert.

RATING: FOUR FORKS

[Editor's note: Congratulations to Anthony Casaccio on his graduation from John Marshall Law School in May.]

Book Review: What Are You Reading?

By: Jessica DePinto

“A Whole New Mind: How Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future” by Daniel Pink



Lawyer Daniel Pink's book was written before the Recession. However, his message is still on point. He suggests that the type of left-brain logical work can (and is being) be performed quite cost-effectively in Asia. He predicted that the careers of the future will require expansive thinkers, artists/designers and those with high emotional intelligence. He is not suggesting that we all quit our left-brain jobs, take our smocks, paint brushes and trot off to the Italian countryside (wouldn't that be nice); however, he is suggesting that we build our right-brain muscles to strengthen our left-brain skills. Perhaps in a single-minded pursuit of logic, numbers, balance sheets – we may have experienced a temporary atrophy of the right brain.

A Whole New Mind is presented in two parts. In Part One Pink makes a case for right-brainers at the business table. In Part Two, Pink identifies the six senses to strengthen the 21st century's “whole new mind.” He also provides strength-training exercises for these senses.

When reading Pink's book, I was reminded of the Leonardo da Vinci exhibit several years ago at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Da Vinci was influenced by the natural world around him. A walk in the woods and an image of a mill provided him with inspiration for the universal parts of a machine. The “whole new mind” that Pink praises is really the Renaissance mind: curious, able to make valuable connections from very diverse concepts.

IP Corner ■■■■

By: Angelina M. Filippo

This segment of IP Corner will focus on trademarks and the potential misunderstanding that arises when one incorporates a new business or establishes a website.

Trademark law protects brand names and is a method of source identification. When one establishes a business, the location of incorporation is important. Smaller businesses typically incorporate in the state in which they exist. Larger businesses commonly file incorporations in other states for tax advantage reasons or where they intend to focus the business.

When an incorporation is filed, the entity name (if not already taken) becomes the business name and the product or service source-identifier. In Illinois, one can file an application to incorporate and separately file a trademark application. Filing one or the other does not establish both. Incorporation does not grant trademark protection for the entity name. Filing a trademark application in the state of Illinois does not grant a business license. Both filings should be made with the Secretary of State.

Additionally, a trademark application filed in Illinois does not grant nation-wide trademark protection. The trademark is only protected within the state. If the intention is to market products or services outside the state of Illinois, a United States trademark application is the best and most economical means to protect the mark. State trademark application fees vary by state and range from \$10 to \$150. The fee at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is \$375 and is the most economical option providing the widest range of coverage.

If there is a desire to market goods or services via the Internet, one will likely establish web-presence with a website. Purchasing a domain name (www.businessnamehere.com or -.net or -.org etc.) does not guarantee or provide any trademark protection. Filing an application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is the best way to establish trademark protection when goods and services are offered on the Internet.

State trademark applications are accepted through the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. The forms can be found on their website. U.S. trademark applications can be completed online through the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office website. The online process may be confusing and there are questions regarding use in commerce and classifications of use. A trademark attorney would best explain and assist with applications through the U. S. Office so that proper protection is granted.

[Angelina M. Filippo, Esq. graduated from The John Marshall Law School in May 2010 with an LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law. Her practice concentrates on intellectual property law and small business/entrepreneurial matters. Contact her at 4filippo@gmail.com or 312.307.3910 or see her page on www.linkedin.com.]



Bellino Making Calls for the Major League

[Republished with permission from The John Marshall Law School's Briefcase.] John Marshall Law School graduate, Daniel Bellino, opted to seek a career as a umpire, after graduating from The John Marshall Law School (2003) rather than, at this point in his career, engage in the practice of law. We reprint herein, in its entirety, an article about Dan Bellino that appeared in the Fall, 2010 edition, of "Briefcase" of The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association.

Ever watch a ball game and question the umpire? One day it may be your fellow alumnus, Daniel Bellino, who's made that call.

As a fill-in umpire for Major League Baseball, Bellino (JD '03) is seeing plenty from behind home plate. He determined that by the end of the regular baseball season he worked 150 games in the American and National Leagues. On opening day, Bellino was an umpire for the Washington Nationals game where he enjoyed the experience of meeting President Barack Obama, who threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

"Baseball's a competitive game. It's our job to go out there every day and tell the players what happened. We have to remain impartial, keep our cool and be that judge on the field that keeps the game moving," he stressed.

"If you see the play, and you are in the correct position, significantly more times than not you're going to get the play right," he explained. "Instincts are the key ingredient to a successful umpire, and anticipation of the outcome of a play is an umpire's biggest enemy."

After an extensive training period in 2003 at Harry Wendelstedt School for Umpires in Daytona Beach, Fla., Bellino starting working minor league games hoping he'd break in to the big leagues. It appears he is nearing the fulfillment of his dream. "This past year was the first time I'd worked almost exclusively for the major leagues," he said.

Bellino has had months of traveling, hotel living and restaurant food the past seven years, but it's being away from his family that's really difficult. He and his wife, Katie, have two young boys and are expecting a third baby this month. He says her willingness to make sacrifices for his career have kept him in the game.

Bellino's travels got him in to Milwaukee or Chicago ball parks an average of every two to three weeks, so he could be home for a day or two.

In the fall and winter months, Bellino resumes his lawyering. He focuses mostly on real estate work. "It works for me because it's short term. I couldn't take on other cases. It is impossible to fulfill my responsibilities of representing my clients when I'm not physically present."

There are no regrets about his law school days. In fact, Bellino equates his first call to the big leagues as being a day that is eerily similar to the day he received the news that he passed the bar.

"As a licensed attorney, you dedicate your time and energy to serve the needs of your clients. Umpiring is a lot like practicing law. The main difference is that your mistakes are made public on a daily basis and your successes are expected," he said. "At the major league level, there is very little room for error. And law school helped me prepare for that responsibility."

He is happy to have earned a law degree, but right now, Bellino is waiting and hoping for Major League Baseball to offer him a fulltime contract. "It's what I've worked for all these years. It is my dream job, and I hope that my career path represents just a small example of the limitless opportunities of what The John Marshall Law School can offer to its future students.

Elder Law Update:

Alzheimer's or dementia? There is help available

By: Anthony B. Ferraro

Many of our long-time estate planning clients are calling our office and sadly describing family members and other close loved ones who are being diagnosed with Alzheimer's and dementia. Although the diagnosis can be devastating to the families, our staff feels hopeful because we have the tools to help by using elder law estate planning. This is a method of protecting our clients, their families and their assets. The goal is to allow clients to stay at home as long as possible and then to protect them and their families when that is no longer possible due to medical and cognitive impairment.

For years, estate planning concerned what happened upon death and the minimization of estate taxes and probate. The problem now is that many of our clients are experiencing different crises related to their health before death taxes and probate are ever a problem. Life expectancy is continuing to rise, there are financial strains on Medicare and Medicaid, the numbers of seniors is greater than ever, and the Baby Boomers are beginning to age. Additionally, U.S. and state budgets are underwater, and our society is changing in ways that compromise the ability of the nuclear family to care for aging loved ones. All of this adds up to the perfect storm for purposes of long-term care.

The new Health Care Reform Act does not provide coverage for our seniors with regard to long-term care. In fact, the new health law actually results in a 500 billion dollar decrease in Medicare over the next decade. However, the provision in Obama Care that deals with long-term care, the CLASS Act Program, is only available to people who voluntarily participate while they are working and do so for five years. For a recently retired senior, this plan provides no help.

In our firm, our expertise lies in mitigating the effects of catastrophic illness and facilitating the best terms possible for nursing home stays. Since costs in a nursing home facility average between \$6,000 to \$10,000 per month, if people don't plan ahead, assets can be lost. I don't think it is an overstatement to say that the greatest threat to middle America is the devastating costs of long-term care.

As you travel along the path of the elder care journey, please take the appropriate steps to protect your spouse, to protect the inheritance for your loved ones, and to avoid long-term care surprises. Keep in mind the need for long-term care insurance, look for available veterans' benefits, if applicable, and keep an eye out for the availability of Medicaid benefits. Be aware of the significant changes coming to Medicaid laws in Illinois. Medicaid is the only governmental program that pays for long-term care. The program is needs-based and not everyone qualifies. Our goal for our clients is to make sure they are not unintentionally disqualified from this benefit. Disqualification may occur through innocent actions such as making gifts to children and transferring assets. Always seek the advice of a qualified elder law attorney before engaging in such transactions. Even innocent transfers and gifts may cause long periods of penalty, during which the transferor will not qualify for Medicaid.

The bottom line is that your estate plan needs to be updated to meet the challenges of Medicaid, VA eligibility, and other government-related benefits. Traditional estate planning no longer works. In fact, traditional estate planning may do more harm than good when long-term care is necessary. Build a strong legal foundation with powerful powers of attorney for property and healthcare. Create wills and trusts that are designed to meet the challenges of long-term care and not just to minimize tax and avoid probate.

Engage in elder law estate planning. This enables you to provide the power in your documents to protect a healthy spouse, protect a disabled child, engage family caregivers, and avoid irreversible pitfalls. Create a long-term care plan that includes Medicaid and VA specific provisions.

Feel free to call our office for further information about planning for long-term care, at-home care, legal documents, Veterans' benefits, Alzheimer's, and Medicaid.



Bonamarte: "40 Under 40"

Michael F. Bonamarte IV, an attorney with Levin & Perconti, has been named as one of the Law Bulletin Publishing Company's "40 Illinois attorneys under 40 to watch." The Law Bulletin Publishing Company presents the top "40 Under Forty" award to attorneys under the age of 40 in Illinois for their outstanding achievements on behalf of clients, their work to advance the legal profession, and their commitment to their community.

Mike, 31, joined Levin & Perconti as an associate in 2005 after clerking with the firm in law school. He has since gained extensive experience representing clients in all types of personal injury and wrongful death matters, including complex cases involving medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and neglect, birth injuries, and premises liability. He has achieved numerous notable verdicts and settlements for clients, including a \$2.9 million (\$3.6 million post-verdict settlement) nursing home negligence verdict, a \$2.3 million nursing home pressure sore settlement, and a record \$700,000 settlement against a nursing home in Coles County.

Mike is a vigorous advocate for abused and neglected nursing home residents. In addition to his courtroom advocacy, Mike recently worked with state legislators and advocacy groups on nursing home reform legislation to improve care in facilities throughout the state.

Mike is also devoted to enriching his practice through his memberships in numerous bar organizations, including the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, the American Association for Justice, the AAJ's Nursing Home Litigation Group, the Illinois Bar Association, and the Chicago Bar Association. Mike is a member of the Justinian Society and also writes on nursing home issues and verdicts and settlements for their newsletter. He has co-authored several IICLE publications with partner Steve Levin and has presented to fellow attorneys and community members on a number of legal topics, including nursing home litigation.

Along with his involvement in professional organizations, Mike is dedicated to his community and charitable work. He sits on the Board of Directors for the River North Business Association. He is also the president of the Michael F. Bonamarte III Foundation, an organization he founded to raise awareness and money for stroke prevention and research. Mike began the Foundation in memory of his father who passed away in 2006, and since then has raised over \$30,000. Mike's father was an attorney in Highland Park.

Mike graduated from Highland Park High School in 1997 where he was captain and starting quarterback for the school's varsity football team. In 2001, Michael earned a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison before graduating from John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 2005.

Levin & Perconti is a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death litigation. The lawyers at Levin & Perconti are committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others. Please contact the firm at (312) 332-2872 or visit www.levinperconti.com for more information.

[Editor's Note: Michael joins other prominent and successful Justinians heretofore chosen for this august honor, including, past Presidents Celia Gamrath, John Sciacotta, Franco Coladipietro, President-elect Katherine Amari O'Dell and members Rob Gamrath and Gina DeCiani.]

TORT NOTES

By: James J. Morici, Jr.



SUMMARY JUDGMENT REVERSED WHERE THREE-QUARTER INCH RISE IN CONCRETE WAS NOT OPEN AND OBVIOUS DUE TO LIGHTING CONDITIONS AND DE MINIMUS RULE DID NOT APPLY

In *Alqadhi v. Standard Parking, Inc.*, 405 Ill.App.3d 14, 938 N.E.2d 584, 1st Dist (2010), Plaintiff was injured when she tripped in Defendant's parking garage over a three-quarter inch rise in concrete near a wheelchair accessible ramp. Plaintiff claimed that the deviation in height was not properly marked and created a hazardous condition. After summary judgment, the Appellate Court reversed in favor of the Plaintiff.

Defendant claimed that no foreseeable risk was created by the raised concrete and that the condition causing Plaintiff's injury was open and obvious. Plaintiff testified that the raised concrete created an optical illusion of a flat walking surface due to the dimly lit conditions. She described the lighting near the step as being "low, dim, dark, and bad." Due to the fact that the building was relatively new, yellow lines of demarcation had not yet been painted around the ramp. *Id.* at 938 N.E.2d 586.

Plaintiff's engineer evaluated the area and acknowledged that the ramp was imprinted with a cross-hatched diamond pattern designed to warn pedestrians and was in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. He opined that the lack of contrast between the surfaces disguised the abrupt change in vertical elevation. Further that the condition was not obvious and that contrast paint was essential for purposes of safety. His affidavit stated that in his opinion, the failure to mark the curb with contrast paint was a proximate cause of Plaintiff's injury.

In reversing summary judgment, the Appellate Court noted that whether a condition is open and obvious is usually a legal question for the court. However, where there is some dispute about the condition's physical nature, such as its visibility, the question as to whether the condition is open and obvious is a factual one citing *Wilfong v. L.J. Dodd Construction*, 930 N.E.2d 511 (2010) and *Bellvomini v. Stratford Green Condominium* 805 N.E.2d 701 (2004).

The Appellate Court disagreed with the lower court and reversed summary judgment based upon the testimony of Plaintiff's expert. The court stated that the Plaintiff's engineer's opinions supported Plaintiff's observations that the lighting conditions and coloring of the curb caused an optical illusion that in the opinion of the expert "disguised" the change in vertical elevation. The court found that it could not characterize the case as one where there was no dispute about the physical nature of the condition. 838 N.E.2d 588. That the condition was thus not obvious, leaving the court to find that there was indeed a question of fact.

Relative to the Defendant's argument that the three-quarter inch deviation was "De Minimus" The court noted that a minor defect may be actionable where there are other aggravating factors, such as heavy traffic because pedestrians may be distracted and must be constantly alert to avoid bumping into each other. It noted that in the case at bar, both the Plaintiff and her expert testified to impaired visibility which concealed the otherwise minor defect. The court found the testimony to be sufficient to remove the case from application of the open and obvious doctrine and the De Minimus Rule. *Alqadhi v. Standard Parking, Inc.* 405 Ill.App.3d 14, 938 N.E.2d 584, 1st Dist (2010).

Justice Robert E. Gordon specially concurred writing that "When a court cannot conclude as a matter of law that a condition posed an open and obvious danger, then 'the obviousness' is for the jury to determine." He further noted that here as in *Duffy v. Togher*, 887 N.E.2d 535 (2008) expert testimony aided in creating a factual issue. *Id.*

[Editor's note: James J. Morici, Jr. is a partner in the firm of MORICI, FIGLIOLI & ASSOCIATES, and represents Plaintiffs in personal injury, workers' compensation, and construction site related injury suits. Read all prior issues of "Tort Notes" at www.MoriciFiglioli.com.]

Financial News and Planning Lawyers and retirement/Oil and Water

By: James Moster, JD; Axa Advisors, Chicago, Illinois

It is difficult to retire for most people, but it is even more so for lawyers. Most lawyers never think about retirement, because they are too busy to give it much consideration. Attorneys in large firms may be the exception, since they have formal pension plans and maybe mandatory retirement age requirements and they start receiving memos from H.R. at about age 59.



Let us look at why it is that lawyers find it difficult to retire. Firstly, we have a grueling work schedule coupled with a terrific work ethic. Almost all attorneys work too hard and a fair number become workaholics. Our work defines us for the most part, and it is intense and demanding. Our clients are constantly waiting for the finished product that will satisfy their needs; deadlines and court calls never cease. This goes on for 30 or 40 years and then your spouse expects you to just stop and walk away – RETIRE. The emotional bridge from frenetic activity to a state of solitude is not easily crossed. Last year, you were a very important person to numerous people (clients, associates, and the like). This year, when you are retired, you are no longer so important; your prior way of life is over. For many, retirement is like being thrown off a speeding train. Now you are sitting in the dust with your bags askew watching the train (your career) slowly disappear over the horizon.

The second reason retirement is hard comes down to one word – MONEY. If you want to maintain your lifestyle, you need in excess of a million dollars in your 401-K. Let us presume \$100,000.00 per year meets your economic needs in retirement and that you are receiving \$24,000.00 per year from Social Security, so your 401-K will have to kick out \$76,000.00 per year. Let us also presume that your 401-K is earning a 5% return and that inflation is at 4%. Your retirement assets will be exhausted in fifteen years. So what do you do then? Move in with your kids, get a reverse mortgage, buy a trailer?

One can readily see why the topics of retirement are often pushed to the side for most lawyers.

[Editor's Note: Jim Moster, a longtime attorney and financial planner, has been an asset to many of our members in assisting with college savings programs, and most importantly, retirement planning.]

Debunking Bankruptcy Myths

By: Richard Fonfrias

MYTH #1: Bankruptcy is dishonest.

Not true. Most people honestly want to pay their bills. Sometimes things happen that make it impossible, in response to a lawsuit, judgment or income tax bill, or fine that was considered excessive or in dispute. Bankruptcy is provided for in the



United States Constitution. Bankruptcy is a right that protects honest people from harassment, lawsuits, wage garnishment and other creditor actions. Bankruptcy allows a fresh start.

Bankruptcy has been used many of our nation's largest companies like Texaco, as well as famous people like Jerry Lewis, and Donald Trump. The same laws that are routinely used by corporate America, and the rich and famous, can protect individuals and families.

MYTH #2: I will lose all my property.

Not so. The fact is that most people don't lose anything in their bankruptcy. Bankruptcy laws let the State decide what property is protected. In Illinois, you can keep most personal and household property, equity in your home up to \$15,000 per person, some equity in a car, most retirement plans, and many tools of the trade.

MYTH #3: I can't own anything after bankruptcy.

Not true. You can keep the property that is protected in the bankruptcy, and generally anything you acquire after the bankruptcy. The day you file acts as a "cut-off" date. Anything you earn after the filing date is yours. Anything that you own or have owed to you before the case is filed is subject to the bankruptcy court's rules.

MYTH #4: I will never be able to establish credit.

Not true. Today, many stores and banks actively market to people who have filed bankruptcy. Most mortgage companies can assist applicants with a bankruptcy after two to three years. You won't file a bankruptcy unless you can't pay your bills. Because of that, your credit is probably already bad. Bankruptcy puts you in a better position to pay current bills and that should improve your chances of getting new credit.

MYTH #5: Bankruptcy gets rid of all debts.

Not so. Child support, alimony, fines, restitution, some taxes, loans obtained by fraud, student loans, debts due to a DUI, and debts resulting from "willful and malicious" harm. These can be handled effectively in a Chapter 13 bankruptcy.

MYTH #6: I can protect my property by hiding it or giving it away before I file.

No. It's a crime to hide property and not disclose it. It's also a crime to give property away without telling the Court in the bankruptcy papers. The Court Trustee will seek to recover any property you wrongfully transferred prior to a bankruptcy filing. You could end up in jail by attempting to illegally hide or transfer property.

MYTH #7: I will lose my job.

Not true. The law prohibits an employer from discriminating based on a bankruptcy filing. In nearly 10 years of helping people in bankruptcy cases, I have never even heard of someone losing a job because of a bankruptcy filing.

MYTH #8: I filed a bankruptcy before, so I can't file again.

Incorrect. The law prohibits someone from filing a chapter 7 bankruptcy within 8 years of a previous chapter 7 filing. But, even within the eight-year time period, a chapter 13 case may be filed. Please call me if you have filed a previous bankruptcy. You still have many options.

MYTH #9: I am not allowed to have a checking account.

Incorrect. Most people keep the account that they had and continue to use it without interruption. In other cases, it may be smart to close an existing account prior to filing bankruptcy. That's because the bank involved may be a creditor in the bankruptcy. In general, if you do not owe any money to the bank where your account is, there is no reason to close the account.

MYTH #10: Taxes cannot be eliminated in bankruptcy.

Wrong. Eliminating taxes depends on how old the taxes are, when the returns were filed, and whether the taxes have been assessed, and the type of taxes. Both federal and state income taxes can be eliminated in bankruptcy. It's often possible to force a payment plan on the IRS and stop interest and penalties from being added.

MYTH #11: I must be broke to file bankruptcy.

Not really. The law doesn't require that you be unemployed, homeless, or own no property. In fact, you are able to file bankruptcy without losing your job, giving up your home, or having your property taken away.

[Editor's Note: Rich Fonfrias is a Financial Rescue & Bankruptcy Lawyer Founder & Managing Partner at FONFRIASLAWGROUP, LLC. He can be reached at: 312-969-0730 or thedebtexperts@gmail.com.]

Honore Nella Legge



How about being the first on your block to receive a Justinian desk flag by writing a check to the Justinian Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$200, or more? With the sad condition of the economy, law students, especially folks from our community, are more in need of scholarship monies than ever. The Justinian Society, in fact, our ethnicity, is known for its generosity and concern for others.

Won't you write your \$200 check today to the Justinian Society Scholarship Fund? Send it to the Newsletter editor at our Justinian Headquarters, 734 N. Wells St., Chicago, IL 60654. And you will immediately receive in the mail or by messenger, a mailing tube containing your Justinian desk flag.

Save the Date! Justinian Golf Outing

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Bloomington Golf Club

181 Glen Ellyn Rd., Bloomington



DiVito ISBA Laureate

By: K. Stephen Anderson,
Retired editor, ISBA Bar News

“The joy is in the journey,” says Gino DiVito, and what a journey it has been!

At every step of his career as a lawyer, judge and mentor, he has earned and enjoyed satisfaction that outweighed the acclaim he received from colleagues, friends and even the occasional foe. The initiatives he has supported with heart and soul – such as selective appointment of the judiciary – although unpopular with some, have sprung from his dedication to enhancing the principles of the profession.

That Gino DiVito is not yet a Laureate can be attributed only to the incredible fact that he was not nominated in prior years. Perhaps “Everybody” thought “Somebody” would do it, and “Anybody” could have, but “Nobody” did.

Not that Gino needed yet another honor, but in none of the Laureate nominations I read during my years as editor of the ISBA Bar News did I recognize anybody whose achievements and contributions to the bench and bar were more significant. If just one word could be used to describe this nominee, it would be: Exemplary.

I will not repeat at length from the impressive DiVito vitae, which are included in the nomination packet, but it strikes me as incomparable that Gino has done so much, so willingly, outside of the rigors of maintaining an active law practice. The time clock is off when he supports conflict resolution, trial advocacy education, rules amendment and codification, judicial selection, and other issues of concern.

Earlier this month, for instance, the Chicago Council of Lawyers and Union League Club opted to change the date of a judicial retention forum when Gino advised the sponsors, with regret, that he had a scheduling conflict. When it comes to the subject of improving the quality of the judiciary, nobody is a more effective advocate.

And on January 27 of this year, he wrote an op-ed piece for the Chicago Tribune that was titled, “Keep courts free of political and



From left: Anthony Ferraro, Justice Gino DiVito, and past President Enrico Mirabelli.

self-interests.” It was a passionate response to criticism of an Appellate Court ruling in an election residency case that was overturned subsequently by the Supreme Court. Acknowledging that “our justice system is not perfect, but it is the best in the world,” Gino lambasted misleading and undermining criticism that “should not be based on imagined impropriety or demonization of parties or judges.” He concluded that we must “rejoice in the reality that a fair and impartial judiciary – acting openly and subject to strict public scrutiny, as is evident in this case – is the very bedrock of the rights and freedoms that all of us enjoy.”

Gino learned Greek and Latin at St. Ignatius Prep, philosophy at Loyola University, and so much at the Loyola School of Law that he now is an active member of its adjunct faculty. In addition to the high awards these three institutions have bestowed on him, he has been lauded by the Illinois Judges Foundation, the Illinois Bar Foundation, the ISBA Board of Governors and the Justinian Society of Lawyers.

Back to the joy of his journey, one must begin with Gino’s family. His parents were immigrants, his wife of 41 years is a saint, and his three daughters – a lawyer, a physician and a nurse – are married to a lawyer, a physician and a veterinarian. The seven grandchildren are, of course, perfect.

No doubt, family pride and abiding faith helped Gino conquer the medical matters that sidelined him briefly. Ever the optimist, he has been heard to suggest that, “When the going gets rough, we stop for lunch.” And so, members of the Academy Board of Regents, may I suggest that we break bread together with Gino DiVito at the forthcoming Laureate luncheon.



Residential Real Estate Report: Indicators Hint at Better Days Ahead in Residential Real Estate

By: Joe Zimmerman and Mary Haight

Everybody needs a place to live!

As employment conditions and consumer confidence improve, a greater number of potential buyers will return to the housing market.

Do Fewer Households Harbor Pent-Up Demand?

Only 357,000 new households were created in 2010 – down more than 70% from the average of 1.3 million per year recorded from 2002-2007. The 63-year low resulted from lower immigration rates and the fact that more Americans moved in with family members or doubled-up with friends during a time of greater economic instability. New household formation is expected to return to more normal levels as the recovery continues.

A Housing Shortage on the Way.

In response to economic weakness, tighter credit and higher resale inventory nationwide, builders slammed on the brakes and slowed the pace of new home production by 70% since 2005. There were only 554,000 homes started in 2009 – the fewest in any year since World War II – and there was little improvement through 2010.

Overall, new homes have been built at less than half the rate needed to match the natural population growth over time – and a lengthy development process means it usually takes time for builders to ramp up production again.

Therefore, some economists and industry experts have predicted that buyers may encounter a more limited supply of homes and rising prices in certain high-demand areas as soon as the end of 2011.

History in the Making

It’s difficult to believe the average mortgage rate near the end of 2010 was less than half the 30-year average of 9.0%. Many Americans have now grown accustomed to low interest rates, but the Freddie Mac Survey that began tracking rates in 1971 registered a new and dramatic low of 4.19% in October of 2010. Historically low rates make it possible for more people to purchase a home or refinance a mortgage and enjoy reasonable payments for years to come.

Continued on page 28

Houses Are on Sale

Buyers throughout the U.S. are finding attractive home prices, and some are able to take advantage of significant markdowns on distressed properties. The extent of the discount varies widely by region, but according to the most recent data, foreclosures sold for 26% less than similar homes in the second quarter of 2010. Properties in default, many of which became short sales, had their prices reduced by an average of 13%.

Is Ownership within Reach?

Rock-bottom interest rates and lower prices together mean it is more affordable to buy a home today than at any other time in the last 40 years. In 2010, the mortgage payment required to purchase the median priced home in the U.S. fell below 20% of the median household income for the first time since 1971.

Insurance Industry Report

By: Roy Puccini

Many small and medium size companies do not have a person who knows the coverage of insurance and ways to reduce costs.

A total review by someone who is not selling insurance might be helpful to reduce insurance premiums. Many times, the agent sells what he wants while the question is – is that the best that he could offer, or did he just take what the carrier gave him? Companies do trust the agent to bring the best options, but does this happen is the question.



Area of Cost Saving Ideas

Property – Building and contents should be “replacement cost.” A good idea is to blanket these together under one limit. If there are multiple locations, this should be done. This will help avoid coinsurance penalties and any increases during the year in contents. Look at deductibles – Most times, by increasing the deductible, the rates will decrease – often times offsetting the higher deductible. So higher deductibles and blanket coverage will save money and offer better protection over all.

Another area on the property policy is to make sure equipment breakdown is included. A power surge that destroys computers will not be covered unless this coverage is included on the policy.

Workers Compensation

A major concern regarding workers compensation is whether you are receiving all the possible credits from the carrier. Companies today are looking for good accounts and

have offered additional credits to secure new business or keep old accounts. Carriers need to be pushed on this in order to benefit from the additional credits.

General Liability

Is your policy rated correctly to your business? Do you have broad coverage on your policy? Do you have “non-owned and hired auto?” Many businesses overlook these areas of coverage. This coverage protects your business in the event that you are sued as a result of an employee using their vehicle for business purposes or even to run an errand for the company.

Optional Coverage

Some coverage overlooked by many businesses are as follows:

1. Directors and Officers Liability
2. Employment Practices Liability
3. Crime and Fiduciary Liability
4. Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions)

All of the above are available with reduced premiums in today’s market.

Directors and Officers Liability

Many agents overlook this for small companies, however, if the owner is sued personally he has no protection unless he has this cover of Directors & Officers Liability

Employment Practice Liability

Almost 75% of all litigation against corporations today involves employment disputes. Employment related lawsuits are the fastest growing type of civil case in the U.S.; nearly 25% of all litigation in federal court involves employment disputes, and an even higher percentage in state court.

Further items will follow in later issues of this publication.

Justinians Line Up at ISBA Event at Buddy Guys'

By: Jessica DePinto

Paolo Conte, Andrea Bocelli: Italian lawyer-musicians. The Justinian Society can also boast a roster of talented musicians. Past presidents Joe Bisceglia, Joe Gagliardo, Tom Battista and John Locallo each took center stage on February 3, 2011. We know them as talented lawyers and mentors. On a Thursday evening, they shared their musical talents for a good cause and raised money for the Illinois Bar Foundation.

Joe Bisceglia and Joe Gagliardo opened with classic rock and a little Cold Play. The garage band, 5-thirty made its official debut on the famous Chicago stage. 5-thirty includes ISBA president-elect John Locallo (rhythm guitar) and Tom Battista (on drums). The band also includes talented musicians and friends of Justinians Alan O’Keefe, lead singer Matt Hanssel, and Carlos Vera. Both bands got the crowd motivated on a cold post-blizzard evening.

Like any music scene, the bands had their loyal groupies. Justinians came out strong to support the local talent, including society officers: President Cristina Mungai, President-elect Katherine O’Dell, 1st Vice President Gregg Garofalo. For me, the cold night, great music, local bands and classic venue were reminiscent of hanging out with friends on week nights at the Plaza at the UW Madison. A chance to celebrate talented lawyers - musicians, add a classic Chicago music scene, raising money for the Illinois Bar Foundation and recall one’s college days: priceless.



Jamming John Locallo



5-thirty supporters: Katherine Amari O’Dell, Gregg Garofalo, Cristina Mungai, Jessica DePinto, and Leonard Amari

Lawyers Take Musical Talents to the Stage

[Editor's Note: This article, written by Pat Milhizer, originally appeared in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and is being reprinted here with permission.]

On the city's Northwest Side, there's a garage that has been the once-a-week venue for John G. Locallo's rock 'n' roll cover band.

"We're looking at lawn mowers and fertilizers hanging on the wall, so that's our audience," said Locallo, a rhythm guitarist who actually makes his living as a partner at Amari & Locallo.

"We had to get a heater because it was getting so cold," he said.

The group, 5-thirty, is one of seven winners of the Illinois State Bar Association's competition to play Thursday at an Illinois Bar Foundation fundraiser at Buddy Guy's Legends.

The association received submissions last year from 21 bands that wanted to play at the show. The submissions were posted on the association's Facebook page, which resulted in 2,000 visitors and votes for the bands.

Next, a panel of eight professional musicians selected the winners based on musical ability and the number of votes cast.

One group that's performing is Loren Golden's Jazz Ensemble, which features pianist Loren S. Golden of Golden Law Offices in Elgin and guitarist Gregory Paul Vazquez, a Cook County associate judge.

Golden said the group will do a blues set, and he may even sing. No stranger to live performances, Golden was one of the house piano players at the Playboy Club on Walton Street in the late 1960s.

"It was the most visited place on earth," Golden said about the club that, among other things, featured comedians Steve Martin and Billy Crystal "before they were famous."

Attendees will hear a range of rock music, such as Beatles and Foo Fighters songs, from cover band One More Time. The group features guitarist Richard W. Kuhn of Kuhn, Heap & Monson in Naperville.

"I love when charitable foundations and organizations think outside the box and do something other than traditional galas," Kuhn said. "I'm really excited about this because all the musicians who are also attorneys could use the other side of their brain, and it's really a wonderful thing."

Other bands and lawyers playing are:

- The Orphans, featuring Patrick C. Turner of Maurides, Foley & Tabangay LLC.
- Joe Bisceglia Plus Two, which includes Joseph G. Bisceglia of Jenner & Block LLP.
- Catfish and the Big Boss Blues Band, featuring Mark S. Peebles of Peebles & Gaines in Belleville.
- The Barristers Big Band, which has 30 lawyers in the group.

Also in Locallo's band is drummer Thomas M. Battista, whose day job is at Rock, Fusco LLC.

Locallo, who becomes president of the ISBA this summer, said the goal of the event is to get more exposure for the bar foundation.

"I think the good thing about an event like this," he said, "is it's a little bit outside of the ordinary."

The event is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and doors open at 6:30 p.m. In addition to the winning bands, the club's house band, Brother John, will perform.



Photo above: 5-thirty takes a break during practice



Photo left: Joe Bisceglia and Joe Gagliardo (right) perform on stage at Buddy Guy's.

Photo below: 5-thirty on stage.



Bottom photo: A small portion of 5-thirty supporters.



Photo Stories



The Cook County Crime Stoppers Awards Dinner was held on September 9, 2010. Cook County Deputy Sheriff, Officer Joe Fiorentino, received the Law Enforcement Public Service Award. Cook County Sheriff Police, Officer Leone Ugarte, received the Excellence in Law Enforcement Award. Keynote Speaker was Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez. Timothy Evans, Chief Judge of Cook County Circuit Court, received the Distinguished Service Award. Retired Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hillard and United States Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald were in attendance.



Fred Spitzzeri and Justice Freeman (left) at a recent lawyer gathering.



Joe Amari, Jr., cousin of Katherine, nephew of Leonard.

Italian American Chamber of Commerce 103rd Annual Gala



President and COO Anne Pramaggiore, and attorney Joseph Bisceglia, a partner in Jenner & Block. The black-tie event, held Saturday evening, September 18, at the Palmer House Hilton, attracted nearly 800 people.

A number of Justinians supported the event (photo below).

The Italian American Chamber's 103 Annual Dinner was held on September 18, 2010.

Photo above: Chicago attorney Antonio Romanucci (left), a partner in Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, chair of the Italian-American Chamber of Commerce's 103rd anniversary gala and awards dinner, greets honorees (beginning second from left) Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn, ComEd



Antonio Romanucci and Joseph Bisceglia at the IACC Gala and Awards Ceremony.



Above: Past President Len DeFranco and his son, Lenny, on top of the highest peak in Colorado. Below: His daughter, Angela, taking a break from her studies in New Zealand.



Hinsdale South football players: Evan Davi, with his mom and dad, Jan and Umberto.

Photo Stories



Members of the Columbian Club of Chicago visiting Mackinac Island.



The grandchildren of career Justinian, community and professional leader, Mary Ann (Iantorno) Hynes and her husband Jim: Erin Hynes, born October 22nd, 2010 and Lucy Kline, born August 28th, 2010.



Fra Noi's sponsored documentary gets recognition: Jim Distasio accepting the writing award for "5000 Miles From Home," with Paul Basile looking on, at the Midwest Emmys. Add to that six national Telly awards and a WTTW Viewer's Choice selection, and it's been a pretty good year. If you don't already own a copy of the DVD, you can order one at www.5000milesfromhome.com. Congratulations Tony Fornelli for your continued inspirational leadership.



Illinois State Representative Dennis Reboletti on the House floor during debate. Behind Dennis is his obviously most ardent supporter and legislative colleague, past president Franco Coladietro.



Jim Hynes with granddaughter Lucy and daughter Christina with the Stanley Cup.



Photo above: The IAPC Salute to Italian American Judges. From left: IAPC former President Fred Serpe, Hon. Peter Felice, Hon. William G. Pileggi, and Hon. Angelo Mistretta.



Judge David Sterba and career Justinian, Judge Frank Castiglione, stop in to say hello at our Justinian headquarters, from left: Past president John Locallo, Judge Sterba, President-elect Katherine Amari O'Dell and Judge Castiglione.



Retired Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice, Thomas Fitzgerald (center), honored upon his retirement at a luncheon on November 3rd, 2010, pictured with his law school classmates, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Timothy Evans (left), and past Justinian President, Leonard F. Amari, President of The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees, where the three graduated together, circa 1968. All three serve on the JMLS Trustee board.



Photo Below: From left: Hon. Robert Bertucci, Hon. Peter Silvestri, Hon. Joseph Claps, Fred Serpe, and IAPC President Richard Pellegrino.



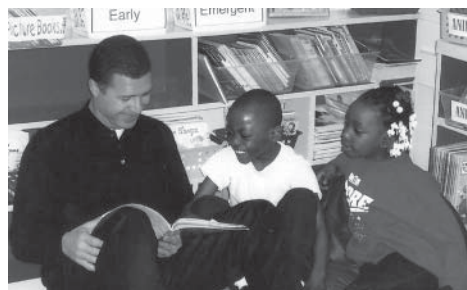
The Installation Dinner Committee at one of their fall meetings at the Justinian Headquarters.



Above: Gery Chico stops in at our Justinian headquarters, then-candidate for Mayor of the City of Chicago. From left: President of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans, past Justinian President, Antonio Romanucci; past President Joseph Bisceglia; Gery Chico; and Justinian Secretary, Jessica DePinto.



Gabriel M. Caporale and Danielle Duarte were married on 10-10-10, and celebrated their 10 year anniversary in Italy on 10-21-10. They traveled to Taormina, Sicily and visited family in Acerra, Napoli, and traveled through Rome, Florence and Venice. They now live in the West Loop. Gabe is an Attorney at the Salerno Law Group, P.C. and his wife works at Rush University Medical Center as a Vascular Ultrasound Technologist.



Antonio Romanucci of Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, in Chicago, reads to children he helps through the Justinian Children's Endowment Fund, a foundation he formed in 2002 to assist disabled and disadvantaged young people.

Miscellanea

By: Leonard F. Amari



➤ Congratulations to **Anthony V. Coco** upon his judicial appointment to the 18th Judicial Circuit in DuPage County. Coco, a graduate of Chicago-Kent College of Law, currently is a senior assistant in the DuPage County public defender's office.

➤ Former Cook County Circuit Judge **Gloria Coco** has recently landed a role in the television series "Southland" as "Judge Sylvia Brown."



From left: Celia Gamrath, Gloria Coco, and Lisa Marino

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph A. Ruggiero** upon being named the DuPage County state's attorney's chief of the Criminal Bureau. Ruggiero, who has been serving as deputy chief of the office's Special Prosecutions Bureau, began his career with the DuPage County state's attorney's office in 1987.

➤ Congratulations to **Daniel J. Favero** for joining Mayer, Brown LLP as a partner in the real estate practice in Chicago. Favero is experienced in corporate and real estate finance, particularly in representing insurance companies and other institutional investors in private placement transactions and other financing.

➤ Congratulations to **Nick J. DiGiovanni** on his reelection to Locke, Lord, Bissell & Kiddell LLP's executive committee.

➤ Congratulations to **Matthew G. Bertani** upon being selected for an associate judgeship by the circuit judges of the 12th Judicial Circuit in Will County. Bertani is a graduate of University of Arizona College of Law and a partner in the firm of Sabuco, Beck, Hansen, Schrock & Bertani P.C., in Joliet.

➤ **Judge Jill Cerone-Marisie** was the special guest at Northwest Suburban Bar Association's Pub Trawlers event at Gianni's Café in Palatine, IL on February 17, 2011.



Judge Cerone-Marisie with Bruno Tassone and father Jack Cerone.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph A. Giannelli**, a partner in the Chicago office of Cassiday, Schade LLP, upon being elected to the firm's executive committee. He focuses his practice in civil litigation with an emphasis on professional negligence, product liability and construction law.

➤ The Law Offices of Beermann & deBruyne have changed their name to Beermann & Ori, Ltd., to reflect **Michael Ori's** partnership in the firm. Congratulations Michael.



➤ Congratulations to **Joseph F. Locallo, Jr.**, upon being installed as President of the Columbian Club of Chicago at their 72nd Annual Installation and Dinner Dance.



From left: John Locallo, Justice Robert Thomas, Joseph Locallo and Len DeFranco

➤ **Antonio Romanucci** has been selected for inclusion in the Top 100 Illinois SuperLawyers 2011. Congratulations Antonio!



From left: Antonio Romanucci, Gregg Garofalo, and Richard Caifano.

➤ Congratulations to Treasurer **Anita M. DeCarlo** on her new position at Vasilatos & Cotter, LLC. Best of luck, Anita!

➤ Congratulations to **Stephen D. Phillips** upon being selected to the 2010/2011 Edition of "Who's Who in Collegiate Faculty" by Montclair Publishing. Criteria for selection is based upon distinguished notable achievements in scholarship.

In September 2010, Mr. Phillips was a featured speaker for Minnesota Lawyers during their 2010 Update, "Preventing Legal Malpractice Claims and Ethics Complaints in Your Law Practice" seminar.

On February 16, 2011, Mr. Phillips was the featured speaker for the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association's webinar on Medical Literature.

On February 18, 2011, Phillips was the featured speaker for the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association's webinar regarding "Opening Statements" during their Medical Malpractice Seminar.



Steve Phillips (standing), with his late father John Phillips (seated right), Justice Bob Thomas (seated left) and Dominic Fichera.

➤ Congratulations to **John Nisivaco** upon his recent election, by the board, to the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association.

➤ **Bernadette M. Broccolo**, a partner in the Chicago office of McDermott, Will & Emory LLP, is to serve as co-chairwoman of a volunteer task force that is to provide insight and commentary to the Illinois Office of Health Information Technology as it works to implement a statewide Health Information Exchange.

Broccolo will lead the Health Information Exchange Legal Task Force along with co-chairman Mark D. Deaton, senior vice president and general counsel of the Illinois Hospital Association.

➤ Belongia, Shapiro & Franklin LLP announced the addition of principal attorney **V. Nicholas Dizonno**. Dizonno's focus is bankruptcy and commercial litigation.

➤ **Patrick A. Salvi**, managing partner of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C., has been named chairman of the Law School Advisory Council at the University of Notre Dame. He has also been invited back as a fourth-year adjunct professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School, where he teaches personal injury litigation.

➤ **Christopher J. DeLise** has joined the Chicago office of K&L Gates LLP as a partner in the corporate practice. A corporate and securities lawyer, DeLise represents a variety of fund clients in management and governance matters, fund formation and portfolio transactions involving financings, securities offerings and mergers and acquisitions.

➤ Our very own, everybody's favorite, **Joe Gagliardo** and his distinguished career was recently highlighted in Super Lawyers with the title: "Everybody Wants to See Joe Gagliardo." Congratulations to our esteemed past president.



From left: Past Presidents John Sciacotta, Tom Battista and Joe Gagliardo.

Miscellanea, Continued

➤ **Brian T. Monico**, son of past president Michael Monico, has joined the firm of Burke, Wise, Morrissey & Kaveny. Congratulations, Brian!



From left: John Locallo, Katherine Amari O'Dell and Brian Monico.

➤ Congratulations to **Justice Tobias G. Barry**, who will receive the Downstate Volunteer of the Year reward at the Lawyers' Assistance Program's 2011 Joseph R. Bartylak Annual Dinner.



From left, Anita DeCarlo, Justice Toby Barry and Anthony Fornelli.

➤ Congratulations to **Judge Joseph J. Urso** upon his retirement after an extraordinarily distinguished career as a lawyer, primarily as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney where he distinguished himself for many years, and then as a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, retiring as the Chief Judge of the 4th Municipal District. Judge Urso honors all of us with his successes as a credit to our community and as an example of the best our community has to offer. We wish Judge Urso continued success in the next stage of his career, of his life, and look forward to seeing him on a more regular basis at Justinian and community functions.

➤ **Sandra A. Franco** has joined the Chicago office of SmithAmundsen LLC as an associate. Franco focuses her practice in commercial litigation, banking law and real estate law. Before joining the firm, she was a legal intern at LR Development Company LLC.

➤ **Mary Ann Hynes** is being honored at a dinner presented by Inside Counsel's Transformative Leadership Awards Dinner on May 24th at the Fairmont Chicago, Millennium Park, recognizing women General Counsel and law firm Partners who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the empowerment of women in corporate law. As part of this wonderful recognition, Mary Ann is also being honored by the creation of the Mary Ann Hynes Pioneer Award, being presented to Deirdre Stanley, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Thomson Reuters.



From left: Cristina Mungai, Gloria Coco, Jessica DePinto, Katherine Amari O'Dell and Mary Ann Hynes.

➤ **Frank Cerrone** has been recognized by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church as its Man of the Year, at a dinner on April 9th, for all that he does for the community, for the church, and as an outstanding professional of the Pan American Bank.



From left: Franco Coladipietro, Tony Casaccio, and Frank Cerrone.

➤ Past President **James J. Morici, Jr.** and partner David Figlioli of Morici, Figlioli & Associates were once again honored as being among the top 100 trial lawyers in the United States by the American Trial Lawyers Association. Also, David Figlioli has been once again named an Illinois Super Lawyer by the publishers of Chicago Magazine as one of the top workman's compensation practitioners.

➤ Romanucci & Blandin attorneys **Gina Arquilla DeBoni, Michael Holden** and **Frank Sommario** have been named 2011 Super Lawyers Rising Stars.

➤ Past president **Bruno Tassone** (and his wonderful wife Cheri) write with great pride:

We have been blessed and life is good but hectic. Our grandson Nicholas (Joey's son) won five snowboarding downhill and rail jam competition over the last five weeks. He is only eleven. He competed in the 12 and under age group. This past weekend was an open meet called the BIG NUT. The downhill for 11 year olds is the same for 17 year olds and adults. I was afraid to walk out on the mountain to view his downhill event. On the rail jam he came down with a number of tricks but the best was with one boot out of his bindings. Unbelievable!



From left: Wife Cheri, grandson Nicholas, and Bruno Tassone.

➤ Law Bulletin Seminars had its annual Case Examination seminar Nov. 18 featuring three top verdicts in Illinois. The panel featured J. Timothy Eaton of Shefsky & Froelich Ltd., **Antonio M. Romanucci** and **Stephan D. Blandin** of Romanucci & Blandin, appellate lawyer Michael W. Rathsack, Cook County Circuit Judge Irwin J. Solganick and city counsel Karen G. Seimetz and Matthew A. Hurd.

➤ Congratulations to **Judge Mark Ballard** upon being elevated to Supervising Judge of the County Division under Ponce deLeon.

➤ Congratulations to **Professor Mark E. Wojcik** of The John Marshall Law School, upon being inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame on Nov. 10 at the Chicago Cultural Center.

He is one of 11 people and four organizations to be inducted during ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues.

Wojcik, who serves as director of Global Legal Studies at The John Marshall Law School, is being recognized as a legal scholar, law professor and founder of the Chicago Bar Association's Committee on Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men.

Wojcik has also provided comment in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin stories "ISBA tames stand on international treaty" and "Legal community prepares for civil unions in Illinois."

➤ Congratulations to **Leonard F. Amari** upon being honored in the 2011 Super Lawyer edition as one of the top Illinois real estate tax practitioners.

➤ **Vincent C. Cipolla** is pleased to announce the formation of his new practice, Cipolla Mediation and Arbitration Services, on 5600 North River Road, Suite 600, Rosemont, IL, 60018.

➤ On March 10th, **Jessica DePinto** was featured as a speaker as part of a lecture series at Casa Italia. Her lecture was about Machiavelli and "A Bronx Tale" and was well attended by many Justinians.



From left: Franco Coladipietro, Jessica DePinto, Celia Gamrath, and Sam Tornatore.

➤ We would like to recommend dues paying Justinians running for Board of Governors in Cook County, but, and fortunately, every candidate is a dues paying Justinian. Of course, **Umberto Davi**, past Justinian president, and a probable ISBA 3rd Vice President candidate, possibly, a year from now. Support our Justinians.

➤ We would like to welcome back **Salvatore A. Barbatano** to the Chicago/Illinois legal community. For the last decade plus years, he has been practicing bankruptcy law in Ann Arbor, MI. He returns to Chicago with the firm of Shaw Gussis Fishman Glantz Wolfson & Towbin with offices at 321 N. Clark, Suite 800, phone number: 312-980-3843, email: sbarbatano@shawgussis.com. Sal was an active and truly revered Justinian and we are glad to see him back and look forward to seeing him at Justinian and Italian-American functions. He still concentrates his practice in big number bankruptcy work and related business activities.



From left: Sam Tornatore, Sal Barbatano, Joe Gagliardo, Michael Monico. Sure, an old picture.

➤ Congratulations to JMLS students **Christina Faklis, Marisa Schostok** and **Brett Buckley**; their mock trial team placed 2nd out of 30 teams in the 1L competition. They lost only by 2 points in the closest match that JMLS has seen and now are allowed to be on JMLS's honors council. The team first met at the Justinian mentoring meeting held by Leonard Amari in August 2010.

Verdicts and Settlements By: Michael F. Bonamarte

➤ Congratulations to **John Perconti** of Levin & Perconti on a \$6.5 million settlement in the Circuit Court of Kane County in a trucking accident/wrongful death lawsuit brought by the family of Tabitha Carroll, 32, formerly of East Dubuque, IL. Tabitha died on October 31, 2008 when a tractor-trailer owned by Geils Farms and driven by Jeffrey Repec of Spring Grove rear-ended the pick-up truck that Tabitha was riding in with her husband, Randolph "Randy" Carroll, and 3-year-old son, Gabriel. Police determined that Repec was under the influence of marijuana when the crash occurred. John J. Perconti of Levin & Perconti represented the Carroll family in the lawsuit.

During the course of the lawsuit, it was discovered that the farm owners did not randomly drug screen their drivers in violation of Part 382 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's regulations. They also failed to perform background checks on their drivers or obtain a copy of each driver's driving record. Additionally, the farm was in violation of federal regulations by operating an over-loaded semi, weighing more than 80,000 pounds. Furthermore, Geils Farms allowed Repec to operate an unsafe semi-truck. After the collision, it was found that truck's left rear turn signal was inoperable, five of the ten brakes were out of adjustment, and some of the truck's brake pads were contaminated by oil or grease, making the vehicle inadequate for braking and safe stopping.

The fatal accident occurred on Halloween day on Route 47 near I-90 in Huntley. The Carroll family intended to visit Goebbert's Pumpkin Patch when the accident occurred. Repec failed to recognize the vehicles in front of him had stopped and struck the Carroll vehicle from behind at a high rate of speed. The collision pushed and crushed the Carroll vehicle into a stopped IDOT truck. Tabitha was pronounced dead at the scene and Randy and Gabriel were airlifted to separate hospitals with serious injuries.

The lawsuit, filed in January 2009, alleged that Repec was operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs, driving over the speed limit and failing to keep a proper look out. Police at the scene found drug paraphernalia and marijuana in Repec's possession and he later tested positive for marijuana. Repec pled guilty to aggravated driving under the influence of drugs and is serving a 45 month sentence in the Jacksonville Correctional Center.

The settlement was reached during mediation with all parties present, including attorneys for Repec and Geils Farms. The family received \$4.7 million for the wrongful death of Tabitha, \$1.5 million for Randy's personal injuries and \$300,000 for Gabriel's injuries. The editor of the Illinois Jury Verdict Reporter has confirmed that this is the largest wrongful death settlement in Kane County.

➤ Congratulations to **Michael Malatesta** of Apicella and Malatesta on a not guilty verdict they obtained for their client. Michael represented the Defendant restaurant and successfully defended the restaurant against claims that the Plaintiff slipped and fell on a large puddle of water near the sinks in the restroom. The defense argued that they did not have notice of any water on the floor and that if there was water on the floor, it was open and obvious.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph B. Ori** of Sutter and Ori, LLC, on a \$2.8 million dollar recovery for an off duty Chicago police officer who was struck by an electrical truck. The Plaintiff punctured her lung and sustained a mild traumatic brain injury.

➤ Congratulations to **Gregory Conforti** and **Genevieve LeFevour** of Johnson & Bell on a favorable verdict for their client in a case that involves a construction site accident that resulted in a death of an independent contractor. Plaintiff asked of the jury \$9.5 million to cover pain and suffering, past and future lost wages, and loss of society. The jury awarded \$1.4 million, but found the Plaintiff was 49% liable and reduced the verdict to \$734,000.00. At trial, it was determined that the information gathered by the Defendant in the initial discovery phase of the case with respect to the incident was incorrect; therefore making most of the evidence presented at trial moot. Despite having no expert and limited evidence to work with, the defense counsel argued that the decedent was an independent contractor and the defendant did not control the means, manner or methods by which the decedent did his work. They further, argued that the decedent was responsible for the safety of his work and based on his 30 years of experience doing torch cutting work, should have recognized any hazard that existed in performing his work.

➤ Congratulations to **Dennis DeCaro** of Kupets and DeCaro of a \$700,000.00 settlement on behalf of their client who sustained severe head injuries that ultimately claimed the teenager's life. The injuries were sustained when the stairwell in the City of Danville's municipal parking garage collapsed. It was alleged that the city knew that the stairwell needed repairs and replacements following an inspection by a civil engineering firm. The decedent is survived by his parents and two siblings.

Verdicts & Settlements, Continued

➤ Congratulations again to **John Perconti** of Levin & Perconti on another \$6.5 million dollar settlement. Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL and two physicians have agreed to a \$6.5 million settlement with the family of a young girl who suffered a brain injury during birth which resulted in severe and debilitating cerebral palsy. Her brain injury occurred when physicians at the hospital failed to timely perform a Cesarean section. The settlement was reached during mediation and approved in the Circuit Court of Cook County by the Honorable Judge William Maddux.

➤ Congratulations to Johnson & Bell, Ltd. attorneys, **Gregory Conforti** and **Genevieve LeFevour**, who received a favorable verdict for their client in a case that involved a construction site accident that resulted in the death of an independent contractor. The plaintiff asked of the jury \$9.5 million to cover pain and suffering, past and future lost wages, and loss of society. The jury awarded \$1.4 million, but found the plaintiff was 49% liable and reduced the verdict to \$734,000.

The case developed from an accident that occurred on April 27, 2001. The plaintiff's decedent was working as an independent contractor performing torch cutting work on the defendant's premises. The decedent was torch cutting a portion of a single deck rail car when a piece of steel fell on him causing his death by asphyxiation. The decedent was fifty-one years old at the time of his death and left a wife and four children. The plaintiff's expert, Eugene Holland, testified that the defendant did not provide a safe place for the decedent to work and that the defendant should have recognized the hazard involved in the torch cutting work being performed by the decedent and should have taken reasonable steps to guard against it. Further, Holland contended that the defendant was in control of the work the decedent was doing at the time of his death.

Mr. Conforti and Ms. Levefour were transferred to the case in 2008, a month before trial, for the sole purpose of handling the trial. At this point, they saw an opportunity to file a Motion for Summary Judgment based on the fact that the decedent was a true independent contractor and no duty was owed to him by the defendant under the law and the exceptions to this rule under Section 414 of the Restatement Second of Torts did not apply. The trial court agreed and granted the defendant's Summary Judgment. The plaintiff appealed and the Appellate Court for the First District of Illinois reversed the defendant's Summary Judgment, finding that there was a question of fact that should go before the jury regarding whether the defendant owed a duty to the decedent under Section 414 of the Restatement Second of Torts.

At trial, it was determined that the information gathered by the defendant in the initial discovery phase of the case with respect to the incident was incorrect; therefore making most of the evidence presented at trial moot. Despite having no expert and limited evidence to work with, the defense counsel argued that the decedent was an independent contractor

and the defendant did not control the means, manner or methods by which the decedent did his work. They further, argued that the decedent was responsible for the safety of his work and based on his thirty years of experience doing torch cutting work should have recognized any hazard that existed in performing his work.

The jury awarded \$1.4 million, but found that the plaintiff was 49% contributorily liable, thus reducing the verdict to \$734,000. Before the first trial, defendants had offered \$1.25 million at trial with indications of 1.5 million.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph Bosco** and **David Koppelman** of LaRose and Bosco on a successful verdict that they obtained on behalf of their client. Their client claimed that she was threatened by the defendant's dog as she walked up the front steps of the defendant's home, which caused her to fall backwards and fracture her arm.

➤ Congratulations to **Mark Iripino** on a \$4 million jury verdict on behalf of his client. Mark represented the family of a child who was killed when her father's car was rear ended and crushed by defendant's tractor trailer on I-90. The defendant truck driver also died in the crash. The defendant argued that the car suddenly slowed and pulled to the right for an upcoming toll booth, causing the truck to swerve in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid the car.

➤ Congratulations to **Darcy Proctor** on a successful verdict obtained in federal court. Darcy represented an individual who asserted she was subjected to a sexually hostile work environment at IDOT's Edens Yard, where she was the only female employee among thirty men. IDOT contended it took reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, and promptly investigated her complaints.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph Parente** of Parente & Norem P.C. who represented the plaintiff Joseph Ambrogio in a \$5 million settlement reached in a drunken driving lawsuit. The plaintiff was a Walgreen's project manager who suffered injuries in a 2006 traffic accident involving a worker who was drinking on St. Patrick's Day at a bar across the street from his job site before driving away in his company-issued van. The plaintiff argued that the defendant was intoxicated when he got into his company van and drove about a mile to Lake-Cook Road on a bridge over the intersection with the Canadian National Railroad where he struck a line of stopped cars including the car driven by the plaintiff. The defendant was later convicted of aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol as a result of the accident.

Congratulations to Craig Mannarino and Amanda Brasfield of Kralovec, Jambois, and Schwartz on an \$8.5 million jury verdict in Cook County. Craig represented a 56 year old man who was severely injured while working beside his father in a 2005 trench collapse on a construction site at Wheaton Warrenville South High School. In addition the jury awarded \$2 million to the estate of the father who was killed

when the trench caved in on the workers. The plaintiff suffered a crushed pelvis and was rendered impotent as a consequence of the nerve injury suffered as a consequence of the severe pelvic fractures.

➤ Congratulations to **Mitchell B. Friedman** of Morici, Figlioli & Associates, who recently concluded a near million dollar settlement against a North Shore shopping mall. The 70 year old plaintiff was seriously injured and went on to have a spinal fusion when she was caused to fall at Defendant's shopping mall. The Plaintiff had just exited a restaurant and leaned against a bicycle rack in order to keep an eye on her grandchildren. It tipped over, causing her significant injury. The Plaintiff claimed that during a rehabilitation of the mall, the bicycle rack had been inadequately secured.

➤ Congratulations to **Charles A. Wallace** and **Mitchell B. Friedman** who recently concluded a settlement for a union rigger Plaintiff who was rear ended at a high rate of speed on an expressway off-ramp. The offending dump truck was loaded and after striking the Plaintiff's vehicle, pushed it into other vehicles. The high six-figure settlement was justified by the Plaintiff's neurological symptoms ostensibly as a result of a disruption of a prior C4-C6 cervical fusion. The settlement is one in a long line of substantial settlements and verdicts achieved by Morici, Figlioli & Associated.

➤ Congratulations to **Craig P. Mannarino** of Kralovec, Jambois & Schwartz on a \$2.35 million verdict on behalf of their client whose doctor caused a vascular injury while repairing a torn biceps tendon and, as a result, the plaintiff suffered nerve damage and developed complex regional pain syndrome.

➤ Congratulations to **Marilyn Frangella** of Fabrizio, Hanson, Peyla & Kawinski on a not guilty verdict she obtained for her client. Marilyn represented the Defendant store and successfully defended the store against claims that the Plaintiff slipped and fractured her leg when she fell in the parking lot of the Defendant store soon after it had started to snow. The defense argued that the Plaintiff fell on a natural accumulation of ice and/or snow.

➤ Congratulations to **Gena Gruss Romagnoli** of Henry Phillip Gruss Ltd. on a \$1.1 million verdict on behalf of her client. The Plaintiff fell while using a bedside commode two days after undergoing knee replacement surgery. The surgical wound opened and she developed an infection. She eventually needed removal and re-implantation of the knee prosthesis.

Obituaries

The Justinian Society, its brothers and sisters, sincerely extend our sympathies to the families of relatives and friends.

† Judge Gerald C. Bender

Judge Gerald C. Bender, a dear friend to many of us, and the father of Justinian supporter and highly esteemed Judge Michael Ian Bender.

† David Carfello

David "Bucky" Carfello, survived by his wife Joan, and father of career Justinian Scott Carfello.

† Casazza, Nancy M.

Our prayers are with the family of Nancy M. Casazza, nee Pellegrino, beloved wife of the late Gary, and the loving mother of Dawn (Brian) Lee and Mark J. Casazza.

† Cerone, Thomas

Our prayers are with the family of longtime Justinian Tom Cerone, who recently passed. Tom was a regular attendee at Justinian events and an ardent supporter. He left this world too young and too quickly. He is survived by his daughter, Samantha Markiewicz, a sister and brother.

† Nelda Ginex

Nelda Ginex, father of Greg Ginex and grandfather of the younger Greg Ginex.

† Paul Goeldner

Paul Goeldner, loving father of Paula Holderman.

† Francesco Ingraffia

Francesco Ingraffia, beloved husband of Maria (nee Gambino), father of Tony Ingraffia and brother-in-law of Dominic Gambino.

† John Karnezis

John Karnezis, taken at far too young an age by the Lord, survived by Dena Angela and a partner of the firm of Justinian Richard L. Pullano.

† Mary Locallo

Mary Locallo, wife of the late Victor, loving aunt of John, Danny, and Joseph F. Locallo, Jr. and Leonard Amari and great aunt of Joseph Locallo, III and Katherine O'Dell.

† Francesco Nardini

Francesco Nardini, husband of Gloria (nee Lazzarini), and the father of Guido and Gian-Carlo, proprietors of the popular River North restaurant, Club Lago.

† Peter S. Rascia

Peter S. Rascia, father of career Justinian, Ronald Raschia.

† Katherine Rakowski

Katherine Rakowski, wife of the late Julius, loving mother of Justinian friend and supporter, Justice Thomas Rakowski.

† Mary Salerno

Mary Salerno, aunt of Jo Ann Serpico.

† Peter F. Schullo

Peter Schullo, father of Pearl Glorioso's father and father-in-law of Mauro Glorioso.

† Elsie Scotillo

Elsie Scotillo, mother of Judge John J. Scotillo and mother-in-law of Nancy Scotillo.

† Jerold S. Solovy

Jerold S. Solovy, husband of Kathleen Hart Solovy, the Chairman Emeritus of the law firm of Jenner & Block, one of the finest lawyers and finest men many of us have ever met or will hope to meet.

† Sammy Talarico

Sammy Talarico, husband of the late Tillie, father of career Justinian, Alphonse Talarico and uncle of past president, John Sciacotta.

THE Justinian Society Annual Golf Outing

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

Bloomingtondale Golf Club
181 Glen Ellyn Rd., Bloomingtondale

Golf & Dinner — \$150 Per Person • \$600 Per Foursome
Dinner Only — \$ 50 Per Person — Sponsorships Available

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND SOCIETY OPERATING BUDGET

- ✦ Includes golf, cart, full lunch with beverages, clubhouse locker room, dinner and prizes
- ✦ Gift for every player
- ✦ Raffle
- ✦ Par three, hole-in-one, and other prizes!

To register, go to www.justinians.org. Questions? call (708) 441-4119



- ▶ Rated "A" Excellent by A.M. Best Company
- ▶ Exclusive Program Designed for the Newly-Admitted Lawyer
- ▶ Over \$8.5M in Policyholder Dividends Since 2000
- ▶ Endorsed by Illinois State Bar Association
- ▶ Exclusively Serving Lawyers and Law Firms Since 1988
- ▶ Free CLE and Premium Savings

Professional Liability Insurance

Surety Bonds

Newly Licensed Attorney Program

Risk Management

STRONG, COMMITTED & DEDICATED
800-473-4722 • www.isbamutual.com

Justian Society of Lawyers
P.O. Box 804
LaGrange, IL 60525

