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Spring 2015

Justinian Society Newsletter

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

President's Message

As the 2014-2015 year comes to a close, I wanted to again say "thank you" to our members, past, present, and renewed. A special thank you to past Presidents Anthony Fornelli, Antonio Romanucci, Michael Favia and Richard Caldarazzo for all of your advice and support throughout the year. In addition, thank you to all of our Officers who helped in too many ways to detail.

We began the year with our Golf Outing run by the Dynamic Duo, Sam Tornatore and Richard Caldarazzo. This event was sponsored by the Justinian Society of Lawyers Endowment Fund. Despite the rain, we were able to raise \$5,925.83, which was distributed evenly to the Justinian Children's Endowment Fund and the Justinian Scholarship Fund. None of this would have been possible without Sam and Richard!



In September, we all had a fabulous time at the Ceremonial Installation Dinner at the Palmer House. For the first time, the Justinian Society of Lawyers Endowment Fund sponsored the dinner. Thanks to the Endowment Fund, we were able to turn a profit of \$9,222.21. Again, the proceeds were distributed evenly to the Justinian Children's Endowment Fund and the Justinian Scholarship Fund.

In addition, the event was a great success. Judge Michael Pope served as the Master of Ceremonies and kept the night moving quickly, without feeling rushed. The Reverend Michael Caruso, S.J. of St. Ignatius College Preparatory started the evening with our Invocation. Past President Leonard F. Amari received the Honorable Moses W. Harrison Award of Recognition, past President Michael V. Favia received the President's Award and the Reverend Monsignor Kenneth Velo received The Award of Excellence. All three gave moving speeches that inspired our year!

In October, the Justinian Endowment Fund again sponsored our dinner at Riva's. At that event, \$31,000 in Scholarships were awarded, most of the Chicago law schools match the scholarships as an added bonus to the law students. The Justinian Society itself issued \$17,500.00 in scholarships. A special thank you to James Morici, Stephen Phillips, Louis Cairo, Thomas Battista and the Anthony "Jack" Rosinia for the individual scholarships they sponsored. Steven Phillips ran the meeting and made a wonderful request of all of us. The request was: if you are able to donate a scholarship, please do so. If not, please donate to the general Justinian Scholarship Fund.

In November, we celebrated Mass at Assumption Church, where we blessed our past Presidents who were able to attend. The Reverend Monsignor Kenneth Velo also blessed Justinian

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Michela Petrosino
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Please notify Nina Albano Vidmer of any address changes by contacting her at: P.O. Box 3217; Oak Brook, IL 60522; justinians@navandassoc.com.

Staff:

Editor:

LEONARD F. AMARI

Associate Editor:

KATHERINE A. AMARI O'DELL

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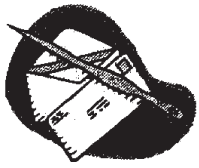
Executive Administrator:

NINA ALBANO VIDMER

Copy Editor:

DIANA BOSNJAK

CONTRIBUTORS: SEE PAGE 5



Letters to the Editor

By: Katherine A. Amari O'Dell

Dear Leonard,

Awarding you the Harrison mentoring award at the Justinian dinner is LONG overdue. You deserve it a million times over.

- **Judge Celia (Guzaldo) Gamrath**



Two esteemed past Presidents: Jack Cerone & Judge Celia Gamrath

Katherine,

Thank you for the newsletter. My family enjoyed your story about me.

- **Joe Glimco**



Hi Katherine,

I have read the (newsletter) article; it is wonderful. Please let Mr. Amari know that our family greatly appreciates him taking the time to speak highly of our facility. We are glad to make his dining experience a pleasant one. Thank you once again,

- **Pietro Camaci and family, Nonna Graziella Restaurant, Stone Park**

Leonard,

Many thanks for the kind words in the Fra Noi article and Justinian newsletter. I'm still not convinced that I deserved the accolades.

- **Joseph R. Curcio**

Dear Leonard,

Excellent! I believe we have more quality content and pages than the Sun-Times at this point.

- **Michael Favia**



Past President Michael Favia with President DeCarlo

Dear Katherine,

With admiration, I offer my congratulations as the Justinian Society Newsletter celebrates the 93rd anniversary of its publication.

You and all associated with your publication perform a most valuable service not only for your readers but for the larger community. Providing information in a coherent and meaningful manner is not merely a job, it is a mission.

I salute you for your commitment to mission, which is so important to all who are familiar with your publication and depend on it: Readers and the business community that benefit each other because of your efforts.

As one who believes that reading is the most crucial form of communication, I thank you and wish you a long run for your publication.

- **Maria Pappas**
Cook County Treasurer

Dear Katherine,

I have received your letter and was pleased to find it included a clipping from the Justinian Society of Italian Lawyers Newsletter. I appreciate your kindness in making sure I saw it, as well as your kind words about the mentoring award presented to me by my friends and colleagues. As always, the swearing-in dinner was a great success, and it was wonderful to be a part of it.

- **Timothy C. Evans**

Chief Judge Circuit Court of Cook Cty



Judge Tim Evans and MaryAnn Hynes

Dear Katherine,

I am in receipt of the copy of the Justinian Society Newsletter you provided. Thank you very much for mentioning my Colcol v. Children's Hospital settlement. I am very grateful.

Hope all is well!

- **Patrick A. Salvi**



From left, John G. Locallo, Mark Hassakis, and Pat Salvi

Dear Mr. Sommario,

Thank you so much for awarding St. Jude the Children's Endowment Fund Grant of \$5,000! We are so grateful of people and organizations like you and the Justinian Society. Furthermore, these funds are so important to our organization as we continue to help children and families through their battles with childhood cancer and other deadly diseases! Because of you, there is St. Jude.

- **Stacey Pitts**
St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital

[Editor's Note: The CEF received a Grant application from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. St. Jude's was seeking funds to support its Children's Medical Research.]

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other deadly diseases. St. Jude has the world's best survival rates for the most aggressive childhood cancers, and treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to 80 percent since they opened more than 50 years ago. St. Jude is working to drive the overall survival rate for childhood cancer to 90 percent in the next decade. St. Jude freely shares the breakthroughs they make, and every child saved at St. Jude means doctors and scientists worldwide can use that knowledge to save thousands more children. Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing and food – because all a family should worry about is helping their child live. Join the St. Jude mission by visiting stjude.org or following St. Jude on facebook.com/stjude and twitter.com/stjude.

Since they meet the CEF criteria to receive a grant, the CEF Committee has voted unanimously to award the 2015 \$5,000.00 Grant to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.]

Justinian News

Installation Dinner Report

Installation Instills Values

By: **Thomas V. Leverso, Esq.**

Inspiration: it permeated throughout the reception area of the Palmer House Hilton's Grand Ballroom and energized all who attended the annual Justinian Society of Lawyers' Installation and Awards Dinner on September 10, 2014. Like a swim in a crisp mountain lake, the



refreshingly academic and welcoming crowd combined with the appropriately arriving autumnal weather. My host for the evening was Leonard Amari himself, along with all the partners and associates of Amari & Locallo and it seemed as though the entire evening began right on his cue. I had the good fortune of sitting with giants of the Illinois legal community, including Illinois' Judges Association president, Justice Mary Seminara Schostok, prominent attorney and Deputy Cook County Assessor Thomas J. Jaconetty, the highly respected Judge Clarence Harrison of Madison County, son of the late Justice Moses Harrison, to mention just a few. The room was filled with respected judges and justices of every level, prominent trial lawyers and public interest attorneys. It became clear to me – the annual Installation and Awards Dinner of the Justinian Society of (Italian) Lawyers enjoys the reputation of being the signature social/legal event in Illinois in the Fall.

The cocktail hour began a wave of introductions amongst strangers, while simultaneously old friends resumed from the last time they spoke. This was my first Justinian Installation Dinner and upon entry into the reception area, an immediate embrace of acceptance removed any anticipation usually felt in a new social situation. The young appellate attorney was welcomed as an old friend instead of a newcomer – by everybody I introduced myself to or to whom I was introduced. The words "genuine amity" come to mind.

The crowd of members mingled effortlessly while enjoying hors d'oeuvres that far exceed the expectations of your ordinary cold chicken dinner banquet. Prosciutto with melon, an assortment of cheeses and salamis, and cookies that are some type of cross between anise and angetti line the tables. An ice sculpture adorns the main appetizer table. This food elevated the mood of the



Betty DeCarlo, Monsignor Kenneth Velo and President Anita DeCarlo.



Past Presidents Mike Favia and Tony Fornelli with Father Michael Caruso, S.J.



Past Presidents Judge Bob Bertucci & Judge Lisa Marino (right) with Marie Sarantakis.



Judge Mary Minella with Dean Jean Gaspardo, Loyola University School of Law; and Erica Minchella.

Continued on page 4

room as good food does, but the company of the room made the night special. From great food comes great ideas.

The energy level rose as the room filled, but the hospitality of the older members increased alongside the genuine respect and affection the attendees demonstrated for each other. The event left an impression I will never forget. The law schools and bar associations were well represented, the Illinois State Bar Association was represented by its officers and many of its governors; The John Marshall Law School ordered two tables to support its graduates, many of which are prominent in the Justinian activities. Renowned jurists from all over Illinois, both Federal and State, took the time to welcome law students, while senior partners and solo practitioners fostered new relations for junior associates. The most common topic was the advancement of the profession, the support and advancement of the younger attorneys, but the experienced generations ensured the young stars shined brightly.

Indeed, pervasive throughout the evening was a universal spirit of treating people the way they ought to be treated regardless of age or experience. This was collegiality – and it was obviously very genuine. This was a true society that had the familial feel to it. I felt myself grinning because every person in attendance shared my love of the law. I was no longer the outcast scholar, a boring trial attorney as to the theoretical application of an obscure doctrine; rather, I was a peer among fellow intellectuals. And my common ethnicity with many in attendance certainly enhanced the great experience.

Likewise, the evening was a welcome change from the normally passé beginning to the Chicago social season because this event was filled with meaning, a very basic concept. What caught my attention were the awards and their respective recipients. To recap they were: Reverend Monsignor Kenneth Velo, recipient of the Justinian Award of Excellence, a beloved cleric in the Chicago-land area, and career friend of the Justinian Society and scores of its members; Michael V. Favia, Recipient of the President's Award, truly a deserving recipient, highly regarded and truly revered; and my host, Leonard F. Amari, recipient of the Honorable Moses W. Harrison Award of Recognition.

Based on the comments of their presenters, Mr. Favia, Monsignor Velo, and my host shined. Monsignor Velo embodies the core values of the underlying mission of the Justinian Society, making the words become more than mere writings. Indeed, I hope someday to have his gumption to pursue social justice.

As for my host, Leonard Amari was being honored for the very things he showed to me on a personal level and the very things for which Justice Harrison stood: excellence in the profession through its advancement. His genuine respect, affection and devotion

to the late Justice was clear, and heartfelt. Mr. Amari's humility was best demonstrated through the brevity of his acceptance; indeed, he quietly accepted his award with due reluctance, showing the true signs of someone devoted simultaneously to the good of the Society and the general public.

The officers were then introduced, and ceremonially sworn, all bright, young leading Italian-American lawyers, led by the wonderful Anita DeCarlo, a second generation president following in the footsteps of her late father, prominent attorney, Vito DeCarlo. The other officers and their offices being: Jessica DePinto, 1st Vice President; Frank A. Sommario, 2nd Vice President; Michael F. Bonamarte, 3rd Vice President; Vincent Vidmer, Treasurer; and Natalie Petric, Secretary.

From here, I returned from a state of extreme focus due to speakers and instead returned to the table's conversation. I realized how this table was not simply composed of esteemed friends, lawyers, and jurists, but rather how all these people charitably contribute to society. Words fail to describe the preciousness of this value and how much the Installation Dinner reinforced its importance.

My thoughts turned to reflection; how Leonard and his A&L colleagues did not have to do a thing for me, and yet there they were opening doors, literally and figuratively. I can only aspire to emulate, as Mr. Amari suggested, the mantra of his reputation, and pay it forward, and indeed I resolve to do such. More than any other room you will visit between now and April, this room – this dinner, that is – actually set the tone for how a person ought to conduct himself or herself.

The dinner is an installment of values – not just the installation of officers.

[Editor's Note: Father Michael Caruso, President of St. Ignatius, delivered the most wonderful prayer at the Installation Dinner, insightful, and quoting St. Thomas More, patron saint of lawyers. We reprint it here, in part:

Lord God, as we ask your blessing upon our fellowship and meal that we will share, let us make these words of St. Thomas More, the patron saint of lawyers, our own:

Pray that, for the glory of God and in the pursuit of His justice, I may be trustworthy with confidences, keen in study, accurate in analysis, correct in conclusion, able in argument, loyal to clients, honest with all, courteous to adversaries, ever attentive to conscience. Sit with me in my library and stand always beside me so that today I shall not, to win a point, lose my soul.

Pray that my family may find me what yours found in you: friendship and courage, cheerfulness and charity, diligence in duties, counsel in adversity, patience in pain – their good servant, and God's first.

We ask all these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.]

Scholarship Dinner

By: Michael D. Pisano

Every year the Justinian Society gathers to award scholarships to law students. This year the Scholarship Dinner was held at Riva Restaurant on Navy Pier on October 23, 2014. This dinner is always well attended



by members as well as law students and often times, the families of the scholarship recipients, and representatives from various Chicago-area law schools. This year was no different and in fact required the restaurant to roll out a few more tables to accommodate the large group—a good problem to have. Of course, as lore would have it, the Justinians, to a member, are horrible about RSVPing. Every dinner is a crapshoot.

While the Scholarship Dinner is a one night event, the scholarship committee works year-round to raise the scholarship funds, circulate the availability of funds and getting the word out to the law students to apply. In addition to large donations made in the past which have kept the scholarship program thriving, scholarship funds are raised at the annual golf outing as well as donations by individual members throughout the year. Every fall the Justinian scholarship committee is tasked with the responsibility of pouring through dozens of scholarship applications to identify those law students who have worked hard and demonstrated success in their studies. Historically, senior members Richard Caifano, Umberto Davi, Anthony Farace, Sam Tornatore and others coordinated these responsibilities. Sam and Anthony now serving (again) as co-chairs.

This year the scholarship committee awarded 15 scholarships (about the yearly average) totaling in excess of \$50,000 in tuition benefits, including the matching funds made available by certain law schools. Historically, with the matching law school



President Anita DeCarlo with scholarship recipient Mara Salerno



The Justinian Society Scholarship Committee and the recipients of the 2014 scholarships

contributions, the Society awards annually between \$50,000 to \$75,000. The following students received a scholarship: Antonia Marie Kopec, Andrew Manno, Matthew Kaufmann, Domenica Manfredini, Nicole Petrarca, Laura Luisi, Justino Mirabelli, Marie Sarantakis (the President of our Justinian chapter at JMLS), Amy Taylor, Mara Salerno, Michael Bertucci, Michela Petrosino, Bianca Saviano, Dominic LoVerde, and Christine Baderstadt. As Steve Phillips called upon each student to accept their award and take photographs with some of the donors, he recounted the long history of the scholarship program. He encouraged members to make contributions so that the program can continue to thrive and improve so that even more scholarships can be awarded in the future. A substantial number of the applicants are sons and daughters, nephews and nieces, of career Justinians.

I am proud to be a past scholarship recipient while an active student Justinian at JMLS and recognize how much this scholarship benefits law students. It means not having to borrow extra money for tuition and books, it means not having to work as many hours during the semester so that you can concentrate on your studies; it means every loan payment that you make will be smaller. It means so much more than words can describe, and no matter the amount, every donation and every award has long lasting benefits beyond the obvious financial benefits. This extraordinarily generous and successful scholarship program is an investment in future lawyers and future Justinian members. As a past scholarship recipient, I am encouraged to share my success throughout my career with future law students by making my own contribution to the scholarship fund as so

many have done in the past and will continue to do in the future.

Thank you to the generous individuals and families for their contribution to the scholarship fund, and thank you to the scholarship committee for your work in raising the funds and selecting the recipients. This night would not be possible without everyone involved.



Scholarship recipients, from left, Mara Salerno, Matthew Kaufman, Marie Sarantakis, and Laura Luisi



Former 2nd Ward Alderman Robert Fioretti, Erica Minchella, with past Presidents Thomas Battista, and Michael Favia

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. You will immediately receive in the mail or by messenger, a mailing tube containing your Justinian desk flag.

Grazie!

Newsletter Contributors

Dion Davi
 Krista Easom
 Anthony B. Ferraro
 Dominic Fichera
 Brian Langs
 Catherine R. Locallo
 Joseph R. Marconi
 Dr. Mary Milano
 James J. Morici, Jr.
 Cindy O'Keefe
 Roy Puccini
 Marie Sarantakis
 John Tufano

Pins for each of our past Presidents. Lastly, we made an honorary presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to John G. Spatuzza. It was a wonderful celebration of our Past presidents at Gene & Georgetti's! A special thank you to Garofalo Family Vineyards for donating the wine for the event.

We started the year in January at a new location, Tuscano's, a wonderful recommendation by Jack Cerone! They were able to handle our Joint Chapter Dinner meeting. We had many representatives from DuPage including many of our ISBA dignitaries, President Richard Felice, President-Elect Umberto Davi and 3rd Vice President Candidate James F. McCluskey. In addition, Ron Mentone gave a short talk on his book, *Dominic and Ross, My Two Uncles*. A special thank you to ATI Physical Therapy for donating the wine for the event.

In February, we moved forward with our bocce tournament at the Mazzini Verde on a very cold and snowy night! None the less, it was warm inside and the event was a wonderful success. Sam Cannizzaro ran the tournament with only five teams due to the bad weather, but a good time was had by all.

In March, the Children's Endowment Fund-raiser, again sponsored by the Justinian Society of Lawyers Endowment Fund, was held at Maggianos. As the dinner was on March 19, in honor of St. Joseph's Day, blessed St. Joseph Medals were passed out. More importantly, a Grant of \$5,000.00 was given to St. Jude's. As this was another successful event, all proceeds are being added to the corpus of the Children's Endowment Fund.

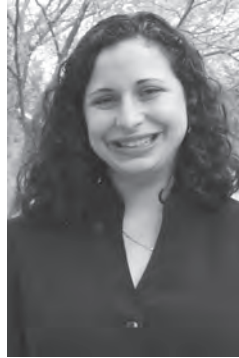
Thank you to everyone on the Newsletter staff who works so hard to put this publication together, especially Associate Editor Katherine Amari O'Dell. In addition, thank you to all of the law students who met with us this year, who attended our dinners and who helped in countless ways, especially: Disa DiBuono, Nicole Petrarca, Michela Petrosino, and Adrianna Preston.

Yet to come is our April 23 Nomination of Officers meeting at Carmines with wine sponsored by Injured Workers Pharmacy and the May 13 Installation of Officers at Gibson's. We are working hard to continue our success this year! I again thank you for this wonderful experience!

Past Presidents' Dinner

By: Cindy J. O'Keefe

Each year, one of the more special monthly meetings is held honoring the Past Presidents of our prestigious society preceded by our annual Justinian mass. This is a legacy of past president Joseph Gagliardo during his turn at the helm – and has become one of our annual dinners. Celebrating our history helps the Justinian Society move into the future, with an emphasis on building new relationships and membership. This year, our Past Presidents' Dinner was piggybacked with a Justinian Mass. Held on November 20, 2014, in keeping with the legacy of past president Gloria G. Coco, an intimate mass was held at the Assumption Church, 323 W. Illinois St. Chicago, with Monsignor Kenneth Velo. The good father has long been associated with our Society. For example, and as we know, he was this year's choice of President Anita DeCarlo for our prestigious Award of Excellence. He made the mass very intimate and special. Blessing several past presidents, and lapel pins for each of our past presidents. At the time of communion, all members in attendance were called up to the altar, the hosts distributed, and the sacrament jointly experienced. All in



attendance he shared the blessing and greeted one another, many with tears in their eyes, the warmth and camaraderie evident. Historically, every president of the Society attempts to create an event that will continue on after his or her term. For example, Umberto Davi created the "family dinner," Jim Morici the mentoring award and dinner, the late Gerry Sbarbaro the Installation Dinner in the fall, Leonard Amari the newsletter, etc. Past Presidents in attendance were Anthony Fornelli (1969-1970), Leonard Amari (1978-1979), Jack P. Cerone (1981-1982), Hon. Bruno J. Tassone (1984-1985), Joseph G. Bisceglia (1992-1993), Hon. Gloria G. Coco (1993-1994), Michael V. Favia (1998-1999), Leonard S. Defranco (2000-2001), Antonio M. Romanuci (2002-2003), Mauro Glorioso (2008-2009), and Katherine Amari O'Dell (2011-2012).

After mass, dinner was held most conveniently across the street at Gene & Georgetti's, est. 1941, at 500 N. Franklin Street, Chicago. The dinner meeting was held upstairs, in a private banquet room, though because of the great turnout, some members had to dine in a separate room. All were treated to a wonderful meal and delectable desserts. It definitely was a full house, with 17 out of 39 past presidents in attendance. Several other past presidents who were able to join us at dinner included; Richard B. Caifano (1982-1983), Salvatore J. Tornatore (1985-1986), Michael D. Monico (1989-1990), Thomas M. Battista (2003-2004), Cristina Mungai Scalzitti (2010-2011), and Hon. Robert W. Bertucci (2013-2014). John G. Spatuzza (1961-1962) was given an award as our reigning patriarch. Unfortunately, he was not able to attend due to health issues; the award was presented his behalf to Anthony



A photo of Monsignor Velo, past Presidents, and guests in attendance.

Joint Chapter Dinner

By: Nicole Petrarca

The Justinian Society's annual Joint Chapter Meeting is usually held at Rosewood in Rosemont, IL. However, the venue was changed last minute due to Rosewood's closing. A big thank you to past President Jack Cerone who suggested re-locating to Tuscano's in Schiller Park.



The new venue proved to be a great new meeting place for the Society. The meeting was well attended by members of the Justinian Society, including our Officers President Anita DeCarlo, Second Vice President Frank Sommario, Third Vice President Michael Bonamarte, as well as past Presidents Katherine Amari O'Dell, Cristina Mungai Scalzitti, Lisa Marino, Antonio Romanucci, John Locallo, Joseph Bisceglia, Leonard DeFranco, Umberto Davi, Hon. Gloria Coco, and Richard Caldarazzo. Mayor Ronald Serpico, along with several honorable justices and members of the Illinois State Bar Association, were also in attendance.

The company and the food were wonderful. Members feasted on appetizers of fried ravioli and antipasto, followed by pasta, chicken, sausage and peppers, and finished off with a piece of tiramisu. Along with this wonderful feast, the Society was honored to have R.J. Mentone come and tell the group about his new novel, "Dominic and Ross, My Two Uncles." The book focuses on the friendship and love shared by Mr. Mentone's two uncles, Rossario and Dominic, following them from their childhood years to their early twenties. Mr. Mentone is a prominent Chicago trial attorney and graduate of DePaul College of Law. This is his first published novel and sure to be a great read!



From left, ISBA President Richard Felice, ISBA 3rd VP Candidate James McCluskey, and ISBA 2nd VP Umberto Davi



A photo of Monsignor Velo, past Presidents, and guests in attendance

Fornelli (1969-1970). Also present were an overwhelming number of judges namely, Hon. Aleksandra Gillespie, Hon. Diann Marsalek, Hon. Regina Scannicchio and Hon. Anna Loftus. There were a rising number of law students in attendance, probably a third of the wonderful turnout, and thanks to the continued generosity of our members who paid for their meals. The delicious wine for dinner was donated by Joe Garofalo and the Garofalo Family Vineyards. As always, the dinner was a smashing success, a multigenerational gathering of Justinians.

Our Justinian family broke bread and shared wine, from the most prestigious and senior member of our organization, to our newest and youngest law students. Fellowship with our Past Presidents is an all-important role of the Justinian organization; the experiences and accolades of elder Justinians is passed down to its younger prospects. Having this past presidents' dinner in conjunction with a mass, especially at the oldest Italian-American church/parish in the city, the first founded by the Scalabrini Fathers, the first Italian order of priests in America – and the parish of the Italian community from the Mother Cabrini projects. Promoting collegiality and professionalism are the founding precepts of the Justinian Society, a very gracious 'Thank You' goes out to all of our Past Presidents who make the Society one of the largest and most successful Italian legal organizations in the country and to Judge Coco for this wonderful legacy.



From left, Kristine Abruzino, Madeline Schneider, Alex Srbinovski, and Vincent Oppedisano attended the dinner.



Top row, from left: Judge Gloria Coco, Nicole Petrarca, Enza Zacchigna, Judge Lisa Marino, Mayor Ron Serpico of Melrose Park, and Richard Caldarazzo. Bottom row, from left: Katherine Amari O'Dell, Cristina Mungai Scalzitti, and Judge Patrice Ball-Reed.



From left, ISBA Past President John G. Locallo; and current ISBA Officers Vincent Cornelius, Richard Felice and Umberto Davi.

Wanted

Submissions:

Law School information, articles, gossip and miscellaneous wanted for the newsletter

The newsletter staff is anxious to receive information, articles, comings and goings pieces, photographs, informative articles, photo stories, or whatever, of all the law schools in the State of Illinois. Because of the educational law school background of most of the folks that write for the newsletter, there is a concentration of just one or two law schools. We'd really like to write about all nine law schools in Illinois. Anyone interested in representing their law school for purposes of publishing items for the newsletter, please contact the newsletter editor, Leonard F. Amari (db@amari-locallo.com).

Bocce Dinner & Tournament

By: Anthony Pasquini

With bone chilling winds and below freezing temperatures, it was with great pride and dedication that Justinians and Bocce enthusiasts alike gathered for the 2015 Justinian Bocce tournament on February 19. The tournament was hosted in Franklin Park at the Mazzini Verdi Club. This year's Tournament was coordinated by 2014 Justinian Bocce Champion Sam Cannizzaro. With much planning and preparation, Mr. Cannizzaro fought against Mother Nature herself and put together a wonderful evening for all attendees. Exquisite dining, excellent wine, and even better company, this year's tournament was host to Justinians of all Bocce skill levels. From Novices to Veterans, the Bocce courts were filled with the sounds of balls rolling and colliding; only overpowered by the cheers and laughter from the crowd.



Five teams took to the courts, most notably Team Favia, consisting of Man of The Year, Mr. Michael Favia himself, Dana Benedetti, Denise Noodwang, and Anthony Pasquini (who may or may not have walked away with the evenings highlight when he put entirely too much backspin on one of his tosses resulting in the balling going absolutely nowhere). Team Ranallo, Team Ingraffia, Team Angelo, and Team Panichi advanced through the tournament showing skill and poise with every toss. Team Favia was eliminated in the first round, saving their energy and biding their time for next year's tournament. Team Ingraffia provided for some stiff competition throughout the evening. Bianca Saviano of Team Ranallo proved to be this year's ringer and put big points on the board for her team. At the end of the evening Team Ingraffia walked away with the championship trophies and custom Bocce set, presented by Justinian President Anita DeCarlo. Team Panichi walked away in second place, but they did so only after putting

the pressure on Team Ingraffia keeping both teams in a close race for first. The evening was host to a union of Justinians of all ages and experience. As is common in the Justinian Society of Lawyers there were many laughs, friendships made and strengthened, and most importantly to our group of extraordinary folks, new opportunities to mentor and be mentored were formed. The 2015 Justinian Bocce Tournament was a great success, despite the cold trying to prevent it. A big thank you goes to Mr. Sam Cannizzaro for his hard work putting this event together. And a special thank you to President Anita DeCarlo in assisting Mr. Cannizzaro and coordinating this event. Mr. Cannizzaro and Ms. DeCarlo proved yet again just exactly how much hard work goes into this organization and we owe them both an extended gratitude for their commitment to our beloved Justinian Society of Lawyers.



Past President Mike Favia displays perfect form when throwing the bocce ball.



Bianca Saviano, Bill Danna, President Anita DeCarlo and Anthony Pasquini



Dana Benedetti, Michael Favia, Mark Spognardi and Christina Ranello



Anthony Pasquini attempts a rather ambitious overhand throw.

the pressure on Team Ingraffia keeping both teams in a close race for first.

The evening was host to a union of Justinians of all ages and experience. As is common in the Justinian Society of Lawyers there were many laughs, friendships made and strengthened, and most importantly to our group of extraordinary folks, new opportunities to mentor and be mentored were formed. The 2015 Justinian Bocce Tournament was a great success, despite the cold trying to prevent it. A big thank you goes to Mr. Sam Cannizzaro for his hard work putting this event together. And a special thank you to President Anita DeCarlo in assisting Mr. Cannizzaro and coordinating this event. Mr. Cannizzaro and Ms. DeCarlo proved yet again just exactly how much hard work goes into this organization and we owe them both an extended gratitude for their commitment to our beloved Justinian Society of Lawyers.



Mark Spognardi angles his throw toward the pallino, or target ball.



The Panichi Team.

Newsletter Staff:

Interested in becoming a staff member/contributor to our highly regarded semi-annual newsletter?

The only responsibility is to attend society functions and submit articles for publications, and maybe take photos of the event being attended.

Incoming President Jessica DePinto is in the process of making Justinian committee appointments.

This is a wonderful opportunity for networking, increasing one's persona in the legal community and have a head shot published with submissions.

If interested, contact the newsletter Editor Leonard F. Amari at lfa@amari-locallo.com or Associate Editor Katherine Amari O'Dell at kaa@amari-locallo.com.

Children's Endowment Dinner

By: Vince Oppedisano

The 2015 Justinian Society Children's Endowment Fund (CEF) dinner was held on March 19th—St. Joseph's Day—at the River North Maggiano's. The dinner is held each year in March, and the CEF presents a grant to a different charitable organization each year. Past president and prominent Italian American community leader Antonio Romanucci established the CEF in 2002 and serves as its chairperson.

The endowment fund was started almost 13 years ago with a very modest sum of money. The mission of the CEF is to assist children who are disabled or disadvantaged in some way, and the fund has grown so greatly that the CEF corpus now stands at almost \$90,000. If we add the CEF to the Justinian Society's scholarship fund, the entire fund stands at approximately \$200,000. Annual dues and individual member contributions account for a substantial portion of the fund. A wide range of grant recipients have benefited from the CEF since its inception, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Illinois Eye Institute, and Ronald McDonald House of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. This year's grant recipient was the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Stacey Pitts, Regional Associate Director at St. Jude's, and past president Joseph Bisceglia (who has been St. Jude's committee member for its Annual Chicago Fundraiser since 1995, and Co-Chairman of the fundraiser since 2006) accepted the grant and spoke on behalf of the hospital. Families of children accepted by St. Jude's does not pay a single dollar for medical treatment or related costs of hospitalization, allowing them to focus solely on providing support for their child in a time when it is most needed. Funds donated support the hospital's cutting edge research efforts in the area of treatments and cures for childhood cancers. As Mr. Bisceglia pointed out (quoting Hilary Clinton), rather than keeping its scientific breakthroughs "close to the vest" to figure out how it can profit from them, St. Jude's openly shares what it has learned with the medical community—to the benefit of children across the world.

The hospital requires about two million dollars per day in order to keep its doors open, and as Stacey said, it is the generosity of people and organizations like the Justinian Society that allow the hospital to continue to serve children and their families. When St. Jude's was founded in 1952 the survival rate for childhood cancers was 20 percent. It now stands at more than 80 percent thanks in large part to the efforts of organizations like St. Jude's.

Many past presidents attended the dinner, including the Honorable Bruno Tassone, Joseph



Stacey Pitts, Regional Associate Director at St. Jude's, speaks about the mission of St. Jude's, while Joseph Bisceglia, Antonio Romanucci, and Frank Sommario look on.



Jessica DePinto, Joseph Bisceglia, Hon. Bruno Tassone and John G. Locallo enjoy each other's company at Maggiano's.



Frank Sommario awards Stacey Pitt and St. Jude's with the Justinian Society CEF grant.

Bisceglia, John Locallo, Mauro Glorioso, Antonio Romanucci, and Gregg Garafolo. Officers Jessica DePinto, Frank Sommario, Michael Bonamarte, Vince Vidmer, and Natalie Petric were in attendance, and the Society was honored to have respected guests James F. McCluskey (Candidate for 3rd Vice President of the Illinois State Bar Association) and Administrative Law Judge and Justinian member Fred Bates in attendance as well.

Frank Sommario spoke in his capacity as CEF Treasurer and stressed the need of the Justinians' continued remarkable generosity to ensure the success of the fund going forward. Any donation will be accepted, and contributions can be made on the Justinian Society of Lawyers website (www.justinians.org), by check, or by cash to Nina Albano Vidmer. Additional funds were raised on the night of the dinner through the annual 50/50 drawing.

DuPage Update

By: Dion Davi

Past President, Justinian Society of Lawyers, DuPage County Chapter

On June 12, 2014, the DuPage Chapter of the Justinian Society of Lawyers installed Joseph P. Glimco, III as its 37th President. President Glimco held his installation dinner at Ditka's in Oak Brook. Other officers installed that evening were 1st Vice President Elizabeth Pope, 2nd Vice President Angela Aliota, Secretary Nicholas Galasso, Treasurer Lindsay Stella, and Immediate past President Maria Tolva Mack. On hand to present the East West Title President's Gavel to President Glimco was past President Richard Caldarazzo.

The next event on the Chapter's schedule was the 24th Annual Charity Event held on October 24, 2014. The Event has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the research and treatment of cancer. The proceeds from this year were used to fulfill the Chapter's commitment to fund The Den, a family meeting room in the recently built Ronald McDonald House located on the campus of Cadence Health/Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Illinois. The Chapter added another \$21,000 to the \$23,000 raised in 2013, which nearly fulfills its \$50,000 pledge. The theme of the Event has changed over the last several years with a move from a black-tie optional dinner to Halloween costume optional. The new image of the Event has caught on with even a few firms coming out in fully themed costumes, including Davi Law Group. The evening was highlighted by a guest appearance by Elvis Ronald and acknowledgement that The Den had been officially opened for use that same month.

In December, the Chapter hosted the annual Holiday Party at Tuscany in Oak Brook. President Glimco had a holiday treat for attendees with a special guest appearance by the Son of Svengooli, who was celebrating the 35th year since the televising of his debut episode. On had to celebrate with President Glimco and the



Davi Law Group: Dion Davi as Gru, Kelly Davi as Lucy, Adam Gynac as Dr. Nefario, and their minions at the Charity Ball.

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DuPage, continued from page 9

Son of Svengooli were current ISBA President Richard Felice and President Elect Umberto Davi. The evening also honored the retirement of long time Justinian, the Honorable Rod Equi, from the 18th Judicial Circuit Court.

The most recent event presented by the Chapter was the annual St. Joseph's Day Dinner held on March 23rd at Amalfi's Restaurant. Owner and Chef Frankie served up a bountiful meal in memory of those that prayed to St. Joseph when Sicily was suffering from a great famine centuries ago. St. Joseph was said to have answered the prayers by ending the drought that ravaged the island.

The next event will be the Installation Dinner for President Elect Elizabeth Pope along with the newest officer, Chris Lunardini. I encourage everyone to come out to support the incoming officers and this very active chapter of the Justinian Society of Lawyers by attending the Installation of President Elect Pope as the Chapter's 38th President on May 7, 2015 at Gibson's in Oak Brook. To RSVP, please visit their website: www.dupagejustinians.com. Non vedo l'ora di vedere tutti li. Ciao!!



Ronald McDonald addressed the Charity Ball attendees and President Glimco



The Charity Ball was well attended by costumed party-goers.

DuPage Chapter Holiday Party



President Glimco, Son of Svengooli, and ISBA President Felice



Umberto and Janet Davi, with Son of Svengooli

Caldarazzo JMLS Speaker



Marie Sarantakis & Richard Caldarazzo

By: Marie K. Sarantakis

This fall semester, Richard Caldarazzo, distinguished attorney and owner of East West Title Company, taught a valuable real estate seminar to Justinian students at The John Marshall Law School. The event was a great success! Not only was it attended by a large number of current Justinian students, but also, many alumni returned to the law school to enjoy an informal refresher course in pertinent real estate matters. Mr. Caldarazzo offered practical suggestions and imparted colorful insights on how to conduct a closing transaction from start to finish. The seminar illustrated to guests the subtle nuances, yet meaningful differences, in representing buyers and sellers in a closing proceeding. Attendees received a packet of materials for future reference consisting of a variety of standard forms and Mr. Caldarazzo's original and informative checklists.

Upon the conclusion of the remarks that evening, Mr. Caldarazzo sponsored a delicious pizza dinner for those in attendance and the Illinois State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division provided complimentary flavored Pellegrino beverages, cannoli, and Italian bakery cookies. The evening was a wonderful educational and social event for the student members of the JMLS Justinian Society and we are very grateful for Mr. Caldarazzo's generous contributions to our Chapter!

Justinian Student Chapter News

Mentoring Update



Bobby Cannatello and Nicole Petrarca accept their mentoring awards from the Justinian Mentoring Program. The program had a very successful year and they played a huge role.

By: Nicole Petrarca

Merriam-Webster defines a mentor as “a trusted counselor or guide, a tutor or coach.” The Justinian Society of Lawyers Mentoring Program supports its mentees in ways that far exceed that definition. The mentors are not only counselors, guides, and tutors for their mentees, but also personal cheerleaders, friends, confidants, an outlet, an ear, and more. I would not have survived my first semester without my mentor Anthony Pasquini, who was willing to read first, second and third drafts of my memorandums for my legal writing course, to give me tips and tricks for each course and professor, and always called for a pep talk or more often to calm my nerves before for each and every midterm or final exam.

The Justinian Society of Lawyers Mentoring



Most of our Fall 2014 group of “mentees” or new 1L students in the Justinian Mentoring Group. Top row, from left: Leonard F. Amari (creator of program), Bobby Greene, Anthony Pasquini (mentor), Anthony Pontillo, Vincent Petrosino, Tom Numbere, Kevin Kleine, Mark Grotto, and Matthew Kaplan. Bottom row, from left: Colleen Redden (mentor), Nicole Petrarca (mentor), Bobby Cannatello (mentor) and Kim Bartoszewski.



From left, Tyler Duff, Mark McQueary, Bobby Cannatello, Nicole Petrarca, Diana Bosnjak, Colleen Redden, and Leonard F. Amari. Duff, McQueary, and Redden are the current co-chairs, Cannatello and Petrarca are the immediate past co-chairs and Bosnjak organizes the group and coordinates their meetings.

Program is spearheaded by Leonard F. Amari, who is a past President and active member in our Society, as well as the President of the Board of Trustees of The John Marshall Law School. Two student co-chairs, usually 2L or 3L students at John Marshall, who were once mentees in the Program, also help lead the group. The participants in the Program are often those who had difficulty succeeding on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Mr. Amari formed the mentoring group in order to help these participants through the law school admissions process and guide them to success in their first semester of law school.

The Program’s motto is “pay it forward.” The Program is lucky to have so many of its former mentees come back their second semester or second year and “pay it forward” by mentoring a student. Each semester, the co-chairs match up mentors and mentees based on personalities, similar interests, attendance at the same undergraduate institution, and whether each had the same professors that first semester of law school. The group meets three times a semester, at the Law Offices of Amari & Locallo, where the mentors and co-chairs provide guidance and insight into various topics, such as how to prepare for class, how to brief a case, and how to outline for a final exam, to name a few. But the mentoring does not stop there - the mentors regularly talk and meet with their mentees outside of these scheduled meetings. The mentors are always willing to go above and beyond to help their mentee successfully complete this first semester. It is this personal, one-on-one relationship that truly makes the Program so special.

I would just like to thank Mr. Amari, all past co-chairs, and mentors for your countless hours of time and commitment to this Program. This amazing group of individuals has forever impacted my life and career. I am so proud to have been a member of such a great Program that provides students with an unparalleled form

JMLS Pres. Report

By: Marie Sarantakis

This year I am humbled to be serving as your President for the John Marshall Justinian Society Student Chapter. I represent several organizations on campus, but I am most honored to be a part of the Justinian legacy at The John Marshall Law School.

Nearly two years ago, my mentor and attorney extraordinaire, Mr. Umberto Davi, invited me to attend a Justinian Society Installation Dinner at Gibson’s with his family. At the time, I was a first year law student. Everything about the wonderful world of law seemed exciting, but also quite intimidating. I was constantly preoccupied with making just the right first impression. Friendly and kind yet stern and serious. Memorable but not obnoxious. Intelligent but not too talkative. As a law student, most events seemed to be riddled by an underlying anxiety, but the Justinians made me feel right at home from that very first day at Gibson’s.

The following afternoon, I contacted Mr. Leonard F. Amari at The John Marshall Law School. I knew that I had to formally become a part of this extraordinary organization. A few minutes later he had put me in touch with former JMLS Justinian Society President, Nicole Petrarca, and I officially became a member of the Student Chapter. Throughout the year I was impressed by the caliber of events and wonderful people that I met through both the student and parent organizations.

Fast forward to today, the Justinians are like a second family. It is a support structure of friendly faces with which you break bread and can always turn to for advice. I come from an immigrant family of entrepreneurs. No one in my family had attended college, much less gone to law school. My parents instilled in me the morals and values that are requisite for success, but they had no experience in the legal field. I was in a foreign territory, not understanding the trade as well as many of my contemporaries who had grown up surrounded by a family of lawyers, familiar with the lexicon and environment. The Justinians came into my life and filled that void, showing me not just how to be a successful law

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student, but an upstanding attorney one day.

The Justinian Society is an organization near and dear to my heart. As President of the Student Chapter, I hope to introduce many new faces to the group and let them know that the Justinian Society is not simply an organization to add to their resume, but a group that will remain relevant throughout their careers.

Please know that we have an open door policy and invite all members of the parent organization, past student alumni, and members of other Justinian Chapters at the various law schools throughout Chicago, to join us for our events throughout the year. Thank you for this opportunity to serve. I look forward to the year ahead along with the board listed below:

2014-2015

JMLS Justinian Student Executive Board:

- President: Marie Sarantakis
- Vice President: Mara Salerno
- Treasurer: Matthew Kaufmann
- Secretary: Amy Taylor
- Social Chairs: Laura Luisi and Bill Iversen

JMLS Student Update

Our John Marshall Law School Justinian Chapter has had an event-filled Fall 2014 semester. In between the many programs held these past few months, we are proud to share some of the accomplishments of our individual members inside and outside of the classroom:

- Bobby Cannatello and Nicole Petrarca received the Lupel & Amari scholarship (\$10,000 each).
- Tyler Duff was honored with a CALI Award for the highest grade in Constitutional Law II. Ms. Duffy is also a Co-Chair of the Justinian Society Mentoring Program.
- Mark Grotto was named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List. He is a Teaching Assistant for Professor Kordesh's Property course and currently participating in a 1L Mock Trial competition.
- Toni Heniff was named a Supervising Teaching Assistant for Professor Spanbauer's Contracts course. Ms. Heniff was also awarded with the Edith and Phillip Baim Scholarship and the Professor Arthur M. Scheller, Jr. Scholarship.
- Brian Iversen was named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List.
- William Iverson was named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List.
- Karalyn Jevaney was named to the Fall 2014 Dean's List.
- Andrew Manno was elected to the Student Bar Association as the ABA Representative. This position also puts him on the Executive Board of the SBA.
- Mark McQueary was honored with a CALI Award for the highest grade in Civil Procedure II. Mr. McQueary is also a Co-Chair of the Justinian Society Mentoring Program.
- Colleen Redden was honored with a CALI Award for the highest grade in Antitrust Law. Ms. Redden is also a Co-Chair of the Justinian Society Mentoring Program.



From left, Nicole Petrarca, Katherine Amari O'Dell, and Bobby Cannatello at the Scholarship Recognition Luncheon. Nicole and Bobby are previous mentoring program co-chairs.



All three of the current mentoring program co-chairs received CALI Awards for the Fall 2014 Semester. From left: Colleen Redden (Antitrust Law), Mark McQueary (Civil Procedure II), and Tyler Duff (Constitutional Law II).

- Marie Sarantakis was honored with two CALI Awards for the highest grades in Constitutional Law I and Evidence. This January, Ms. Sarantakis began a judicial externship with the Honorable Thomas L. Kilbride of the Illinois Supreme Court. Shortly thereafter she obtained her certification as a Mediator and is currently volunteering in the Family Law Division of the Lake County Courthouse in Waukegan, Illinois. Ms. Sarantakis was also appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Programming & Events for the American Bar Association's 7th Circuit Law Student Division.
- Lisa Sterba graduated from The John Marshall Law School and is working as an Assistant State's Attorney with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and has been assigned to the Criminal Appeals Division.

Congrats to our entire Justinian student body and we wish you all the very best this coming semester!

JMLS Networking Social

By Marie K. Sarantakis

The John Marshall Justinian Society Student Chapter kicked off the semester by hosting a meet and greet event with the Parent Organization at The John Marshall Law School. Distinguished guests in attendance included: Anita DeCarlo (current President of The Justinian Society), Michael Favia (past President of The Justinian Society and 3rd Vice President of the John Marshall Board of Trustees), and Leonard Amari (past President of The Justinian Society and President of the John Marshall Board of Trustees). These dignified John Marshall Alumni graciously took the time to get to know the many new students of the John Marshall Chapter. This was a casual opportunity for student members to network and get to know some of the friendly faces that they would see at Parent Organization events throughout the year.



President Anita DeCarlo, Marie Sarantakis, and Past President Michael Favia

The evening began with networking and camaraderie. Fellow Justinian students, and recently graduated Chapter alumni, who had been communicating via e-mail for the past several weeks, finally had the opportunity to meet in person. There were many handshakes and warm smiles as students mingled with other familiar students of Italian-descent on campus. This networking session was preceded by an introduction from the members of the Parent Organization. Students and Distinguished Board Members gathered together and exchanged stories about how they first became involved with the Justinian Society and what the organization means to them today.

Members of the Parent Organization graciously provided delicious food and beverages from Plymouth Restaurant for students to continue to mingle over dinner thereafter. After the meal, members of the Parent Organization and Marie Sarantakis accepted Professor Mark Wojcik's kind invitation to join his Lawyering Skills course and introduce themselves to the students of the class. Students were interested in learning more about becoming members of the Justinian Society and attending upcoming events.

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Overall, the evening was a great success as several new student members joined the Justinian Society and existing members had the opportunity to network with peers and mentors. We are very grateful for the Parent Organization's support and presence throughout the year. Molte grazie!

Justinian Students Gather at Hubbard Inn



Dominic LoVerde, Loyola Law School Justinian Society Student Chapter President; 4th right Marie Sarantakis, The John Marshall Law School Justinian Society Student Chapter President; with students from JMLS and Loyola Law.

By: Marie K. Sarantakis

On Friday, March 20th, President of the Loyola Law School Justinian Society Student Chapter, Dominic LoVerde, coordinated a meet and greet social amongst the various Chicago-area Justinian student chapters. Thank you to Social Chair of The John Marshall Law School Justinian Society Student Chapter, Laura Luisi, for her hand in making these arrangements, as well.

The event was hosted in the beautiful second floor event space of The Hubbard Inn, 110 W. Hubbard Street, from 6 to 9 p.m. where Italian students from local law schools had the opportunity to meet and mingle. The event facilitated not just camaraderie amongst the student members, but also the opportunity for young Justinian leaders to generate ideas for future events. Chapter Presidents warmly extended invitations to upcoming activities hosted at their respective law schools. As a result, we plan on seeing several inter-Chapter events in the months to follow.

Ignatius Honors Monico

By: Richard Caifano

Inspired by those who have passed before us, we Italian-American legal professionals continue to do what they taught us best: We prevail and, in doing so, we honor their memory. And when we are recognized for our achievement, we serve that memory best.



Appropriately, on February 27, 2015, Justinian past President Michael Monico was recognized for his achievement in the practice of law – a prudent if not obvious choice. Michael was bestowed with the Award of Excellence by his alma mater, St. Ignatius College Prep. Proud to be associated with Michael, a good number of his fellow Justinians were in attendance to the honor and to applaud Michael's standing in the legal community.

Like many accomplished trial lawyers, Michael has served in the Office of the United States Attorney from which he entered the private practice of law. Over the course of some forty years, Michael has enjoyed a challenging and distinguished career in the practice of law. He has served as president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, our country's foremost defense bar. Michael is a past director of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association during the course of which service he assisted in the creation of the 7th Circuit Bar Association Rules. Michael has authored many articles over the years that have served to assist attorneys to more ably provide effective legal service to their clients. Most importantly, Michael has never shied from providing needed representation no matter how difficult or unpopular the challenge.

Integrity, distinction and accomplishment are terms that define his career. Involvement, care and creativity are terms that define Michael as a man.

We proudly salute our brother Justinian for a recognition well deserved and honorably earned.



Michael Monico, center, with sons Dan and Brian.



The Justinians came out in full force to celebrate Michael Monico's achievement. From left, Leonard F. Amari, Anita DeCarlo, Tom Battista, Tony Fornelli, Michael Monico, Joseph Bisceglia, Judge Gloria Coco, Natalie Petric, Joell Bisceglia Zahr, and Richard Caifano.



Justice Mary Jane Theis, Hon. Thomas Lipscomb, Hon. Russell Hartigan and State Sen. Don Harmon.



From left: Richard Caifano, Joell Bisceglia Zahr, and Joseph Bisceglia

Mary Seminara-Schostok: Retiring IJA President

By: Leonard F. Amari

This issue, we highlight the prominent jurist, Justice Mary Seminara-Schostok, of the 19th Judicial Circuit. This Justinian was appointed an associate judge in 1998 and elected a full circuit in 2002. We pick this time to highlight her judicial



career as she was recently retired from the prestigious position as president of the state – wide Illinois Judges Association, no small feat.

The first of five children, Seminara-Schostok grew up in New Castle, PA. Her father came to the United States from Italy and her mother was a second-generation Italian-American. She attended Youngstown State University, the first in her family to graduate college. She exceeded all expectations when she successfully completed her law studies at Capital University College of Law in Columbus, Ohio. “It wasn’t common for someone in my generation and background to go to law school. But I always marched to a different drummer than most people my age – always challenging, always questioning,” said Seminara-Schostok.

While in law school, she met her recently deceased husband, the extraordinarily highly regarded catastrophic injury litigator, Michael Schostok, a name partner in the firm of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C., who a few years back served as president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, a state-wide group of prominent litigators. After law school, Seminara-Schostok became an associate in the Pittsburgh, PA firm of Bernstein and Bernstein, practicing Corporate Chapter 11 bankruptcy work while working part-time for the public defender’s office. However, when she married, she moved to her husband’s hometown of Waukegan and became a prosecutor in the Lake County State’s Attorney’s office in 1998 where her new spouse was already employed. As a prosecutor, Seminara-Schostok knew she ultimately wanted to be a judge: “I don’t think I was probably out of misdemeanor court before I made it clear that’s what I was working for.”

Seminara-Schostok expressed a fondness for politics early in her career. She joined the Young Republicans and campaigned for Lake County State’s Attorney Michael J. Waller, several judges, a number of Republicans running for the state Senate, and the various campaigns of her close friend, Albert J. Salvi.

She campaigned to be appointed an associate judge five times. In May 1998, she achieved that goal. She was elected a full circuit judge



From left: Past President Katherine Amari O'Dell, Lou Cairo, Justice Seminara-Schostok and Past President Len DeFranco.

in 2002, but the road wasn’t entirely smooth: a court battle over the validity of her nominating petitions went all the way to the Illinois Supreme Court. Of course, she brought wonderful credentials and a stellar reputation to this effort.

“The reputation of Judge Seminara-Schostok in Lake County is one all lawyers, like myself, should ascribe to. She is a wonderful example of the best our ethnic community has to offer and we take pride in seeing her on the bench and knowing the wonderful reputation she enjoys,” says Michael Ori, a prominent Lake County Attorney, who’s late dad was founder of the first iteration of the Lake County Justinian chapter and was a judge in Lake County before he passed away. “Judge Schostok has served as a role model and mentor to me and countless others for which I will always be grateful. She is dedicated to the law and dispenses her judicial duties evenly and fairly. She is known as a patient, well-prepared and fair jurist.”

“I used to think I had the greatest job in the world when I was a prosecutor,” Seminara-Schostok said. “But then I became a judge, and now I know I have the greatest job in the world. I can honestly say there’s not one morning that I get up and say I don’t want to go to work today. . . . I love what I do.” When she lectures to children, “I always encourage them to be lawyers. It’s the greatest profession in the world.”

Judge Schostok is also a moving force in the continuing success of the Lake County Chapter of the Justinian Society of (Italian) Lawyers.

Away from the bench, Seminara-Schostok enjoys volunteer work, travel, reading and golf. On Thursdays, she meets with a group of other judges, lawyers, secretaries and deputies for a Bible study group. “It’s a great opportunity to clear your mind and to study with others in the same profession,” she said. “It helps ground me after a hard week in Criminal Court.”

Seminara-Schostok currently resides in Libertyville with her three children, Marisa, a recent John Marshall Law School graduate, Gina and Michael.

An example of the best our community has to offer.

Evelyn Sanguinetti: Hope, Faith, and Family: Changing Springfield with Her Story

By: Dr. Mary L. Milano

It is no secret that the Italian American Community has long supported the presence of members of our community in our State’s Capitol, or that on the shoulders of our dedicated legislators representing all parts of the State and both sides of



the aisle, we have wanted to see the elevation of some of those outstanding men and women to our Constitutional offices. Who knows what the course of Illinois history would have been if, for example, Jim (Stringini) Ryan had gone on to the governor’s mansion? Or, if Christine Radogno had won statewide office and continued to progress upwards? Or if an Al Salvi candidacy was not premature, or had the ranks of Italians elected at the state, federal and even City of Chicago levels not been decimated by redistricting over the years?

This year we had no Italian-American candidate for a constitutional office in Illinois. But we had someone first as a candidate, and now have someone as an Officer who fits our hopes and aspirations with virtual perfection. Her name is Evelyn Sanguinetti, running mate to Governor Bruce Rauner, and she was recently inaugurated as Lieutenant Governor. No – she is not Italian by lineage. Sanguinetti is her married name, although she seems to wear it as proudly as her birth name of Pacino. She is the first Latina constitutional officer in the State of Illinois and she is ready to make her mark on the office, on the State, and on its issues.

Why should we be so excited about Ms. Sanguinetti? Because her story, perhaps one generation removed, is our story. She is the daughter of immigrants from Ecuador and Cuba. She grew up without privilege and with much struggle in Florida, and her first language is Spanish. Her family may have struggled, but still inculcated in her a love for music and the arts, and she was sufficiently talented and motivated to major in classical piano at University. Her family also gifted her with the knowledge of self, of family, of country and of a future that can be there for those willing to work for it.

Following the path of so many of our colleagues, she found her way to The John Marshall Law School, a destination of access, opportunity and choice for those without clout, influence or even a traditional preparation, but who do have the drive to succeed through hard work and to become attorneys destined to leave their distinctive contributions on both law and society.

Ms. Sanguinetti served the public with distinction as an Assistant Attorney General. She served many municipalities while in private practice, her law school as a teacher and professor, and her community as an elected council member.

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At the same time, she balanced marriage, family and motherhood of three children. She was thought to be an unlikely running mate for Bruce Rauner and his vision of what the best in business practices could bring to a broken political model. But perhaps she was the most logical choice, because she embodies the idea that change is not just wrought by acumen and efficiency, but by justice that is grounded in being true to the story of where we came from, true to the commitment that the best of those in office enable future generations to have the means, the opportunities and the inspiration to write their stories – stories that will take us beyond those places we imagined we could ever go.

All that said, why should we be so excited about this diminutive Latina? We have known for many years that our community holds much in common with the various Hispanic communities in our State, so much so that we have found ways to make common cause with them in supporting candidates and working for issues and the improvement of communities in which our people live and work together. She embodies the values of hard work, of family cohesion, of aspiration to that which always calls us to go deeper into ourselves and higher into penetrating the boundaries – whether social, economic, civic or professional – that have traditionally closed themselves and made themselves a barrier to advancement. She reminds us that our ethnic communities are not just their own. They are woven into each other with dreams and struggles and it is never in our interest to set them against each other.

The Lieutenant Governor is ours. She is that which we want our children to be and to be inspired by. Family. Determination. Compassion. Always the memory of the story, of those who came, what they faced, who they left, what they dreamt. And always the memory which propels her to reach out to others who have stories just as compelling, and to help unknown children to write new ones. Justice. Equality in society, in the economy, in opportunity, despite disabilities, in education. Excellence in every endeavor. And never letting a thing like language, or like illness, or like gender or ethnicity stand in the way.

We have a Lieutenant Governor beginning a new chapter in Illinois this year. It will be a new chapter for Latino communities, for our Italian community, for every community across the state that wants to move forward, and for the office itself, which I will bet will never be considered one which has no function and requires no energy. This time, there is a Lieutenant Governor in Evelyn Sanguinetti who will contribute a share of greatness to what we all must hope is a new and great chapter that a new administration – Bruce Rauner's administration – brings to Springfield and to every part of a great state.

Joey Be Good: Gagliardo Is a Cool Rockin' Daddy

[Editor's note: This article written by Jack Silverstein is reprinted with permission from The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.]

Joseph M. Gagliardo got the call a week before the show.

"Are you interested in playing with Chuck Berry?" a promoter asked Gagliardo, who plays bass guitar.

Gagliardo figured he was looking for an opener.

"No," the promoter said. "He doesn't travel with a band, so if you get a drummer and a piano player, the show's yours."

Gagliardo hung up and started making calls. He knew Berry's reputation as an ornery perfectionist. The musicians who turned Gagliardo down did too.

"The first couple people I called were concerned that it could turn out to be an unpleasant situation," Gagliardo said. "I thought it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I was going to take the chance."

For Gagliardo — managing partner at Laner, Muchin Ltd. — that gig in the early 2000s remains a career highlight. He was paid \$50 for his performance, a fee he would have gladly waived.

On Sunday, he and his band Cool Rockin' Daddies will play pro bono for a different reason — to help raise money for cancer treatments at a Caring Arts charity concert.

"I view music as ... something that's positive in people's lives," he said. "This applies whether we're playing a small show or a large show — we always put out 1,000 percent."

When Gagliardo played with Berry, 1,000 percent was necessary.

"Chuck Berry's stuff is mostly a three-chord progression, so it's not difficult," said Dan Buck, the lead singer of Cool Rockin' Daddies. "The difficult part is following Chuck."

That's because Berry plays without a set list.

"You essentially have to immerse yourself in Chuck Berry music, because you don't know what he's going to play," Gagliardo said. "He doesn't even tell you what keys the songs will be in."

Gagliardo spent a week before the show listening to and practicing Berry's songs. He estimates he prepared "somewhere in the neighborhood of 75 to 80 songs."

In the hourlong show, the band played "maybe 15."

If anyone was equipped to absorb a rock 'n' roll legend's catalog in a week, it was Gagliardo.

"He's like an encyclopedia," Buck said. "I thought I had a good handle on rock music history, but this guy's unbelievable. When I get stumped, I give Joe a call. He's that good."

Part of Gagliardo's talent remembering songs stems from his music collection. He owns about 5,000 vinyl albums, 5,000 45 rpm records and "I don't know how many CDs."

But part of it is his memory, which he utilizes as much in court as he does on stage.



Joe Gagliardo rocks out at a recent gig.

"The importance of my memory as an attorney is the ability to remember facts that did not appear to be important at an earlier point of time that now can be critical to the development and presentation of a case," said Gagliardo, a labor and employment litigator.

After graduating from The John Marshall Law School in 1977 and running his own shop for a year, Gagliardo became a Chicago assistant corporation counsel in 1978.

He was there for a decade, moving his way up to first deputy corporation counsel while working with mayors Michael Bilandic, Jane Byrne, Harold Washington and Eugene Sawyer.

In 1988, Gagliardo joined Laner, Muchin as a partner heading up the firm's litigation group and continuing his labor and employment work, representing employers. His clients have included Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Studios, Donald Trump and the state of Illinois during the administrations of Jim Edgar, George Ryan, Rod Blagojevich and Patrick J. Quinn.

"He is one of the most practically minded lawyers I have ever known," said Jeffrey S. Fowler, a partner at Laner, Muchin who met Gagliardo in 1994.

"He seemed to have a good focus about how to get from point A to point B ... focusing on the best route to get to the best legal result."

His work representing state government included *AFSCME v. Weems*, a 2012 case in which the state's largest public employees union alleged that Quinn's plans to close two youth detention centers and eight Department of Corrections facilities were being made without adequate preparation for the safety of prison employees.

The Illinois Supreme Court eventually ruled in the state's favor and the facilities were closed.

Gagliardo also defended the city of Chicago during Michael L. Shakman's ongoing litigation over political hires.

"One of the benefits of working for the government, whether you're an in-house lawyer or an outside lawyer, is that you have a chance to be involved in cases that promote change on a wide-scale basis," Gagliardo said.

His interest in government work started in high school, when he read Anthony Lewis' book "Gideon's Trumpet" about Gideon v. Wainwright, the landmark Supreme Court case that gave criminal defendants the right to free legal counsel.

"The book piqued my interest in the law because it showed me that a lawyer could have

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involvement in a case that influences the law across the nation," he said.

Gideon was decided in 1963, the year Gagliardo turned 11. The next year, the Beatles played on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

"When the Beatles and the British Invasion hit, it inspired many kids to play an instrument," Gagliardo said. "I was one of those kids."

He was already a pop music fan. At age 5, he got his first 45 record — "At the Hop" by Danny and the Juniors. His first Chuck Berry 45 was "Sweet Little Sixteen."

"I didn't have a bunch of 45s, so whatever I had, I used to play a lot," he said.

Gagliardo picked up the guitar in grammar school and switched to the bass soon after. He and some friends started a band called The Belvederes, named after the Plymouth car, and he continued playing in bands throughout high school and college.

He stopped when he went to law school, then resumed 21 years later.

He has played for the past 11 years with Buck and three others in Cool Rockin' Daddies, a self-described "roadhouse-style" band that has opened for Cheap Trick, Heart, Ted Nugent and ZZ Top.

The band's next gig on Sunday supports Caring Arts, a nonprofit that brings art to hospitalized cancer patients. Gagliardo serves on its board of directors.

"It's a very different Joe — the rocker Joe versus the managing-partner-of-a-law-firm Joe," Fowler said. "And then seeing him on stage with a T-shirt rocking out with a bass guitar is such a contrast. I get a big kick out of it."

To this day, Gagliardo still enjoys recalling his time on stage with Berry, a capacity show at the Hawthorne Race Course that drew about 2,500 fans. Berry's instructions to the band were as simple as they were perplexing.

"I'm going to go out there and start playing Chuck Berry songs," Chuck Berry said, "and you guys jump in."

There was only one stipulation.

"I want you to play very simply," Berry said.

After three or four songs, Berry changed his tune.

"You've got it," he told Gagliardo and the band. "Play what you want."

"It was an honor," Gagliardo said. "I was probably beaming."

Then it happened. Berry started playing "Sweet Little Sixteen."

"My heart started pumping," Gagliardo said. "I could picture watching that 45 spin on the turntable and listening to it over and over again as a kid."

Berry may be a prickly performer, but he spent that night vibing and smiling on stage with Gagliardo and the band.

At the end of the show, he bowed to all three men and walked off the stage while they finished the set.

Afterward, the sound man approached them.

"Man," he said, "he really liked you guys."

MaryAnn Hynes



By: Leonard F. Amari

One of the truly outstanding woman lawyers from our community continues to distinguish herself. Mary Ann (Iantorno) Hynes will be receiving three significant awards in 2015.

The first is the American Bar Association Commission on Women's coveted 2015 Margaret Brent award which will be given at the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago in August. The Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, established by the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession in 1991, recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of women lawyers who have excelled in their field and have paved the way to success for other women lawyers — both hallmarks of Mary Ann's distinguished career.

Mary Ann, a five-time general counsel veteran and the first woman to serve in that role at a Fortune 500 company in her long career, has always been on the cutting edge, a trail blazer, in the advancement of women in the community and, especially, in the national and local legal communities.

The second is the 2015 Damen Award at Loyola University Chicago to be awarded in September. Named for Loyola University Chicago's primary founder, Arnold Damen, S.J., this award is granted to an alumnus(a) recognized for the qualities of leadership in industry, leadership in community and service to others. This is fitting, since our wonderful President-elect Jessica DePinto has made it known that Father Garanzini will be the recipient of the 2015 Justinian Society Award of Excellence at our annual Installation and Awards dinner on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 (mark your calendars).

The third is Harvard Law School has invited her to receive its Award for Professional Excellence. Mary Ann will accept her honor at an awards dinner with the theme "Women as Lawyers and Leaders," to be held at New York's

Lincoln Center in May, alongside four other honorees including current US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power.

Obviously, Mary Ann is a leader in every respect. She serves on many significant boards, national and international, in addition to that of her law school, The John Marshall Law School. She also serves as board Treasurer. A remarkable and very dear lady.

Super Lawyers

Super Lawyers is a 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 includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

To be eligible for inclusion in Rising Stars, a candidate must be either 40 years old or younger or in practice for 10 years or less. While up to 5 percent of the lawyers in a state are named to Super Lawyers, no more than 2.5 percent are named to Rising Stars. All attorneys first go through the Super Lawyers selection process. Those who are not selected to the Super Lawyers list, but meet either one of the Rising Stars eligibility requirements, then go through the Rising Stars selection process.

SUPER LAWYERS

Patrick A. Salvi, Illinois
(Personal Injury)

Joseph M. Gagliardo, Illinois
(Employment & Labor Law)

RISING STARS

Natasha Gianvecchio, Washington, D.C.
(Energy)

Catherine Locallo, Illinois
(Employment & Labor Law)

Vincent Vidmer, Illinois
(Real Estate: Consumer, General Litigation,
Estate Planning & Probate)

Candid Conversation with Former CEO Hynes

[Editor's note: This article written by Roy Strom is reprinted with permission from The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.]

When Mary Ann Hynes was general counsel of Corn Products International Inc., she received a phone call that would put many general counsels in a tough spot.

On the line, years ago, was a member of the company's board of directors. He asked if Hynes would have a conversation with him about a shareholder derivative lawsuit in which he was personally named.

He then asked if she could refrain from telling her CEO, Sam Scott, about their conversation.

The request hints at a unique responsibility that can complicate the role of a general counsel: While the CEO is the boss, the top lawyer has a fiduciary duty to the company. And that can mean keeping secrets from the CEO.

Luckily for Hynes, Scott was open to this. That was clear on Tuesday as the former colleagues sat down in Dentons' Willis Tower offices at an event titled: "GC/CEO: A Candid Conversation."

The event featured pointed advice for general counsels who are looking to improve their relationship with their CEOs.

One of the most obvious lessons is perhaps among the most difficult: Base your relationship on trust and candor.

Hynes told the crowd gathered at the event sponsored by legal recruiter Major, Lindsey & Africa that she gladly advised the director without discussing it later with her CEO.

Then, a week after their conversation, the director told Scott about his session with Hynes. The director asked Scott, "Does that bother you?"

"And Sam gave the perfect answer," said Hynes, who is now a senior counsel at Dentons. "He said, 'No. Mary Ann and I have an understanding, and that is: She is not going to breach any confidence of any director. But I will always know what I need to know as a leader of the company.'"

"That was textbook perfect. And I don't know if on my first job I would have passed that test."

The answer by Scott, who served as CEO and chairman of what is now Ingredion Inc. from 2001 to 2009, was indicative of his view that a general counsel should be among a CEO's most trusted advisers.



From left, Chief Judge Timothy Evans, Mary Ann Hynes, and Leonard F. Amari



From left, Leonard DeFranco, Mary Ann Hynes, and Thomas Jaconetty

"If, in fact, a CEO is not smart enough to have the general counsel as one of his or her most important confidants, then they're making a big mistake," said Scott, who still serves on the boards of three Fortune 500 companies.

"In today's world, you are in big trouble if your relationship is not a good one. And not only with the CEO, but with the C-suite executives and the board ... the relationship has to be one of comfort between the GC."

The event was moderated by Paul S. Williams, a partner at Major, Lindsey & Africa and former general counsel of Cardinal Health Inc.

Williams asked Scott if most CEOs shared his enthusiasm for general counsels.

"The dynamic is changing now," Scott said. "And the value proposition for being engaged with your general counsel is much more important than before. ... It's probably not where you want it yet. But it will get there."

The reality is, the world is changing fast enough that people are going to start realizing that it has to happen."

He also said it is important for a general counsel to foster strong relationships with executives beyond the CEO.

"You can have a great relationship with your CEO, and if you don't get along with your C-suite executives, you're doomed," Scott

said. "Those are the people you're working with."

Hynes said it is incumbent upon the general counsel to "win that relationship" with the company's executives.

The best time to start, she said, is when you are first hired. And one way to build relationships is to explicitly state how you can help those people achieve their goals.

"That's what you have to keep reiterating: 'I am here to help you,'" Hynes said.

To do that, it helps to be present in as many meetings as possible.

Hynes recalled entering into a quarterly earnings conference call shortly after being hired at a company. She was met with blank stares from her CEO and chief financial officer. The company's prior general counsel had not attended those calls, but Hynes made it clear she needed to be there.

It was an example of advice she gave to "invite yourself" to meetings.

"It's going to be an extraordinary circumstance where they're going to ask you to leave as their general counsel," she said. "So do it professionally and understand the position of people and the politics involved."

Scott said, as a CEO, it is comforting to know what your general counsel can help you accomplish. He suggested general counsels meet with their CEO over lunch or a dinner — anywhere but the office — and discuss with them areas where they can provide support.

The key, he said, is to be specific.

"Have it laid out in your own mind what it is you can do to help that individual," he said. "Because if you don't know, they don't know. If you can't express it, they aren't going to assume it."

Even body language plays a role in how general counsels are perceived within their company.

"The general counsel walking down the hall with a frown on his or her face scares me. It is not a good thing," Scott said. "When you walk around the organization, you have a bounce. You walk around holding your head high."

"I don't care how bad you feel, because it sends a message to your organization. You folks (general counsels) have a very important role in the organization, and you can elevate your role in the organization or lower your perception by how you act."

Professor's Conference Goes from Chicago to Worldwide

[Editor's note: This article written by Jack Silverstein is reprinted with permission from the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.]

Eight years ago, Mark E. Wojcik launched the Global Legal Skills Conference at The John Marshall Law School.

The turnout was strong — 60 people from across the U.S., with a sprinkling of attendees from other countries.

Chicago has hosted twice since then. So has Monterrey, Mexico. And San Juan, Costa Rica. And Washington, D.C., once.

In May, the conference moved to Verona, Italy: 180 attendees from 77 law schools, 24 states and 28 countries.

"I knew there were lots of people who were teaching legal writing to non-native speakers of English, and we needed to share materials and teaching methods," Wojcik said. "It's exploded into a wonderful international event."

For that and other contributions to the legal profession, the American Association of Law Schools will honor Wojcik at its annual meeting next month with the Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research Award.

"It's just a huge honor, and I'm so happy to have been chosen for this award," Wojcik said.

The award is one of 13 given annually by the AALS. Wojcik is the only 2015 honoree from Illinois.

The last three legal writing winners from Illinois are Ralph L. Brill of IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, Helene S. Shapo of Northwestern University School of Law and Susan L. Brody of John Marshall.

"It's really humbling to be in the company of the past recipients, who are really giants in the field of legal writing," Wojcik said.

Wojcik's writing skills are rooted in his childhood time spent with his Swiss grandmother and German grandfather.

"I think that instilled in me a passion for language," said Wojcik, who speaks German and Spanish, a bit of French and is learning Italian.

Another important piece came at John Marshall, where Wojcik earned his J.D. in 1986. He credits the school for forming the foundation of his legal writing skills, which he honed and polished during three years clerking, first at the Nebraska Supreme Court then at the U.S. Court of International Trade.

"I learned a lot and came to love the writing process," he said. "It's something I find easy to do and enjoyable to teach."

Wojcik's teaching career at John Marshall began in 1992 and has focused on lawyering skills and international law. He has written three books, the first of which, "AIDS: Cases and Materials" from 1989, was the first book of case law focused on HIV-related legal issues.



Mark Wojcik, Judge Celia Gamrath and Anthony Farace.

He also wrote "Introduction to Legal English" in 1997 and "Illinois Legal Research" in 2003.

Wojcik has served on the board of directors for seven AALS sections. He is editor of the Legal Writing Prof Blog, which the American Bar Association named to its blog hall of fame in 2012.

In November, Wojcik was named to the Advisory Commission to the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, along with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito.

Those achievements were among the reasons that professor John B. Thornton of Northwestern nominated Wojcik for the AALS award.

"I feel very strongly about everything Mark has done on behalf of our field," Thornton said. "I felt he deserved the award, and I wanted to let people know about it."

Also nominating Wojcik was a group of John Marshall professors and a group of 26 professors from law schools in Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Texas.

Wojcik was selected from a pool of eight nominees.

"I think the key piece in those nominations is Mark's willingness to be a mentor and his ability to bring people into the fold and encourage others to develop their careers," said Kimberly Holst, chair of the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research.

"He's been an amazing advocate for other people in the field and the field itself," Holst and Thornton will present Wojcik with the award. Thornton said he was impressed when foreign professors approached him to compliment the Italy conference in May.

"Many of them came up to me and told me, 'We don't do anything like this in our law schools,'" Thornton said.

"So there's a good chance that this Global Legal Skills Conference will plant seeds in these other legal communities and may eventually lead to the teaching of legal writing as a discipline in law schools around the world."

The 2015 conference will be held May 20 to 21 at John Marshall and May 22 at Northwestern.

"It gets harder every year to teach legal writing because students don't have the sustained reading skills that they had 10 or 20 years ago," Wojcik said.

"When you have a class of students who are used to reading very short things like tweets or Facebook posts, it's hard to get them involved in a serious, long and complicated text."

The key for Wojcik is to teach students not just how to research, write, revise and proofread — but to get them to realize how much time these tasks truly take.

"It's not impossible," he said about teaching these skills, "but it's an ever-increasing challenge, so we just rise to it."

Devine Named "40 Under 40"

Tara R. Devine, a partner at Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C.

in Waukegan, has been named to the Law Bulletin Publishing Company's "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch." The special designation recognizes up and coming attorneys throughout Illinois. Ms. Devine, who is 36, was selected out of more than 1,400 nominees for the honor.

Tara Devine started her career as a law clerk at Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard in 2004 and was promoted to partner in 2011. Ms. Devine concentrates her practice of law in the areas of personal injury, nursing home negligence, wrongful death, medical malpractice, and product liability cases. During her time with the law firm, she's secured more than \$15 million in verdicts and settlement on behalf of her clients. Ms. Devine is licensed and practices in both Illinois and Wisconsin.

"Tara is an excellent and hard-working attorney, who has really crafted her skills over the past decade," said Patrick A. Salvi, managing partner at Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard. "She is very deserving of this award."

Mrs. Devine is a member of numerous bar associations, including the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, the American Association for Justice, the Lake County Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association. She's also been an active Marquette University alumni member.

Ms. Devine received her Juris Doctorate in 2003 from Marquette University and her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2000 from the University of Illinois. She is also a 1996 graduate of Libertyville High School.

Ms. Devine resides in Libertyville with her husband and two children.



Francis Citera

Products Liability and Mass Torts Authority

By: Leonard F. Amari

This month we highlight the distinguished career of Frank A. Citera, highly respected practitioner in a unique and complicated area of the law – products liability and mass torts. Frank Citera is Co-Chair of the Products Liability and Mass Torts Practice of the Chicago law firm of Greenberg Traurig.

Frank received his undergraduate degree from Columbia University (1980) and his Juris Doctorate, cum laude from the University of Miami (1983). He is active in all the major bar associations, the Illinois State and Chicago Bar associations and a member of the board of directors, by a university presidential appointment, of the Miami Law Alumni Association. To list all of Frank's accomplishments would fill many pages for this article but the most telling successes of this consummate professional is his listing as one of the "Best Lawyers in America – Litigation", 2008-2013.



Frank has 30 years of experience defending purported class actions, toxic tort actions, and other complex litigation in both federal and state courts. He has tried many cases, including an action by the Government to enforce a unilateral administrative order, an allocation case among potentially responsible parties, and a complex product liability, wrongful death case. Frank is also an experienced appellate lawyer, having argued many appeals in state and federal appellate courts. Additionally, Frank has substantial experience in bankruptcy litigation, having represented debtors-in-possession in a broad range of disputes, as well as lenders, landlords, and trade creditors in bankruptcy litigation matters.

Frank also counsels clients on risk management and product safety matters for both consumer and industrial products. In this capacity, he has been responsible for matters pending before various federal and state agencies and committees regulating the importation and sale of goods in the United States, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, the United States House Energy and Commerce Committee, the State of California Department of Justice and the Illinois Attorney General's office. In connection with these efforts, Frank also has counseled clients on crisis management and crisis communications. He has participated in a briefing before the United States House Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding the safety of certain products intended for children. Frank has written and

spoken extensively on class action litigation, product safety issues and claims for medical monitoring.

Traditionally, at this point in these regular columns, we discuss the Italian ancestry of the subject. Here we do it in Frank's own words.

"There are two towns in Southern Italy in the Province of Salerno near Naples separated only by Mt. Cervato and from these two towns I am descended on three of the four immediate members of my families.

On my paternal side both my grandparents were born in a town named Sanza. On my maternal side my Mother's Grandfather was born in a town named Teggiano.

After spending six years in the Italian Army from 1914-1920, most of it in Libya, my paternal grandfather married my grandmother in 1920 and without bringing her along came to America in 1921 to make enough money and establish himself before going back to get her in 1924.

During the depression and about the time my father was born in 1932 my grandfather was on welfare or home relief as it was called then. It wasn't until about 1935 that my paternal grandfather got a steady job that he would retire from in 1960, a driver for the N.Y.C. Department of Sanitation. In 1942 he purchased a house in Brooklyn which is still owned by the family.

My maternal Grandfather and his family had a business that supported my great grandfather, my grandfather, his two brothers and couple of helpers, so the depression had little impact on their personal lives.

My father was drafted in to the American Army in May 1952 and sent to Korea, where he spent 13 months, including the last 9 months on the front.

After Korea, my father met my mother and married in 1957. They had three children, me and two younger sisters.

My mother stayed home for 19 years raising her children and didn't go to work until the day I started college and my youngest sister started kindergarten. Even though my parents never went to college, a higher education for the three of us was a must. I was the first member of my extended family to attend college. My sister Maria is a teacher and my youngest sister Toni Ann is a partner at Jones, Day in New York.

As you can see from these pages, my family has lived the American dream. All my grandparents' children own their own homes. A higher education was once thought of as only for privileged is now the norm.

I guess when all is said and done, when my grandparents on my father's side and my grandparents on my mother's side left their little towns in Italy separated by a mountain, the dreams that they had for their descendants have been fulfilled."

Another example of the best our community has to offer.

Michael Matters

Foundation Raises \$60,000



Justice Mary Seminara Schostok and Dr. Ryan Merrell of Northshore Hospital

On Friday evening, January 30, 2015, The Michael Matters Foundation's 2nd Annual "New Year, Same Wish" event at Viper Alley in Lincolnshire, Illinois, brought together more than 550 people and raised over \$60,000.00 to help support those battling cancerous brain tumors.

As a result of the success of this year's event, the Michael Matters Foundation will be donating \$50,000 of these funds to support its Michael Matters Grant at Northshore University HealthSystem Kellogg Cancer Center, located in Evanston, Illinois. The Michael Matters Grant helps brain cancer patients pay important secondary costs they incur during treatment including house ramps, stair lifts, transportation to and from treatment, food, and even childcare costs—needed expenses not traditionally covered by health insurance.

The Michael Matters Foundation was established in 2013 to honor Michael P. Schostok, a well-known trial attorney, loving father and devoted husband from Libertyville, Ill. Michael's surviving spouse is our fellow Justinian, Appellate Court Justice, Mary Seminara-Schostok. A month after turning 50-years-old, Michael began having difficulty recalling words and past events. After a trip to the emergency room, Michael was diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumor. He passed away 15 months later in July of 2012 at the age of 51.

"It is inspiring to see this grass-roots fundraising event flourish and carry on my father's dream of helping others who are facing a tough battle...emotionally, physically, and financially," said Marisa Schostok, [JMLS graduate 2013] the Foundation's president and Michael's daughter. "We are elated to be able to keep the grant

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Michel Schostok's daughter, Marisa

program growing and to help more patients suffering from this horrible disease.” The Foundation’s mission is to be a resource for individuals and their family members who suffer from the inevitable impacts of brain cancer by providing emotional support, helping to understand the impact that these forms of cancers have on the patient and families, and to donate funds to provide these families with desperately needed financial assistance. Of course, one of the Foundation’s greatest causes is to provide grant monies to medical and scientific researchers devoted to finding a cure; like the \$50,000.00 grant to Northshore that will be given this month.

Please visit the MMF website www.michaelmatters.org/ and attend an upcoming event or make a donation for this worthy charitable organization.

OFFICES FOR RENT

Two adjoining offices for immediate rent in a River North location, our Justinian headquarters and the law offices of Amari & Locallo, 734 N. Wells Street. Full amenity building, much synergy, referrals and camaraderie. Plenty of street parking with frontal loading zone. If interested, please contact Matt Hanssel at 312-255-0101 x 117 or mjh@amari-locallo.com.

Justinian Society of Lawyers - Chicago

By Anthony Pasquini

[This article was originally published in NIABA (National Italian American Bar Association) News, Winter 2014-2015 edition.]

An Italian proverb about success and hard work is particularly relevant when speaking of Chicago’s Justinian Society of Lawyers: “A lodi e onori – seguono pianti e dolori” or “Praise and honors follow weeping and pain.”

The Society is comprised of active and influential members of the bar who are often also civic and political leaders, judges, and leaders in other bar associations. It is comprised of both experienced and new attorneys whose hard work has resulted in individual professional success and the success of the Society as evidenced by its contributions in the Chicago community. The Justinian Society of Lawyers is one of the oldest ethnic bar associations in Illinois and one of the largest in the country. The Justinian Society of Advocates was founded in Chicago on October 17, 1921 and later renamed the Justinian Society of Lawyers. Its steady growth is a tribute to its value as an organization and is inspiring, particularly to me, as a new Italian American attorney. A testament to the spirit of the Society and its members can be found in two of its activities: the Scholarship and Mentor programs.

Since the bar association was established, the Justinians have provided annual scholarships to law students of every ethnicity attending Illinois law schools. The scholarships are based primarily on the financial needs of the students, but are also granted in conjunction with their academic credentials. Annually, twenty or more scholarships are granted to grateful students. These students are encouraged to remember the generosity of the Society so that in the future, after attaining their own successful legal careers, they will pay forward that same generosity and further assist the student community of budding attorneys. The Society awards about \$35,000 in scholarships annually from member contributions. With the participating law schools matching the funds, dollar for dollar, there is an average of \$70,000 provided to law students annually. This is no small sum.

Another true gem to be found within this group of Italian American legal professionals in Chicago is a remarkably successful Mentor Program for at-risk law school applicants and first year law students. This program has played a significant role in the success of many law students. The Society’s Mentor Program is based on serving a group of driven law students who either struggled in their undergraduate years or found that achieving a satisfactory score on the Law School Admission Test was a difficult challenge. The program was created by Leonard F. Amari, President of The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees, a past President of Chicago’s Justinian Society, and partner in the ad valorem real estate tax firm of Amari & Locallo. Mr. Amari has overseen many students truly engaged with the Mentor Program and taken great pride in their achievements when those students graduated with their juris doctor



Chartered October 21, 1921

degree. Each year Mr. Amari entrusts a group of experienced law students, previously admitted at risk, who were themselves beneficiaries of the Mentor Program, to tutor, mentor, and befriend newly admitted high risk applicants/entrants to ensure their success. They provide the following year’s students the same counsel as their mentors had provided to them. The group hosts lunch meetings throughout the semester where students are given guidelines regarding what to expect in their law school career, academic preparation and study methods and additional insights provided by the mentors’ experience.

The reception of the Justinian Society’s tenet of “Pay it forward” is outstanding. Students clamor to attend meetings and become mentors after successfully completing their first year of law school. The only thing that is expected of any student coming through the program is to consider helping future students. The expectations are exceeded every semester. This program has touched the lives of many. The efforts, however, do not end at the lunch meetings. Extending well beyond the hallways of The John Marshall Law School, the program offers an excellent opportunity to network and seek out veteran legal professionals, which do not only assist law students in their academic endeavors, but also in their professional ones as well. It is with great thanks and appreciation that I, as a former mentee, and mentor chair, have good standing to attest to the hard work involved in the program every year.

In addition to the Scholarship and Mentor Programs, the Justinian Society also established a Children’s Endowment Fund in 2002. As the charitable arm of the Society, its mission is to assist and aid Chicago area disadvantaged children without regard to ethnicity, race and religion. Over the past twelve years the Children’s Endowment Fund has contributed significantly to children via various programs including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Chicago Public Schools, the Illinois Eye Institute, the Otis Wilson Foundation, Giant Steps and Cameron Cares.

The Society has a warm and welcoming attitude and pay-it-forward mantra. The Justinians comprise a group of generous legal professional who go out of their way to be a guiding beacon of hope, success and support for law students and young lawyers. The Justinian Society provides professional/business networking opportunities and social benefits of membership in an Italian American professional cultural context. Our Justinian Society of Lawyers is truly a brilliant pillar of our Italian American greater Chicago community

SACA Celebrates 20 Years

Announces 2015-2016 officers

By: Leonard F. Amari

We report regularly in these pages of the activities of the Sicilian American Cultural Association (SACA) because many of our members are so active, both in its creation and ongoing success. The 20 year old entity announces its 2015-2016 officers, elected at its regular meeting of its Board of Directors on August 14, 2014. Succeeding as President of the wonderful year of prominent family law attorney Samuel Cannizzaro, a career and beloved Justinian, is long time member and director, Katherine (Amari) O'Dell, and past Justinian president. Other new officers include Rose Mary Pagano, 1st V.P., retired Circuit Court judge, also a past Society president, Gloria Coco, 2nd V.P., continuing on as treasurer is Dino Porto, founding member, and as secretary, Martha Monastero. All were elected by unanimous vote.

Our esteemed past Justinian president Alfred E. Gallo was the moving force behind the creation of SACA, along with Justinians Dom Fichera, retired Judge Frank Orlando and the late members Justice Tony Scariano, Emil Venuti, Judge Nello Gamberdino, to mention just a few. Katherine O'Dell, the new president, will assume her responsibilities after the first of the year. "Following the esteemed Sam Cannizzaro in this role will be very difficult, he kept us on track of our mission statement, promoted our usual and successful cultural events, with some innovative ideas and programs," says Mrs. O'Dell. Katherine, in addition to being a past president of the Justinian Society of lawyers, as well as The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association, is a senior associate with the real estate tax reduction firm of Amari & Locallo. She has served through all the chairs of the association before assuming its presidency.

SACA was incorporated in the State of Illinois on September 8, 1994, by a handful of proud Sicilians, leaders in their professions and in our ethnic community and all highly respected, Dino Porto, Alfred E. Gallo, Vincent Inserra, the brothers Joseph and Salvi Monastero, Sr., and the Justinians mentioned above. SACA's mission has and continues to be to support, publicize and promote a greater public awareness of, and interest in Sicily, its art, history, traditions, culture and its people, and to increase the mutual understanding and friendship of its members and others.

It was the avowed purpose of these altruistic community leaders that SACA's only mission was cultural and eleemosynary and with the only motivation to enhance the Sicilian experience. Since its inception SACA has worked very hard to demonstrate how much Sicily has contributed to the world culturally.

SACA also has an eleemosynary agenda, making charitable contributions. Just a few of the beneficiaries include Loyola University Chicago (the Italian Studies program, spearheaded



New SACA President Katherine Amari O'Dell



Steve Fiorentino, Joe Locallo, Katherine Amari O'Dell, Leonard Amari, Hon. Gloria Coco and Sam Cannizzaro.



2014 SACA Medal of Merit Recipients

by Prof. Dominic Candeloro), scholarship funds at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, and sending \$1,000.00 each year to the Franciscan outreach program, to feed the hungry.

SACA also sponsored a Champagne Brunch honoring all the then Italian American Appellate Court Justices in Illinois, highlighting the significant career of the first ever Italian American Illinois Supreme Court Justice, Moses W. Harrison, II (his mother's maiden name was Dardado). Until his passing a few years back, Justice Harrison always said the SACA award was one of the most appreciated of all the recognitions and awards of his distinguished career.

Another example of SACA events and activities is a spectacular program entitled "Impressions of Sicily." This included Paul Simon, former US Senator from Illinois; Abner Mikva, former Justice of the US Court of Appeals and Anthony



Outgoing SACA President Sam Cannizzaro and incoming President Katherine Amari O'Dell at February 11 dinner.

Scariano, former Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court and their wives. They all had visited Sicily and they shared their experiences to this fun-filled and historic island of the sun.

In 2001, SACA celebrated the distinguished careers of Italian-American past presidents of the 37,000 member Illinois State Bar Association, including this writer, Cheryl (Ippolito) Niro and the late Ralph Gabric, Michael Coccia, and Larry Pusateri.

Annually, this wonderful organization sponsors a Medal of Merit brunch in the fall, honoring various community leaders, contributors and folks of repute. The social events are usually held at the wonderful Monastero's restaurant (3935 W. Devon Ave., Chicago, IL), that serves magnificent food in tasteful ethnic surroundings – Sicilian, of course. Honored over the years were leading lawyers and judges, successful businessmen and entrepreneurs, actors, a Consul General of Italy, Presidents of universities and law schools, and from time to time, the folks that aren't well known on a broader scale, but are to the leaders of our organizations, the folks that do all the work to make the rest of us look better. Along with this this article are a potpourri of brunch photos taken over the years, almost all of the honorees recognizable to us.

SACA's agenda for the remainder of the year promises to be an exciting one. They meet about ten times a year for a monthly dinner meeting at beautiful Monastero's in Chicago (Joe Monastero always plans a special Sicilian meal), which has long been the home of SACA. The dinner meetings are steeped in Sicilian/Italian culture and music. The dinners are open to all, not just members, and at very reasonable prices, usually well below market. They are educational and entertaining and the food prepared by the Monasteros is exceptional. Everyone is invited to attend. SACA membership is open to all persons of good reputation, regardless of culture, origins or ethnic backgrounds, provided they are dedicated to the same principles, goals and objectives as embraced by SACA. For events, details, or for membership information, contact SACA secretary Martha Monastero at belcantojo@aol.com or 773-588-2515.

Book Review

A Tear and A Tear In My Heart by Bernard J. Bruno

Reviewed by: Krista Easom

A Tear and A Tear in My Heart is a window into a world unlike any of us in this day and age have faced. Bernard Bruno has compiled a collection of short stories that paints a picture



of what it was like for Italian immigrants living in Chicago. Bruno's memoirs are a reminder of how the immigrants in the "old days" worked so hard to make it in America. At the end of each unique story, Bruno eloquently points out the theme or lesson learned such as "Dreams stored in the heart never die" or "Loyalty is always triumphant." Themes like loyalty, vanity, greed, selflessness, desperation, discipline, and modesty scour the book. These themes allow the reader to connect with the characters and take something away from each story.

Bruno begins by opening up about his own experiences as an attorney. Bruno represented a diverse group of people including a certain class associated with alleged "big dons" of the underworld population. As a young attorney, Bruno did not realize the effects representing these people would have on his own reputation. Bruno lost some business because people saw hiring him as a risk to their own reputation. This is punctuated by Bruno's story about how a man walked into his office to ask Bruno to kill his daughter's boyfriend. The man assumed that because Bruno represented some people allegedly belonging to the Chicago Mob, that Bruno himself was a mob member. Notwithstanding, Bruno had a successful career and worked on a variety of matters ranging anywhere from union disputes to will preparation. Bruno's stories are valuable lessons to any attorney who will face challenging moral situations in his or her career.

The rest of the stories in the book are told in the third person. The reader experiences a range of characters including a union buster, a soldier in WWII, an entrepreneur, a thief, a father etc. The book also connects the reader to the stories by mentioning places that are

still around today or places that many Chicagoans have heard of. The Green Door Tavern in River North, around since 1921, is one of them. To summarize one short story that stood out from the book will give better insight into its overall purpose. The story surrounding The Green Door Tavern involves a licensed attorney who got involved in the residential construction business. The attorney, Charles, had a gambling problem that led him to secret gambling games held at the restaurant. The clientele was selective and included many of Chicago's politicians. During the games, politicians related how they had fixed tickets and court cases to entice players to come around. Charles paid a politician \$25,000 to assure a judicial candidacy. Surely enough, Charles was not listed on the election list of judicial candidates. Charles tried to speak with the politician he had paid the money to but soon realized he had been defrauded. Charles intended to get back at the politician so he spoke to a real estate broker about renting his property to African Americans, a hot button issue at the time. Shortly after, Charles was in the hospital after experiencing a brutal beating. The politician was indicted and sentenced to jail. When he was released he returned to his bribing practices and was returned to the penitentiary a second time. The politician died shortly after his second release. The story concludes with "Degenerates live a life of impeccable immortality."

My meek summary of just one of the stories in the book does Bruno little justice. There are many more tales included and he certainly presents them in a more thrilling and interesting way. The book's effortless style and structure make it an easy read. The chapters are short and sweet, making this the perfect book to pick up and read on the train, in the waiting room, or right before bed. I certainly encourage everyone to make A Tear and Tear In my Heart his or her next read.

Are Corporations Persons?

By: Dominic R. Fichera

The Supreme Court in Citizens United held that Corporations are "persons", and as such have a right of free speech.

I understand the free speech argument and I also believe that the first amendment guaranteeing free speech is sacrosanct and must be protected.

But let us not forget that with "rights" comes duties, and obligations. As "persons" we have the obligation to follow the law,

which allows for an orderly society. And if a person breaks the law there are punishments proscribed. And we know no one "person" is above the law.

But it seems that the corporate "person" is above the law. If a "person" person is found guilty of a crime that person can be sent to jail for an extended period of time or if the crime is murder in some states that person can be put to death. That person not able to care for his or her family leaves that obligation to others or to the State.

Not so a corporate "person". The corporate "person" does not go to jail or put to death, but need do no more than pay a fine.

I suggest the corporate "person" be treated as "person" persons are treated.

If a corporation is found guilty of a criminal acts it should be sent to jail. It should be kept from providing for its family (stockholders) as a person would. And in states that have the death penalty for murder the corporation if convicted of murder should cease to exist. That's how we treat "person" persons, who murder other persons.

Is there a States Attorney or a US Attorney with the willingness to not only criminally charge a corporation, but if the corporation is found guilty, asking the judge to have the corporation serve the sentence imposed as any other citizen person would. "What's good for the goose..."

We can then see how the Supreme Court explains its decision in Citizen United.

And I can think of no better time then the present to test the Courts resolve regarding its decision in the "Citizens United" case.

Lets start by asking the US Attorney or the States Attorney in Detroit to charge General Motors with murder because of the "real" 57 persons who died because GMs allowed autos to be sold when it knew the ignition switch installed were defective, and that people were going to die as a result.

If GM is found guilty of murder than GM should cease to exist. OR the Supreme Court must admit that it believes that the corporate "person" is superior to the "person" person that is referred to in The United States Constitution.

Or the Supreme Court has to change its mind on Citizen United.



Guidance on the Civil Quick Appeal

By: Thomas V. Leverso

Very few attorneys have even heard of the “quick appeal”. In relative terms, the quick appeal is the “Emergency Motion” of appeals. This article focuses on civil appeals that must be immediately brought to prevent irreparable harm. While the appealing party (i.e., appellant) has the more arduous task, the appellee’s role is also addressed.



While this article focuses on civil appeals, careful criminal law practitioners should note that very specific procedures apply in death penalty cases. If unfamiliar with death penalty procedure, consult an active member of the capital bar in the applicable jurisdiction. Similarly, specific procedures apply in certain child custody cases. (In Illinois, one should review S. Ct. R. 306[a] [5] and [b] [West 2015].)

Equity: The Main Source of the Quick Appeal

The quick appeal usually involves the denial of a Temporary Restraining Order, regardless of the substantive area. Government action or inaction may also lead to a quick appeal, and family-law emergencies often happen when one party is taking a child somewhere or making a decision concerning the child’s wellbeing. While equitable rulings usually prevent irreparable harm, knowledge of the quick appeal will serve well in those instances of adverse rulings.

The Checklist: Everything Up Front

The first step requires multiple, immediate filings. Normally, an appeal requires the following sequence: the filing the Notice of Appeal; a request to prepare a transcript; a request to prepare the Record on Appeal; filing of a docketing statement or other appearance with the appellate court; the filing of an optional abstract; and the filing of an opening brief. For the quick appeal, these must all be done simultaneously at the outset.

Next, the quick appeal may require the appellant to request a stay of enforcement of a judgment and to post a bond.

Finally, one must place the appeal on the accelerated docket. In the Illinois reviewing courts, such requires a motion pursuant to IL. S. Ct. R. 311 (West 2015); in Federal Court, Fed. R. App. P. 8 and 18 (West 2015) accomplish the same. This motion also should be filed with the Notice of Appeal, but it is also the one way to facilitate timing for the Record and transcripts, as discussed below.

Anticipated: Was a Quick Appeal Specifically Expected at the Outset?

The ‘anticipated’ quick appeal impacts two of the key components listed hereinabove: (1) whether to submit an abstract in lieu of record; and (2) the content of the Motions to Stay and for Placement on the Accelerated Docket.

As to the abstract versus the full record, the abstract on the quick appeal is basically a record the appellant submits consisting of all the pleadings from the lower court. If you anticipated a quick appeal, then tailor your pleadings to keep quick appeal issues within them. Otherwise, the appellant will need the motion practice to allow time to have the trial court clerk and the court reporter respectively fast-track record preparation and transcripts.

As to the motions, the appellant should prepare a Motion for Stay for presentment in both the trial court and the Appellate Court. If not possible to accomplish a stay in the trial court, then move onto the appellate court. In our example, this will halt the building’s demolition long enough to prosecute the appeal.

As to the accelerated docket motion, an anticipated quick appeal provides a strategic advantage to the appellant because the appellant’s brief has already been completed and filed with this motion. The ball is immediately in the appellee’s court. If the quick appeal was unanticipated and a stay successfully is put into place, then one should request a date that permits time to prepare either a record or abstract and a brief. Albeit, this would still be mere days due to the nature of this appeal, but such provides a more complete record instead of an abstract.

Lastly, appeals are adjudicated in an academic forum. The appellant and appellee are distilling the meaning of the law, so make sure to extend all courtesies...and such may just create a future referral source for the effort.

The Appellee: the Stronger Position.

Appellees approximately have an 8/9 chance of prevailing on any appeal (i.e., an affirmance), and a 5/6 chance of prevailing specifically on a civil appeal. Speaking second also means speaking last on the quick appeal, as replies are rarely allowed. Knowing the issues enables your response brief to feature policy arguments and include more polished, tighter arguments. Finally, make sure to contact an appellate lawyer with questions.

[About the Author: Thomas V. Leverso attended the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California, studying with an emphasis on appeals and legal writing. A native of Chicago and its suburbs, he practices primarily in the Appellate Courts of Illinois and the Federal Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.]

From Carrier Pigeons to Client Outreach: The Strategy Behind our Communications

By: John Tufano

Carrier pigeons dispatched messages across battlefields for ancient Persians and Romans. To transmit news or warn of impending danger, Native Americans relayed smoke signals. The electric telegraph allowed encrypted messages



to jump across the Atlantic Ocean. And now, the Age of the Internet removes geography as a barrier to how far our social networks reach. These are distinct forms of communication, state-of-the-art for their times.

To the legal industry, though - how does a historical snapshot of communication apply? The old-fashioned, even ancient, forms teach us a valuable lesson, one that today’s technology makes quite easy to forget. Pigeon post, smoke signals, and telegraphs required a distinct strategy to their messaging. They were not sent by effortlessly stroking keys. Their senders and receivers could not slink into autopilot, parroting generic messages in rapid fire. They were purposed, intended to generate actions. Lawyers can realize a distinct advantage by taking the same strategic approach to communications with clients, employees, and the community.

Build a Strategy

Many lawyers use a strategic plan that might include finances, business development, even personal goals. Some are governed annually, others by quarter. Every day, though, lawyers communicate, and rarely does a strategy guide. Almost every interaction with clients is an exchange of messages that, when drive by a plan, help elevate one’s practice in a saturated market.

Think for a moment: if a name or letterhead was removed from correspondence, could a receiver distinguish content from the same sent by another? Would the receiver even care to? A communications strategy strips away anonymity and builds an identity. It defines how and why a lawyer communicates. It stimulates receivers to latch on, to immediately recognize that their lawyer speaks distinctly to them.

Communication is a Two-Way Road

The great Margaret Miller quipped, “Most conversations are simply monologues delivered in the presence of a witness.” Common to all forms of lawyer communication, there is a relationship between us and our audience, both engaged in sending, receiving, interpreting, and reacting.

Know Yourself

A core strategic component, we must know

Continued, page 25

The Fax is Back

By Joseph R. Marconi & Brian C. Langs
Johnson & Bell, Ltd.

*It's cloud's illusions that I recall
I really don't know clouds at all ...
- Judy Collins*

Back in July of 2011, we warned of a then popular e-mail/fraudulent check scheme whereby lawyers would receive e-mails from alleged potential foreign clients looking to collect debts from customers. Those scammers convinced



the unsuspecting lawyers to deposit fraudulent “settlement checks” into client accounts and wire the “clients’ share” to foreign accounts after the bogus checks cleared. When the frauds were eventually uncovered by the banks, the lawyers were left with liability to the banks for the fraudulent check and wire transfers. Since then, newer, more complex electronic scams have surfaced whereby hackers intercept e-mails between lawyers and clients that contain wire transfer instructions. After intercepting such an e-mail, the hacker changes the instructions in the e-mail to wire money to his own untraceable account. The hacker forwards his bogus wiring instructions to the unsuspecting recipient, all while “masking” his identity as the sender and making it appear to the recipient as if the instruction came from the correct sender, whether lawyer or client. Depending on your firm’s sophistication and budget, the type of transaction involved, and the needs of your client, there are some preventative measures that can be considered with regard to protecting your firm and your clients from this and other wire transfer and electronic fraud schemes. Prevention techniques can include hiring a third-party e-mail encryption service provider or sending sensitive wire transfer instructions via facsimile rather than e-mail.

This and other even more sophisticated electronic scams are becoming more prevalent. Given the confidential and valuable information passed between clients and their lawyers due to the attorney/client privilege, lawyers’ and law firms’ computer and e-mail accounts have become favorite targets. Whether an attorney transfers or stores confidential client information using password-protected corporate e-mail systems, “cloud computing,” third-party off-site network administrator vendors,

third-party hosted e-discovery management platforms, or a variety of other electronic data transfer or data storage solutions available through the Internet, the attorney inevitably faces an inherent risk that confidential client information will be susceptible to theft by a hacker or by an unscrupulous third-party employee. In the absence of reasonable, preventative, and precautionary measures, the lawyer also risks losses for the firm and its clients associated with such a theft.

Understanding how and why lawyers and law firms may be exposed to cybercrime is the first step in prevention. Because of the ever increasing capabilities of cloud computing and, with it, the proliferation of everyday use of mobile devices—such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops—lawyers and law firms put sensitive client material at risk simply by falling asleep on the train home or finishing a brief on the redeye. A misplaced smartphone or briefcase can result in serious consequences if a device ends up in the wrong hands. In addition, mobile devices and both cloud-based and in-firm corporate networks and email systems are susceptible to electronic hacking where a hacker will illegally gain access to electronic information using a variety of more sophisticated methods. Law firms and lawyers present a particularly appealing target for hackers because the mandatory confidentiality of the attorney-client relationship creates a virtual treasure trove of sensitive client information—such as social security numbers, medical information, trade secrets, wire transfer instructions, privileged litigation communications and strategy, and internal corporate strategies—much of which can be very valuable to an array of criminal enterprises.

Illinois Rule of Professional Conduct 1.6(a) requires a lawyer practicing in Illinois to make reasonable efforts to ensure the confidentiality of client information, including electronically stored client information. However, to be competitive in today’s legal services market, lawyers and law firms must utilize the cost-saving and organizational advantages technology allows them to offer recurring and prospective clients. While technology utilization is necessary, the prudent lawyer will also realize that the use of technology to electronically store and transfer sensitive client information necessitates proactive implementation of safeguards that will help in the prevention and defense of this information’s electronic theft. The extent and levels of necessary safeguards will likely be determined by the size of the law firm and its areas of practice, among other considerations. Depending on the specific needs of a firm or solo practitioner, there is a vast selection of cyber security precautions

available but every law firm utilizing the technology discussed in this article should at least consider undertaking the following.

Implement Data Management Safeguards. Every law firm should maintain computer-use policies requiring employees to use and routinely update passwords for e-mail, document management systems, mobile devices, and laptops. Intranets, extranets, and Citrix-like virtual desktops also invariably require password protection. In today’s corporate environments, while all networks and company laptops probably employ anti-virus protection, employees using personal laptops to perform work outside of the office must be required to install similar anti-virus protection. Firm policies should include periodic inspections of mobile devices and personal laptops to ensure that employees do not turn off password and/or anti-virus protection functions out of convenience or technical incompetence. Other safeguards may include limiting who may access particular materials electronically and when they may share, print, or alter data. Finally, every firm’s computer-use policy should communicate to its employees, (1) the seriousness of the firm’s confidentiality obligation to its clients, (2) the very real possibility of a cyber-attack, and (3) the procedure for reporting a potential data breach or suspected disclosure.

Address Firm Data Retention Policies. A law firm likely houses an incredible amount of data through its electronic document management system and its corporate network and e-mail system. It should maintain clear policies regarding the length of time certain types of data will be stored, the strength of security to be maintained for certain stored data, and the procedures for eliminating unnecessary or outdated data. Just as a law firm is routinely required to destroy or shred sensitive hard copy materials, it must have procedures in place to completely remove and destroy sensitive electronic data from firm databases and to destroy unwanted or out of date firm equipment that may have housed sensitive information.

In conclusion, attorneys can and should take the necessary precautions to minimize the likelihood of cyber-security breaches, not only to give their clients peace of mind, but also to better shield themselves from third-party and first-party liabilities if a theft of information or other security breach actually occurs. *[Editor’s Note: For the full article, see Joseph R. Marconi and Victor J. Pioli, Lawyers are Increasingly the Targets of Email/Fraudulent Check Schemes, ISBA Mutual Insurance Company Liability Minute, <http://www.isbamutual.com/liability-minute/lawyers-are-increasingly-the-targets-of-email/fraud.>]*

Elder Law Update



who we are among peers, the community, and clients. To say one is “an estate planning lawyer” is a good start, but it does not paint the whole picture.

More than just “an estate planning lawyer” his or her identity may be “an estate planning lawyer who enjoys protecting for others their intentions to contribute in life once they are gone.” Choosing and articulating an identity helps others recognize the personhood in each of us.

Know Your Audience

Knowing who we are and what we provide is further defined by knowing our audience. Do we try to reach anyone who will need a lawyer? Do some of us focus on commercial developers? Whether new to practice or standing on a 20-year career, a communications plan keeps us accountable by asking ourselves about our audience’s identity. Most precisely, by asking, “Whose problems do my skills best solve?”

Translate into Their Language

Lawyers suffer from the chronic ailment of speaking in tongues. Med-mal case law reads different than the elements of protecting mineral rights, which reads different from the general powers for a voting shareholder. These languages (mostly) make sense to those who practice in these areas. Remember that our audiences, our clients, co-workers, judges, are not necessarily as gifted/cursed in them.

Translating tongues into the language of our listeners transforms centuries-old precedent into living and breathing solutions. We spend hours, years, reading cases or reviewing corporate filings. We want to share that knowledge to show that we can maneuver the legal trappings of real-world problems. However, the documents we draft are often written in the legal version of these real-world problems. It is important to tell the story of drafting a contract’s scope of work, for instance, knowing that the client might only care about the contract’s impact on his budget for labor and materials.

These components can guide us to see the importance of knowing our identity and that of our audiences, and how and why to communicate in ways that resonate with them. Other components are as important, such as the medium that carries a message and the ability to adjust to the changing needs of others. To remember anything, it is that a communications strategy has enormous value and can prevent our client updates, internal memos, and trade journal articles from the likes of smoke signals sent in the pitch of a windy night, altogether missing their mark.

[About the Author: John Tufano, JD, began his career practicing law in Chicago and is the founder of Areté Strategy (www.aretstrategy.com). He was a significant contributor to this newsletter, and a very active younger Justinian. He helps fellow lawyers in Chicago and Columbus, Ohio create communication strategies that deepen client relationships, enhance industry presence, and position practices to close more sustained business. He can be reached at john@aretstrategy.com.]

By: Anthony B. Ferraro

As we begin this new year, I would like to inform you of some legislative changes that impact estate planning and long-term care:

Medicaid for Long Term Care in Illinois. With a new administration in Springfield, there are proposed changes to the reimbursement rate for Nursing Homes and Supportive Living Facilities that accept Medicaid. Plan ahead.

New Illinois Power of Attorney for Healthcare.

In the state of Illinois, effective January 1, 2015, we have a new statutory short form power of attorney for healthcare. Without further changes, this will be the new statutory power of attorney healthcare professionals will use and find recognizable. Currently, the old statutory power of attorney is the most recognizable. In an emergency situation, the most recognizable power of attorney may be best as that is the one healthcare professionals are most used to. It therefore may be advisable to have the new power of attorney created for you to replace an old one.

Small Estate Affidavit.

Also effective January 1, 2015, the small estate affidavit has been changed. The small estate affidavit is used to avoid probate when all assets are available on death, do not include real estate, and have a total value less than \$100,000. However, the new statute that came into effect on January 1, 2015 creates additional liability for the person signing this affidavit so we ask that all of our clients consult us and proceed cautiously before using one of these documents.

ABLE Act.

This new federal legislation will be available in Illinois when Illinois chooses to adopt the ABLE Act. The legislation is pending in Illinois at this time. The ABLE Act will allow a disabled person who became disabled before the age of 26 to receive gifts from a loved one up to the annual exclusion amount of \$14,000 a year and such account may hold up to

\$100,000 without negatively affecting the disabled person’s eligibility for SSI and Medicaid. Further, the income is not taxed. The funds in the account may be used for the disabled person’s disability related expenses.

Presumptively Void Transfers.

Finally, in Illinois, effective January 1, 2015, transfers to caregivers or their family members worth more than \$20,000 are considered presumptively void. Under the statute, the term “caregiver” refers to someone who voluntarily or in exchange for compensation has assumed responsibility for the care of another person who needs assistance with the activities of daily living, not including a family member of the person receiving care. If the person receiving care transfers property to a caregiver through a will, trust, transfer on death instrument, or any other beneficiary designation, the transfer is presumed to be void. The caregiver can rebut the presumption by showing that there was no fraud or undue influence involved in the transferor’s decision. The purpose of this new law is to protect potentially vulnerable seniors from being exploited by their caregivers.

These legislative updates may affect you and your family. An elder law attorney can advise you as to how to update your existing documents to conform to these new laws.

[About the Author: Anthony B. Ferraro, is a JD, MS Tax, CPA, and owner of The Law Offices Of Anthony B. Ferraro, LLC, Attorneys & CPAs, The Elder Law, Estate & Trust And Asset Protection Law Firm, based in Rosemont, IL. You may contact him at (847) 292-1220 or visit his website at www.abferrarolaw.com.]

New FOIA Amendments to Ease Burden on Public Bodies

By: Catherine R. Locallo

Following legislative override of veto action by the Governor, Public Act 98-1129 became law on December 3, 2014, and reduces some of the burdens faced by public bodies in responding to certain FOIA requests.

Records Available on the Public Body's Website

If requested records are maintained on a public body's website, it is lawful for a public body to respond to a FOIA request by directing the requester to the website where the record can be accessed. If the requester is unable to access the records online, the request can be resubmitted and inspection or copies of the records must be provided.

"Voluminous Request" Defined

A "voluminous request" means a request that: (1) includes more than 5 individual requests for more than 5 different categories of records; or (2) includes a combination of individual requests for more than 5 different categories of records in a period of 20 business days; or (3) requires the compilation of more than 500 letter or legal-sized pages of public records, unless a single requested record exceeds 500 pages (i.e., one report, form, book, etc.). Generally, this designation cannot be extended to request from the news media and non-profit, scientific, or academic organizations.

Responding to a "Voluminous Request"

First Timeframe

Within the first 5 business days after receipt of a "voluminous request", the public body must issue an initial response which states:

- 1) the public body is treating the request as a "voluminous request";
- 2) the reasons for "voluminous request" designation;
- 3) the requester has 10 business days from the date the initial response was sent to specify whether he/she would like to amend the request so that it is no longer a "voluminous request";
- 4) if the requester does not reply within 10 business days, or if the request continues to be a "voluminous request", the public body will respond and assess any fees as permitted by FOIA Section 6;
- 5) the public body has 5 business days after receipt of the requester's reply or, if no reply, 5 business days from the last day for the requester to amend his/her request, to respond;
- 6) the public body may request an additional 10 business days to comply with the request;
- 7) the requester has the right to ask the PAC to

review the public body's "voluminous request" designation, and provide the address and phone number for the PAC; and

- 8) if the requester fails to accept or collect the responsive records, the public body may still charge the requester for its response pursuant to FOIA Section 6, and failure to pay will be considered a debt due and owing to the public body, subject to collection.

Second Timeframe

If after issuing the public body's initial response there is no reply from the requester, or there is a reply but the request continues to be a "voluminous request", the public body must respond within 5 business days after receiving the requester's reply or expiration of the time for the requester's reply (whichever is earlier) by:

- providing an estimate of the fees to be charged for the responsive records, which the public body may require to be paid in full before copying the records;
- denying the request in whole or in part pursuant to one or more exemptions under FOIA;
- notifying the requester that the request is unduly burdensome and extend an opportunity for narrowing the request;
- extending the timeframe for response by 10 business days; or
- providing the requested records.

Fees for Responding to a "Voluminous Request"

Electronic Records

FOIA provides a fee schedule for providing electronic records in response to a "voluminous request":

- \$20 for not more than 2 megabytes of data (if not in PDF), or not more than 80 megabytes of data (if in PDF);
- \$40 for 2 to 4 megabytes of data (if not in PDF), or 80 to 160 megabytes of data (if in PDF); or
- \$100 for more than 4 megabytes (if not in PDF), or more than 160 megabytes of data (if in PDF).

Personnel Hours for Search and Redaction

A public body may charge the requester up to \$10 per hour spent in searching for and retrieving requested records, or examining the records for necessary redactions. However, the first 8 hours of any search/retrieval efforts must be provided for free. An accounting must be provided for any fees charged.



Real Estate Taxes Too High? Appeal Them!

By: Vincent A. Oppedisano

[Reprinted from the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin]

The Cook County assessor will soon begin the process of reassessing all properties located in the city of Chicago as part of the 2015 triennial re-assessment. If you own property in the city, the assessor will mail the taxpayer of record a notice of reassessment indicating the county's proposed change in your property's value.

After the assessor issues this notice, you will have a limited period of time in which to appeal the proposed assessment.

It is important for all property owners to be prepared to contest any proposed increases in their assessments. Even if the assessor proposes no increase or a decrease in your property's value, often it is still in your best interest to appeal your assessment at the Cook County assessor's office and/or Cook County Board of Review.

There are several different types of appeals which can be made, depending on the type of property you own.

Commercial/industrial properties and apartment buildings of 7 units or more

If you have purchased your property recently (i.e., the last three years or so), you may be able to assert the purchase price as indicative of the property's current market value.

Has your property been appraised within the last three years? Often your bank will order an appraisal of the property when a loan is refinanced. If this is the case, the appraisal may be evidence of present market value.

If you do not have an appraisal of the property already, our firm often examines the costs and benefits of having an appraisal report completed that uses one or more of the traditional methods of valuing real estate—the cost, income and sales approaches to value.

Market values for investment properties (commercial, industrial and multi-tenant apartments) can be measured by income approaches. At my firm, we can develop a value based on capitalizing a property's actual net income (income less expenses) and compare it to the assessor's models for determining value. Often the county does not take into account the actual income, expenses, vacancy or special circumstances of a property but relies upon averages from the industry.



Continued on page 27

Cook County also has many incentive programs for industrial developers either rehabilitating older property that is vacant or considering newer purchases and construction. Recently, a new county ordinance was passed allowing for considerable real estate tax savings for commercial redevelopment.

Single-family homes

If you own a single-family residence, you also may have several bases on which to appeal your home's assessment. Recent purchase prices, bank or private appraisals and equity comparisons to indicate a lack of uniformity in assessments to the county are excellent responses to proposed assessments.

Condominiums

Residential condominium unit owners usually appeal their property tax assessments jointly in conjunction with all or most of the building's other units.

There are three advantages to filing a joint condominium assessment appeal: Market forces that affect the value of an individual condominium unit will have a similar effect on the other units as well; the percentage of ownership assigned to each unit is a major valuation factor; and the association or condominium board is most likely to have access to relevant sales information.

The assessor's job is to establish a fair market value for your unit. The best indication of value and the one most relied upon by the assessor is the history of the building's individual unit sales over the last three years.

The idea of assessment uniformity may come into play under special circumstances, for example, where some of the building's units are assessed inequitably compared to other units even after accounting for differences in percentage of ownership.

Homestead exemptions

If you own residential property, it is always a good idea to make sure you are receiving the benefit of any exemptions for which you qualify. Check your most recent tax bills to see whether any "homestead exemptions," such as the homeowner's exemption or senior citizen exemption were applied to your property. For a full list of Cook County homestead exemptions and eligibility requirements, visit the Cook County assessor's website at cookcountyassessor.com.

Exemption applications for tax year 2014 (affecting the taxes payable in 2015) will be available on the assessor's website early in 2015.

[About the Author: Contact Vince Oppedisano at (312) 255-0101, ext. 412 or visit www.amari-andlocallo.com. Vince is an associate attorney at Amari & Locallo, a law firm concentrating its practice exclusively in the area of real estate tax assessment appeals. The firm's expertise, aggressiveness, and responsiveness to its clients' needs over the past 26 years have helped it become one of the most successful and respected property tax law firms in the Chicagoland area.

Tort Notes

By: James J. Morici Jr.

Mandated Disciplinary Measures against Defendant Employee Can Be found to be Outside General Rule Excluding Evidence of Subsequent Remedial Measures

Subsequent remedial measures (Corrective actions taken after the alleged negligence) cannot be used to prove negligence. *Berz v. City of Evanston*, 997 N.E.2d 733, 738 (Ill. App. Ct. 1st Dist. 2013)

The Illinois Supreme Court in *Herzog* stated the policy reasons behind the rule as being: (1) a strong public policy encouraging improvements to enhance public safety (2) subsequent remedial measures are not considered sufficiently probative of prior negligence, because later carefulness may be simply an attempt to exercise the highest standard of care; (3) A jury may view such conduct as an admission of negligence. *Herzog v. Lexington Twp.*, 657 N.E.2d 926 (1995)

In *Herzog* the Plaintiff claimed that the absence of a road sign led to his car accident. The trial court did not admit evidence of the Defendant placing additional signs after the accident and counted that as a subsequent remedial measures. The *Herzog* court reaffirmed the general rule of the exclusion of subsequent remedial measures but pointed out a couple of notable exceptions. The Supreme Ct stated that "Where the impeachment value rests on inferences other than prior negligence, such evidence may be admitted where its probative value outweighs the prejudice to defendant." *Herzog*, 167 Ill.2d at 301-02, 212 Ill.Dec. 581, 657 N.E.2d 926. The IL Supreme Ct did caution the use of impeachment by Subsequent Remedial Measures, which if used improperly could swallow the rule. *Id.* *Herzog* stated other exceptions to the rule such as, evidence of subsequent remedial measures may be admissible for the purpose of proving ownership or control of property where disputed by the defendant. (See *Schultz v. Richie* (1986), 148 Ill.App.3d 903, 910, 102 Ill. Dec. 289, 499 N.E.2d 1069; *Coshenet v. Holub* (1980), 80 Ill.App.3d 430, 431, 35 Ill.Dec. 733, 399 N.E.2d 1022.) Such evidence may also be admissible for the purpose of proving feasibility of precautionary measures where disputed by the defendant. See *Sutkowski v. Universal Marion Corp.* (1972), 5 Ill.App.3d 313, 319, 281 N.E.2d 749 (products liability); *Lewis v. Cotton Belt Route-St. Louis Southwestern Ry. Co.* (1991), 217 Ill.App.3d 94, 159 Ill.Dec. 995, 576 N.E.2d 918 (feasibility of spotter for crane operation).



In *Pearl v. Chicago Transit Authority*, 532 N.E.2d 439 (Ill. App. Ct. 1st Dist. 1988) after a pedestrian was struck by a CTA bus, a garage superintendent testified that he prepared a disciplinary report and suspension notice. In *Pearl* the court stated that the evidence should not be considered Subsequent remedial measures since the CTA undertook this investigation automatically. Remembering that the main policy reason behind Subsequent Remedial Measures is to encourage improvements to enhance public safety; the court reasoned that the testimony was considered an admission and not a subsequent remedial measure since the CTA was already going to do the review as mandated by their internal rules. If the Plaintiff's lawyer can show the court that the post-accident acts were going to be done anyway, then they could argue that the policy reasons behind the rule do not apply.

Word of caution to the practitioner, in a similar case *Bulger v. Chicago Transit Auth.*, 345 Ill. App. 3d 103, 801 N.E.2d 1127 (Ill. App. Ct. 1st Dist. 2003), after a bus crash that also injured a pedestrian, the CTA undertook a voluntary investigation. The *Bulger* Court distinguished itself from *Pearl* by stating that in *Pearl* the investigation was categorized as mandatory while in *Bulger* the CTA used discretion to see if it needed to retrain the driver.

The Subsequent remedial measure exclusionary rule while strong in protecting the Defendants post-accident actions is not absolute. A diligent Plaintiff's lawyer may craft the argument into fitting into one of the pre-defined exception categories (1. To prove ownership and control, 3. To prove feasibility of precautionary measures, 4. To impeach without inference of negligence) or by arguing that it should not be counted as a Subsequent Remedial Measure but instead as an admission as outlined by *Pearl*.

[Editor's Note: James J. Morici, Jr. is partner in the firm of MORICI, FIGIOLI & ASSOCIATES, and represents Plaintiffs in personal injury, workers' compensation, and construction site related injury suits. Research assistance provided by Tomas Cabrera, The John Marshall Law School. Read all prior issues of "Tort Notes" at www.MoriciFiglioli.com]

Worker's Comp Fraud

By: Roy Puccini

Insurance Fraud

Insurance fraud has been a major problem with the insurance companies in past years. Companies have set up Special Fraud Units to address questionable claims.



Fraud occurs in all areas including 1) workers' compensation 2) commercial property and liability 3) home insurance and 4) unscrupulous repair shops. At this time, I will write about workers' compensation and in the future, I will address other areas of concern.

The following are examples of Workers' Compensation fraud indicators to insurance companies.

- Employee is disgruntled, soon to retire or facing layoff
- Employee is involved in seasonal work
- Employee took excessive time off prior to claim
- Employee is new on the job
- Employee has a history of reporting subjective claims
- Employee changes physicians when release for work is issued
- Employee demands quick payments

Circumstances of Accident

- Accident occurs late Friday afternoon or early Monday morning
- Accident is not witnessed
- Accident occurs just prior to a strike
- Incident is not reported by employee promptly
- Details are vague
- Diagnosis is inconsistent with treatment
- Physician is known for handling suspect claims
- Both Workers' Comp and hospital carriers are both billed together and payment is accepted by both.

There are many more examples of these that insurance companies use to determine if a claim is real or fraudulent. Claims that are not real cost companies millions each year and in the end cost everyone with higher insurance costs. It is important to everyone to prevent these things from happening. If someone is hurt, everyone wants to see that person get whatever he should in both his medical bills and any other benefits that he has coming. Real claims are going to happen and it is important that we expedite the care and payment of them so that the good employee gets back to work as soon as possible to avoid any serious financial problems.

Insurance Consulting and Risk Management, (630) 461-0671. Information from US-Reports University Technical Bulletins

Photo Stories



Amari & Locallo partner Franco Coladipietro was a floor guest of Senator Michael Connelly at the Illinois State Senate Inauguration in Springfield, IL in January 2015. Senator Connelly was Franco's seatmate when they were in the House together. From left, Franco Coladipietro, Matthew Connelly (son of Senator Connelly), and Senator Michael Connelly.



Recent JMLS graduates and Justinian Society Mentoring Group mentors, Leonard Cannata and Jon Magna, outside the University of Bologna Law School, the oldest law school in existence. The two pals traveled around Italy from August 28 to September 29 in celebration of taking the bar exam.



Past ISBA presidents gather for their annual breakfast in conjunction with the mid-year meeting of the Illinois State Bar Association.

Congratulations to Miss Illinois Jr. Tween Sofia (Gemellaro) Console!



Joe Gagliardo, right, with wife Jennifer, above, and their granddaughter.

Photo Stories



Vince Oppedisano, an associate with Amari & Locallo, caught this 40 inch Musky in September 2014.



Prominent catastrophic injury lawyer Lou Cairo bags another big one.



Justinian Steve Phillips and his prize on a recent hunting trip.



Chris Keegan, son of our good friends Kevin and Tamara, plays quarterback at Harvard University. He and his parents are shown here at one of his last season games.



Guess who, guess where?



Guess who, guess where? (Hint: His father is a past President and is Village President of Bloomingdale.)



Left: Fred Serpe attended the Installation Mass and celebration of Archbishop Blase Cupich.



Congratulations to Justinian 2nd Vice President Frank Sommarino and wife Gina, upon the birth of their baby boy, Frank A. Sommarino, Jr. He joins sisters Angelina, Isabella, and Sophia.



An SUV rear ended a CTA bus that ironically displayed a large ad from our friend, Lou Cairo, partner and personal injury lawyer at Goldberg, Weisman, & Cairo. [Photo Credit: Phil Velasquez, Chicago Tribune]



The John Marshall Law School hosted the Justice Anne Burke Professionalism series in February 2015. Pictured are, from left: Amy Taylor, Justice Burke, Leonard F. Amari, Mara Salerno, and Daniella Martorano.

Photo Stories



Guess who, guess where? [Hint as to where: A wonderful little (Barese) Italian place at 1235 W. Lake St., Chicago]



Jason O'Dell, grandson of past President Leonard F. Amari and son of past President Katherine Amari O'Dell, enjoys Columbus Day.



During the recently concluded primary election, career members Fred Serpe and mayoral candidate Alderman Bob Fioretti pose at a supportive fund raiser.



Fred Serpe, center, with Rich Veenstra, Mayor of Addison, left, and Vincenzo Denicolò, Mayor of Triggiano, Italy. Addison and Triggiano are Sister Cities.



Columbus Day dignitaries: Fred Serpe, left, with Len Cannata, center, and Richard Pellegrino



Right: Members of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, IAPC and The John Marshall Alumni Assoc. with the new lieutenant governor, Evelyn Sanguinetti (also a John Marshall Alumna) at Unity Dinner on December 2.



Guess who, guess when?

Photo Stories



Judge Thomas Panichi swearing in the new officers of Casa Italia: (from left) Paul Basile (Treasurer), Joseph F. Locallo, Jr. (Parliamentarian), Daniel D. Corrado (Chairman), Nick A Vangel (Vice Chairman), and Giuseppe Zerillo (Secretary).



Congratulations to Justinian Society Treasurer Vince Vidmer on his wedding to Lauren Kogut on September 6, 2014.



Justice Stevens in the Justice Arthur Goldberg Courtroom (named for a John Marshall Law School Professor who was elevated to the U.S. Supreme Court) and Marie Sarantakis, Magister of the Stevens Inn Chapter of Phi Delta Phi Law Fraternity, at The John Marshall Law School.



Our very own Richard Caldarazzo, during his offensive guard days at the University of Michigan, circa 1967-1969.



Attorney James McCluskey visits the Justinian Society Headquarters. From left, John Locallo and James McCluskey.



Amari & Locallo welcomed new intern Colleen Redden in the Fall of 2014. From left, Associate Vesna Marusic, Colleen Redden, Partner John Locallo, and Senior Associate Katherine Amari O'Dell.



Leonard F. Amari, left, and Father John Costello at Ferraro Bakery.



Lunch at Ferrara Bakery! Mathew Dattilo, Jessica DePinto, and Father Michael J. Garanzini, President of Loyola University Chicago



Anthony Fornelli and Matthew Dattilo enjoy lunch at Ferrara Bakery.



Father Michael J. Garanzini, with Nella and Bill Davy, owners of Ferrara Bakery.



Judge Clarence Harrison of Madison County visits Justinian Headquarters with past Presidents Hon. Celia Gamrath (left) and Katherine Amari O'Dell.

Photo Stories



Leonard Amari, President of The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees, along with John E. Corkery, Dean (third from left), and Dorothy Li (to Mr. Amari's right), Co-Director of the JMLS Asian Alliance Program shown with representatives of the Intellectual Property Court during their trip to China. Mr. Amari is traveling with a delegation from The John Marshall Law School on the annual trip to China, to confer degrees on 27 graduates of a joint program between the law school and China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO). For over twenty years, The John Marshall Law School has collaborated with SIPO on this educational partnership.



Leonard Amari, left, with Dean Paul Liu, center, and Dean John Corkery, at National Chiao Tung University Law School in Hsinchu in Taiwan during the abovementioned recent Asian trip.



Guess who, guess where? (Hint: Somewhere in Europe!)



Justinians Michael Favia and Marie Sarantakis with future Justinian Cristina Favia and WGN's Chief Meteorologist Tom Skilling at the JMLS seminar on the Science of Climate Change for Lawyers.

Miscellanea

By: Leonard F. Amari

➤ Congratulations to **Matt and Alison Kellam**, on the birth of their daughter, Emily Lynn!

➤ Congratulation to **Chris Cali**, upon his new job with Latimer, LeVay, Fyock, LLC. Chris joined the firm in January 2015 and concentrates his practice in real estate, business and corporate planning and transactions, and estate planning and probate administration.



➤ The year 2015 is off to a great start for **Nicole Petrarca**, past student member of the Justinian Society Newsletter and past co-chair of the Justinian Mentoring Program. She graduated from The John Marshall Law School on January 18th. Further adding to the good news, she and **Michael Pisano**, a Justinian Society member, former mentoring program co-chair, and Associate with Cassidy Shade, are engaged to be married! Congratulations to the happy couple! (Photo right)



➤ Justinian Second Vice President **Michael Bonamarte** writes to announce that his firm is proud to announce the promotions of associate attorneys Jordan Powell and Margaret Battersby Black to partners.

➤ The Carmen D. Caruso Law Firm welcomed the addition of three new members to its trial and appellate legal team: attorney **Shane D. Valenzi**, Of Counsel Attorney Seamus M. Ryan, and senior litigation paralegal Craig A. Nelson. The boutique firm concentrates in franchise and general and sharply contested business disputes. Congratulations to all!

➤ Congratulations to DuPage County Board Member **Peter DiCianni**, upon receiving the Margaret Bancroft Distinguished Leadership Award for Advocacy for Children with Autism. He received the award on October 9th, 2014 at the Bancroft Awards Dinner, held at DePaul University.

➤ **Catherine R. Locallo** was recently named an Illinois "Rising Star" in the area of Employment & Labor Law in the 2015 edition of Illinois Super Lawyers. Congratulations Catherine! (Catie Locallo with her family below.)



➤ **Charles R. Bernardini**, partner at Ungaretti & Harris, writes to tell us that effective February 1, 2015, Ungaretti & Harris LLP merged with Nixon Peabody LLP. By combining with Nixon Peabody's existing Chicago office, Chicago will become Nixon Peabody's second largest location and one of the largest law practices in the city. Congratulations to all!



From left: Chuck Bernardini, the late Judge Anthony Peccarelli, and Sal Barbatano]

➤ Congratulations to **Stephen D. Phillips** of Phillips Law Offices for multiple recognitions this year. He was recently selected as a Top Ten Personal Injury Lawyer in Illinois by the National Academy of Personal Injury Lawyers. The National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys is an organization devoted to recognizing the top personal injury attorneys in the nation who demonstrate extraordinary amount of knowledge, skill, experience, expertise, and success in their practice of Personal Injury. He was also selected as part of the Best Attorneys of America by Rue Ratings.



Past President Joe Gagliardo (left) and Stephen Phillips

➤ Past president and 1979 Chicago-Kent alum, **James J. Morici, Jr.**, is teaching the course Illinois Evidence at ITT/Chicago-Kent College of Law along with retired Appellate Court Justice David Erickson.



Past presidents Umberto Davi (left) and James Morici.

➤ **Dion U. Davi** is proud to announce the opening of his new Will County office in Joliet, IL. Congratulations Dion!



From left: The late Mike Meschino, ISBA 2nd Vice President Umberto Davi, and Dion Davi.

➤ Congratulations to Past President **Anthony B. Ferraro** (photo below) upon being elected the President of the Illinois Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) for the year 2015.



➤ **Kimberly A. Palmisano** has been elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Union League Club of Chicago. She will serve as chair of the club's communications committee. Ms. Palmisano is an associate at the Law Offices of Palmisano & Moltz, P.C., where she focuses on commercial real estate and commercial transactions for commercial, industrial and residential clients. Congratulations Kimberly!

➤ **John A. Stefani**, with law partner Kenneth H. Levinson, has opened Levinson & Stefani at 230 W. Monroe St., Suite 2210. The firm will handle personal injury, wrongful death, and medical malpractice cases.

➤ Congratulations to good friend of the Justinian Society, Power Rogers & Smith partner **Larry R. Rogers, Sr.**, upon receipt of the Leonard M. Ring Lifetime Achievement award from the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association.

➤ Segal, McCambridge, Singer, & Mahoney announces three new Italian-American associates at their firm: **Robert M. Campobasso**, toxic tort defense; **Danielle R. Luisi**, toxic tort claims and environmental litigation; and **Grace E. Mangieri**, toxic torts.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph J. Ferrini** on his partnership with Clausen, Miller P.C. He is a member of the appellate practice group.

➤ **Mary T. Nicolau** has accepted a position as special counsel, real estate tax liabilities and tax disputes, at Much Shelist.



Mary Nicolau, left, and past President John Sciacotta

➤ **Mitchell L. Marinello**, partner at Novack & Macey, business and property disputes, was named to the management committee of the Integrated Advisory Group.

➤ Congratulations to **Patrick A. Salvi** on being selected as the honorary chair and recipient of the 2014 Judge Robert S. Smith Jr. Humanitarian Award.

➤ Former Gov. Patrick J. Quinn appointed retired Illinois appellate justice **David P. Sterba** to the Judicial Inquiry Board. Sterba, a partner at Walsh, Fewkes, Sterba, fills the vacancy created by the death of Tom Leahy.



From left, John Locallo, David Sterba, Katherine Amari O'Dell, and Frank Castiglione

➤ **Alejandro Caffarelli** has formed Caffarelli & Associates Ltd., joined by attorneys Alexis D. Martin and Lorraine T. Peeters, as well as long-time staff members Joanna Germann Zalewski and Mariela Cano. The firm will continue to represent individuals in employment law and consumer protection matters. The firm is located at 224 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 300, and can be reached at (312) 763-6880. The website is www.caffarelli.com.

➤ Congratulations to **Hon. Phil Nicolosi** on his appointment to associate judge in the Illinois 17th Judicial Circuit.

➤ Congratulations to **Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bonamarte**, who are expecting their first child, a boy, in late June.

➤ Cook County Associate **Judge Joseph D. Panarese** was honored by the Boy Scouts at the Union League Club with the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award. The recognition was given for his work mentoring Scouts and repeatedly setting up Law Merit Badge Day at the Daley Center, helping Scouts get their law merit badge.



Judge Joseph D. Panarese (left) with brother Judge Donald D. Panarese, Jr. and Gregg Garofalo (center).

➤ Congratulations to past Justinian President, the highly respected **Judge Bruno Tassone (Ret.)**, for his recognition by the Italian American Political Coalition—the political voice of our ethnic community in Illinois. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the IAPC's Heritage Celebration on Friday, March 20, 2015. The Heritage Celebration is an event which acknowledges and celebrates our values and traditions as being uniquely Italian-American. It is a vehicle to come together in friendship to recognize the blessings we enjoy as Americans of Italian descent. Other community leaders honored were Joanne Serpico (PACA Award) and Joseph Mancino (Public Service Award).



From left: Judge Tassone, Anthony Fornelli, and Thomas Jaconetty.

➤ Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP added **Pablo L. Petrozzi** as a partner in its real estate group. Petrozzi practices in commercial real estate transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions, financings and joint ventures.

➤ Bryan, Cave LLP partner **Jena M. Valdetero** has been named co-chair of the International Association of Privacy Professionals' Illinois regional network for a two-year term. Valdetero will co-chair the IAPP's Illinois KnowledgeNet, which provides local programming and in-person networking opportunities for privacy professional.

➤ Salvi, Schostok, & Pritchard promoted **Nikole K. Messerschmidt**, personal injury and medical malpractice cases, to associate.

➤ The Illinois Supreme Court reappointed **Antonio M. Romanucci** to its Rules Committee. A founding partner and principal at Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, he has served on the committee since 2011. One of 15 committee members, he analyzes and recommends new Supreme Court rules or modifications to existing rules.



From left: Frank Sommario, Joseph Gagliardo, Justice Tom Kilbride, and Antonio Romanucci

➤ Congratulations to President **Anita M. DeCarlo** for opening the DeCarlo Law Group, Ltd., concentrating in Workers Compensation. The DeCarlo Law Group, Ltd., is located at 6525 W. North Avenue, Suite 204, Oak Park, IL 60302. They can be reached by phone, 312-661-0088; fax, 708-575-2388; or e-mail, anita@decarolawgroup.com.



From left: Anita Decarlo, Antonio Romanucci, and Anita's late dad, Vito DeCarlo

➤ **Joe Maddon** is the new manager of the Cubs. Maddon's commitment to the community and his players stems from his roots in Hazleton, where his father, Joe, the son of an Italian immigrant, married Albina, a woman of Polish descent. They raised two sons and a daughter in an apartment above Joe Sr.'s plumbing store.

➤ **Judge Diann Marsalek** was recently named as the Supervising Judge of Traffic Court in the Daley Center. Congratulations Judge Marsalek! (photo right)



➤ Career member **MaryAnn (Iantorno) Hynes** announces that her firm, Dentons, will merge with Dacheng Law Offices of China to create the world's largest law firm. The new firm, to be branded Dacheng Dentons, will have more than 6,500 lawyers in more than 50 countries, overtaking Baker & McKenzie, with nearly 4,300 lawyers, as the world's biggest.

➤ Thank you to **Joe & Toni Garofalo** of Garofalo Family Vineyards for donating the wine at the November 20, 2014 Justinian Society Past Presidents Dinner. For more information on Garofalo Family Vineyards, please visit www.garofalofamilyvineyards.com.

➤ Thank you to **Marguerite Gardens** for their generosity and beautiful flowers at the Installation Dinner.

➤ Sidley Austin elected **Frank J. Favia, Jr.**, complex commercial litigation matters, to partner.

➤ Congratulations to **Cameron R. Monti** on his new position at Howard & Howard, concentrating in taxation, business law and employment law.

➤ Segal, McCambridge, Singer, & Mahoney has hired **Justin DeLuca** as an associate, complex commercial litigation.

➤ On September 17, 2014, the Northern Illinois University College of Law Alumni Council honored many alumni and friends of the school during its annual awards reception at the University Club of Chicago. The event included opening remarks from **Robert W. Fioretti**, a member of the Class of 1978. Honorees included: Alumnus of the Year – **Richard D. Felice**, Class of 1979, Law Offices of Richard D. Felice in Wheaton and president of the Illinois State Bar Association. Outstanding Service Award – **Christian Consentino**, Class of 2000, Nina Consentino, Class of 2002, and Blake Consentino, Class of 2003, The Consentino Law Firm in Chicago, St. Charles, and DeKalb. Public Service Award – **U.S. District Judge James F. Holderman** of the Northern District of Illinois.



Presenting the award were (from left) NIU Law Alumni Council President and ISBA Board member Kenya Jenkins-Wright, NIU College of Law Dean Jennifer Rosato Perea, ISBA President Felice, and NIU Law Alumni Council Awards Committee Chair Stacey Mandell. (Photo courtesy of the ISBA)



From left: Richard Felice with other prominent ISBA leaders: Umberto Davi, John G. Locallo, Paula Hudson Holderman, Felice, and Vincent Cornelius.

➤ Congratulations to folks from our community and our friends in the legal field being honored by the Illinois State Bar Association as "Senior Counselors," celebrating 50 years in the profession. Those honored include: **Arthur Berman, Jerome Cihak, Brian Crowe, David Decker, Daniel Fusco, Michael Hennessy, Albert Hofeld, John Jiganti, Justice Lloyd Karmeier, Joseph Mirabella, Justice S. Louis Rathje, Senator Philip Rock, Rocco Romano, Richard Spicuzza, Hon. Alexander White.**

➤ Locke Lord LLP and Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP have officially merged, creating Locke Lord LLP. Congratulations to partner **Nick J. DiGiovanni** who is a member of the executive committee.

➤ Freeborn & Peters elevated **Robert M. Baratta, Jr.**, environmental law and insurance coverage, to partner.

➤ Romanucci & Blandin promoted **Angela P. Kurtz**, personal injury matters, to associate. M➤ Akerman welcomes partner Christine S. Bautista, litigation, and Michael L. Molinaro, bankruptcy and reorganization matters.

➤ Aronberg, Goldgehn, Davis & Garmisa welcomes associate **Lindsay P. Lollo**, complex insurance matters.

➤ Freeborn & Peters welcomes partner **Daniel F. Lanciloti**, restrictive covenants and trade secrets law.

➤ Hunt Law Group welcomes Of Counsel **Mario R. Cusumano**, transportation, premises liability, construction litigation and insurance coverage.

➤ News about Past President **Anthony J. Fornelli**:

• St. Ignatius College Prep honored one of its star alums by naming its athletic field the Anthony J. Fornelli Field on Oct. 24. A member of the class of 1951, Fornelli has been a longtime benefactor of Saint Ignatius, establishing financial aid endowments and creating the Anthony J. Fornelli '51 Alumni Lounge. The publisher of Fra Noi, founder of Chicago's Festa Italiana

and past national president of UNICO, he is a former director of the Illinois Department of Financial Institutions, chair of the Chicago Plan Commission and commissioner of the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeal.

• Over the past year, a scholarship endowment in the name of Anthony Fornelli was established at St. Ignatius. It has been funded by gifts totaling nearly \$90,000 to date. The fund is dedicated to providing scholarships to underprivileged students and is being matched by the school. Tony's friends at UNICO have been responsible for the major portion of the funds raised.

• Ed McElroy, host of "Community in Focus" TV show, recently interviewed Anthony Fornelli, Publisher of Fra Noi and John Chandler, Vice President of St. Ignatius College Prep. The show aired on December 19th on Can TV, Channel 19.

➤ Congratulations to ISBA Executive Director **Robert Craghead** and his wife, **Fran**, on the arrival of their new grandchild.

➤ Congratulations to **Ruth Ann Schmitt** after a brilliant career as the Executive Director with the Lawyers Trust Fund of Illinois (IOLTA).



Justice Thomas Kilbride & Ruth Ann Schmitt.

➤ Congratulations to **Dean Jennifer Rosato Perea**, the first female Italian-American Dean in the U.S. (at Northern Illinois University Law), who will be leaving NIU Law to become Dean of DePaul Law School, beginning July 1. In her last six years as Dean of NIU Law, she accomplished wonderful things in enhancing the value and excellence in students' legal education. We wish her luck in her new and challenging position.

➤ Congratulations to Cook County Board of Review Commissioner **Michael M. Cabonargi** on his new association with Kroll Associates, Inc.

➤ Congratulations to our pal, career Justinian and community leader, **Sam F. Cannizzaro** joining the firm of Birnbaum, Haddon, Gelfman & Arnoux, LLC. 180 N Lasalle, 60601 (312.863.2800 / s.cannizzaro@bhgafamlaw.com).

➤ 2nd District Appellate **Justice Mary Seminara Schostok** received the Humanitarian Award from the Lake County Bar Association during its' LCBA President's Award Dinner on February 27 in Highland Park, IL. Schostok was honored for her work with the Michael Matters Foundation, which works to increase public knowledge of glioblastoma brain tumors and also provides financial assistance to families dealing with the disease. The foundation honors the memory of her husband, attorney Michael P. Schostok, who passed away in 2012 at the age of 51 from brain cancer.



Justice Seminara Schostok & John Locallo.

➤ Katherine Amari O'Dell, past President of the Justinian Society and President of the Sicilian American Cultural Association, announces that our past President **Judge Gloria Coco** has been voted as the Medal of Merit recipient of SACA and will receive this honor at a brunch on September 27, at Monastero's Restaurant, 3935 W. Devon Ave, Chicago, IL. For ticket information or questions, contact Martha Monastero at belcantojo@aol.com or 773-588-2515.

➤ THE NEXT GENERATION OF JUSTINIAN LAWYERS. Our wonderful Justinian Society is about to see a new wave of legatees into the profession. Starting this summer and fall, the following will begin law school, most if not all, at The John Marshall Law School: the sons of Anthony Erbacci Jr., Joseph Curccio, Tony Cuda and Mike Urgo, the niece of Bruno Tassone and the grandson of the late Angelo Mistretta. We look forward to welcoming them into our membership and our profession.

➤ Anthony Robert Pontillo, III. Born Friday 4/10/15. Parents **Anthony and Maria Pontillo** are very proud! (photo below)



➤ Congratulations to prominent catastrophic injury lawyer **Louis Cairo** as 2015 Man of The Year of the Italian Cultural Center at Casa Italia.

➤ Congratulations to past President **Cristina Mungai** (below) on her marriage to David Scalzitti. The couple resides in Washington DC and was married by the groom's uncle.



Verdicts & Settlements

By: **Michael F. Bonamarte**

➤ Congratulations to **Michael F. Bonamarte**, **John J. Perconti** and **Margaret Battersby-Black** of Levin & Perconti on a \$7.5 million dollar Jones Act Settlement. According to the Jury Verdict Report this Jones Act Settlement is the largest recorded recovery in an Illinois Jones Act case. This result broke the previous record of \$4.5 million for a leg amputation Jones Act case that was also handled by Levin & Perconti.

The Plaintiff, then 37, suffered serious neck and back injuries in an explosion aboard the MV Alejandro in 2009 while it was docked for restoration and repairs in Alton. Edward was in the engine room of the boat when the air tank exploded. He was thrown into the air and landed on his neck. The lawsuit alleged that American Tugs and the unidentified Alton boat company were liable for Perez-Mossetty's injuries under the Jones Act, general maritime law and common law negligence.

The lawsuit alleged that the air accumulator tank that exploded aboard the Alejandro was being operated without a pressure relief valve or a working drain valve on the day of the explosion. Investigations by the Coast Guard, OSHA and the Illinois Boiler Inspector revealed that the tank was being operated without a working pressure relief valve and had thinned and pitted due to rusting caused by water accumulation. These agencies later cited the Defendant American

Tugs. The suit further alleged that the faulty tank was installed in the Alejandro several years prior to the accident, providing the Defendants with ample notice and opportunity to place pressure relief and drain valves.

The regulatory agencies also found that on the day of the accident, employees were operating the tank on manual because the compressor kept shutting off. When running on automatic, the compressor would shut off at a certain pressure to avoid overloading the tank with compressed air. However on manual, pressure was allowed to build-up with no relief and eventually exploded, similar to blowing up a balloon until it pops.

➤ Congratulations to **Stephen D. Phillips** and **Jill Webb** of Phillips Law Offices on a \$25 million dollar jury verdict in an Indiana trucking accident wrongful death case. In 2010, Philip Amsden was fixing a semitrailer's flat tire along the shoulder of Interstate 65 when the back of his service truck was struck by Jeffery Cleary. Amsden was pinned between his own vehicle and the semitrailer. He died before paramedics arrived. In Lake County Superior Court, Amsden's widow, Patricia, sued Cleary, the business he owned and the two nearby restaurants that allegedly served him alcohol that day. It was alleged that Cleary spent more than 11 hours at the two restaurants and that his tested blood-alcohol content measured 0.19 two hours after the crash. The legal intoxication limit in Indiana is the same as Illinois, .08. The counts against the restaurants came under Indiana's dram shop laws which, like Illinois' law, imposes liability on restaurants or bars for the actions of their patrons if those customers were visibly intoxicated and the bar knew. Unlike Illinois, there are no set limits for dram-shop damages in Indiana. Cleary spent about two more hours at a second bar, Country Lounge in Hobart, Ind. The crash site was only a 45-second drive from the bar. A jury trial in Lake County Superior Court before Judge Bruce D. Parent began Feb. 9. Cleary admitted negligence before the trial but then claimed at trial that the bars were at fault for overserving him. The jury awarded \$25 million to Amsden. Indiana juries are instructed to reach general verdicts and do not itemize individual damages. But the jury then divides up the total award payments among the defendants based on their proportion of liability. The jury found Cleary, at 40 percent fault, liable for \$10 million, and his business, Maintenance Dynamics Inc., 10 percent at fault, liable for \$2.5 million. Data from the Indiana Department of Correction indicates Cleary was convicted in September 2012 of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, causing death. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison. Chulas LLC, which operated the Country Lounge bar, was found 30 percent liable and assessed \$7.5 million. Giovanni's Inc., which runs the other restaurant, was found liable for \$5 million.

Finally, Stephen recently resolved a case involving a misfiled prescription for a 3 year old child who ended up with a 2 month hospitalization from the misfill. This case settled for \$925,000.

➤ Congratulations to **Frank Marino** of Marino & Simonetti on an \$850,000.00 settlement in a medical malpractice case against an orthopedist for failing to diagnose a child's slipped capital femoral epiphysis when he presented following a fall. It was alleged that the delay in diagnosis caused the condition to become unstable, necessitating 3 surgeries.

➤ Congratulations to **Mark Rigazio** of Rigazio Law Office on a \$1.3 million dollar jury verdict in Grundy County, Illinois in an automobile accident that occurred on Route 6 in Morris. The plaintiff was driving westbound and the northbound defendant failed to yield when making a left turn. The Plaintiff suffered spinal damage that necessitated a multi-level fusion.

➤ Congratulations to **Jennifer L. Ashley** of Salvi, Schostok, & Pritchard on a \$450,000 settlement in a personal injury case. The plaintiff, driving his parents' tractor, was sideswiped by the defendant's semi-truck which tried to pass on the left as the plaintiff began to left-turn. Plaintiff was ejected and suffered fractures of his leg and clavicle, plus a concussion – but made a full recovery.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph A. Bosco** and **Brian R. Kusper** of LaRose & Bosco on a \$490,000 settlement in a personal injury case. Allegedly, defendant maintenance company left a wet spot on the marble floor in the Macy's store in Oak Brook. Plaintiff employee slipped/fell as she was entering the store to begin her shift, aggravating a preexisting spinal condition and necessitating surgery. She also injured her right foot.

➤ Congratulations to **Thomas M. Fabiano** of Fabiano Law Offices on a \$26,571 jury verdict in a personal injury case. The plaintiff, a senior citizen, sustained a non-displaced cervical fracture during a rear-end collision in Rockford, and later developed vertigo which necessitated hospitalization. Defense conceded the cervical fracture, but insisted that the vertigo was not accident-related.

➤ Congratulations to **Anthony M. Pinto** and **Elizabeth C. Christen** of Donohue, Brown, Mathewson & Smyth on a not guilty verdict in a medical malpractice case. The plaintiff claimed that the defendant, a doctor, improperly positioned the knee prosthesis during replacement surgery, resulting in post-op knee pain and stiffness that necessitated revision. The defense denied negligence and breach of the standard of care, and insisted that the plaintiff's complaints stemmed from neuropathic pain rather than mechanical issues.

➤ Congratulations to **Mitchell B. Friedman** of Morici, Figlioli & Associates on a recently obtained a \$1.2 million settlement for an office worker who was injured when a waterlogged ceiling tile fell on her head and arm.

➤ Congratulations to **James J. Morici, Jr.** and **Mitchell B. Friedman** of Morici, Figlioli & Associates on obtaining a \$2.7 million settlement that included waiver of a nearly \$903,000 workers compensation lien for an ironworker who was injured when he fell due to a patch of ice on the working deck of a building being constructed.

Congratulations to James J. Morici, Jr. and Mitchell B. Friedman of Morici, Figlioli & Associates who recently obtained a \$1.775 million settlement and waiver of a workers compensation lien in excess of \$716,000 for a laborer who was injured in the course of cutting concrete.

➤ Congratulations to Patrick A. Salvi, Patrick A. Salvi, II, and Brian L. Salvi of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard on obtaining a \$14 million settlement for a 47 year old Lombard woman who sustained spinal injuries when her car collided with a semi-trailer.

Obituaries

† Judge Ronald J.P. Banks

Career Justinian and prominent Cook County judge, Ronald J.P. Banks, died on New Year's Day. Mr. Banks, who died from heart complications at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park, was 76.

† Le Roy O. Bulleri

We regret to inform you that Le Roy O. Bulleri passed away at the age of 73. He was the beloved husband of Patricia, and dear father of Roy (Maureen).

† Andrea Carponelli

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Andrea Carponelli, age 67. She was the dear mother of Ross Carponelli and loving wife of the late Steve Carponelli, both Justinians.

† Marie "Cookie" D'Amico

We regret to inform you of the passing of Marie D'Amico, age 73. She was the loving sister of Alderman Margaret Laurino, sister-in-law to Committeeman Randy Barnette, and dear mother of Alderman John D'Amico.

† Dr. James T. Drylie, II

With great sadness, we inform you of the death of Dr. James T. Drylie, II, the father of friend of the Justinian Society and John Marshall Law School Trustee Christine Castellano.

† Thomas J. Durkin

With great sadness, we report the passing of Thomas J. Durkin, age 84, the father of the Honorable Thomas Durkin. He was a Trustee of The John Marshall Law School and Fenwick High School.

† Sal Ferrara

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Sal Ferrara, longtime head of Ferrara Candy Company.

† Justice Michael R. Galasso

We regret to inform you of the passing of 2nd Appellate Court Justice Michael R. Galasso (retired). He was a distinguished DuPage County Judge, and an appellate court judge until 1999, currently he was a partner at the law firm of Schiller, DuCanto & Fleck.

† Antone Gregorio

Past Justinian President Antone "Greg" Gregorio passed away peacefully on April 12. He was a WWII Veteran, Chicago-Kent College of Law graduate, lead prosecutor for the Cook County State's Attorney Office and founded Gregorio & Associates.

† Gene Guetzw

We regret to inform you of the passing of Gene Guetzw, loving father of our friend Scott Guetzw. He is the very beloved husband of Ruth, loving father to Scott (Alissa), Gene and Laurie, and devoted grandfather of Savannah, Ryan, Cody, Ava and great "Papa" of Sophia.

† Norman LaBrasca

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Norman LaBrasca, age 84, brother of Jack La Brasca. Beloved husband of Gloria LaBrasca, nee Verdick for 58 years. Devoted father of Norman Jr. (Debra). Cherished grandfather of Christopher, Eric & Breanne. Loving brother of Jack (Frances) LaBrasca and Tony (Linda) LaBrasca. Dear uncle of many nieces and nephews. Born in Chicago, November 20, 1930 to the late Anthony and Frances LaBrasca, Norman passed away January 10, 2015 at his home. Norman worked for Motorola for over 40 years and then worked for Corporate Disk for 17 years until his retirement. He also volunteered for the Mended Hearts of Alexian Brothers for 23 years and volunteered for the Parents Association for Loyola University (PALS).

† Thomas J. Leahy

With overwhelming sadness, we announce the death of Tom Leahy, 62, of Chicago. Tom passed Saturday, August 23, 2014 after a short and valiant struggle with cancer. Beloved husband of Gaile and loving father of Taylor Susan, a law student at Loyola University Chicago.

† Edward A. Matuga, Sr.

We regret to inform you of the passing of Edward A. Matuga, Sr., age 93. He was a longtime resident and attorney in Westchester. He was the beloved husband of the late Pearl, loving father of Edward A. M.D. (Joan) Matuga, Janice (Thomas) O'Hara, Rita (Thomas) Ahearn and the late Michael.

† Michael A. Meschino

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Michael A. Meschino, who passed away at the young age of 60. An attorney for more than 30 years, Michael practiced at the Law Offices of Michael A. Meschino in Palatine. Michael was the President of the NWSBA from 2013-2014. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Kelly (nee Barth) and children Alyssa, Victoria, Anthony and Alexis.

† Thomas F. Monico

Our sympathies are extended to the family of **Thomas F. Monico**. He was the beloved husband of Linda and loving father of T.J. and Laura and brother of past President Michael Monico.

† Mary Orticelli

We regret to inform you of the passing of Mary Orticelli, beloved mother of Sam Orticelli. She was 88 years old.

† Samuel Pietrini

With great sadness, we inform you of the passing of Samuel Pietrini, the father of past Casa Italia Chairman, Dr. Dennis Pietrini. He was 93 years old.

† Olimpia Pisterzi

We regret to inform you of the passing of Olimpia Pisterzi, mother-in-law of our friend, Thomas Benigno, Assistant Secretary of State.

† Hanna Schade

Our deepest sympathies to friend of the Justinian Society, Rudolf G. Schade, upon the passing of his mother, Hanna. She was 100 years old.

† Nicoletta "Nickie" Tornatore

We regret to inform you of the passing of Nicky Tornatore, mother of past President and DuPage County Board Member, Sam Tornatore, and his brothers, Steve and Pete. She is also the aunt of Nina Vidmer and great aunt of Vince Vidmer, treasurer.

† Guerino "Jake" Turano

With great sadness, we inform you of the passing of Guerino "Jake" Turano, retired Vice President and General Counsel of Chicago Title Insurance Company. He passed at the golden age of 85.

† Emilio Venuti

We regret to inform you of the passing of Emilio Venuti, member of Casa Italia and career Justinian.

† Teresa Zamparo

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Teresa Zamparo. Teresa is the mother of Justinian and JMLS Board of Trustees member, Roger Zamparo.

**Justinian Society
GOLF OUTING
June 3
Bloomingdale Golf Club
Register Online or
Become a Sponsor!
www.justinians.org**

Justinian Society of Lawyers

Golf Outing

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Bloomingtondale Golf Club

(181 Glen Ellyn Rd., Bloomingtondale)

2015 President Jessica DePinto

Committee Co-Chairs:

Sam Tornatore & Vince Vidmer

Richard Caldarazzo & Franco Coladipietro

Golf & Dinner \$150 Per Person - \$600 Per Foursome

Dinner Only - \$ 50 Per Person

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- ⌘ 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!

**Registration starts at 10:00 AM; Lunch to follow — Shotgun start at 11 AM sharp!
Cocktails at 4:30 PM — Dinner at 5:30 PM — Raffle and prizes following.**

Name: _____

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Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-Mail _____

No. Golf & Dinner Tickets: _____ No. Dinner Only Tickets: _____

Names of players (if available):

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

Enclosed is my check in amount of \$ _____

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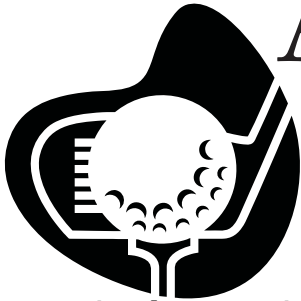
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Annual Golf Outing

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Bloomingtondale Golf Club

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PLATINUM CLUB - \$500

- Lunch
- Single Hole Sign
- Hole in One

GOLD CLUB - \$300

- Beverage Cart
- Fruit Cart
- Registration Table
- SOLD Cigar Cart
- Players Cart

SILVER CLUB - \$250

- Par 3 Volunteer Cart
- Bag Drop

BRONZE CLUB - \$150

Multiple Hole Sign

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Yes, I would like to **Volunteer** the day of the outing!

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Yes, I would like to **DONATE** a Raffle Prize!
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