President's Message

As we approach the 90th anniversary of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, I believe it is appropriate that we, as a Society, take a moment to reflect upon our beginnings as we plan for our future. For this reason, the theme of my presidency will be “Celebrating and Remembering our Justinian Heritage.”

The founding members of our Society were described by Horatio Tocco as “immigrants and sons of immigrants who came here from the old continent with visions and not illusions.” They were, as Mr. Tocco described them, the believing generation. It is from the vision and beliefs of each of these founding members that an organization of 30 Italian lawyers has grown to become one of the largest and oldest ethnic bar associations in the country.

While the demographics and size of the Society have changed over the years, the beliefs at its core remain the same. Like our immigrant founders, we hold firm to the belief that America is a land of opportunity and that lawyers of Italian American descent should join together not only to celebrate each other’s accomplishments but also to help one another achieve our personal goals and dreams.

Yet, in order to meet the challenges of the future in an ever changing America, it is our vision of the future of the Justinian Society that must expand and grow. The question of how we as a Society will move forward into the future is not one that I or any individual can answer, but rather, it is a journey that we as a Society must embark on together. In order to help guide this journey into the future, I will propose an amendment to the Society bylaws to create a Past Presidents’ Counsel to act a moral compass for the Executive Committee to ensure that policies enacted for the future of the Society remain true to the Society’s core values.

Anyone who has worked within the Justinian Society knows that our past presidents are not only the custodians of our traditions, but the visionaries of the Society’s future. It is for this reason that I have chosen to honor, Richard B. Caifano and Antonio M. Romanucci, two of the Society’s notable past presidents at our Annual Installation Dinner.

Richard B. Caifano will receive the Award of Excellence. Richard is a co-founder of the National Italian American Bar Association (NIABA) and was instrumental in the creation of the Italian American Political Coalition. Richard has been an active member of Unico, a service organization of Italian-Americans established in 1922 to “engage in charitable works, support higher education and perform patriotic deeds” since 1983. He has been a mentor, friend and role model to me and many other Justinian Society members for many years. Richard is the embodiment of all the wonderful attributes that have made the Justinian Society of Lawyers one of the leading ethnic bar associations in the country.

Antonio M. Romanucci will receive the Moses W. Harrison Award. This award is given to an individual who has proven leadership and has improved the condition and image of Italian Americans. True to the spirit of the award, as president of the Justinian Society, Antonio founded the Justinian Society Children’s Endowment Fund. This year, in order to show his continued dedication to the Society and its good works, Antonio has made a combined personal donation of $40,000.00 to

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Cristina Mungai will serve as the 89th president. Cristina is a Chicago attorney whose legal knowledge and experience include the areas of general civil litigation, insurance defense and tort law. Cristina graduated from Loyola University in 1991 with bachelor’s degrees in political science, Italian language and literature and English literature. In 1992, she completed a year of graduate studies in art history and Italian literature at the Università degli Studi di Firenze in Florence, Italy. Cristina is a dual citizen of the United States and Italy and speaks fluent Italian.

Cristina received her J.D. from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1996 and was admitted to practice in Illinois that same year. She began her career at the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel’s Office in the Law Department, Municipal Prosecution Division. As a prosecutor, Cristina represented the city of Chicago in traffic fatality cases and in matters involving administrative appeals. Cristina became involved in civil litigation through her employment with the law firm of Ronald Gonsky, Ltd. She continued her work in this area at Morici, Figlioli & Associates, where she acted as both first and second chair trial attorney representing plaintiffs in personal injury matters. Cristina is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, serving her fourth elected term as a member of the ISBA General Assembly. She began her membership with the Justinian Society in 1995 as a first year law student. Cristina was the president of Chicago-Kent’s law school chapter in 1995-1996 and was a recipient of the John G. Phillips Scholarship Award. She served as chair of the Society Law Student Committee from 1999 to 2006 and is a contributor to the Justinian Society Newsletter.

Katherine Amari O’Dell is a senior associate with The Law Offices of Amari & Locallo with a practice confined exclusively to handling real estate tax assessment and related matters for commercial, industrial and multi-unit residential property owners in Illinois and on a national basis.

Katherine graduated from The John Marshall Law School in 2000 and is the immediate Past President of the John Marshall Law School Alumni Association. The Alumni Association also awarded her The Distinguished Service Award in May of 2006.

Katherine began her career at the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office in the real estate tax department of the Civil Division. She defended cases for the Cook County Treasurer’s Office, the Cook County Clerk’s Office, the Cook County Board of Review and the Cook County Assessor’s Office, including Specific Objection lawsuits, Property Tax Appeal Board cases, Indemnity lawsuits as well as tax sale and tax deed matters.

Katherine is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, serving her second elected term as a member of the ISBA General Assembly. Katherine began her membership with the Justinian Society of Lawyers in 2001, as a second year law student. She is the associate editor of the Society newsletter.

In 2007, Katherine was selected by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company as one of “40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch.” Katherine is married to Jason E. O’Dell; they live in Chicago and are proud parents of Jason Jr., age 3.

Gregg A. Garofalo is a Chicago attorney focusing his practice areas on probate, estate planning, and real estate. In addition, Gregg is a court appointed guardian ad litem by the Circuit Court of Cook County, not only in the probate area, but other divisions including domestic relations division and law division.

Gregg is an active member of the legal community where he is serving or has served in several leadership roles within the Illinois Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. Gregg has served as the as the chair for two terms of the Chicago Bar Association’s Probate Practice Committee. He is also a past chair of the Illinois State Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division, he is a member of the Estates & Trusts Section Council, and he is in his fourth term as a member of the ISBA Assembly. Gregg serves as a member of the Illinois State Bar Association’s mentor program and he is a speaker in the area of probate and trusts and estates.

In addition to his passion for law, Gregg works with professional and civic organizations. Gregg has worked with the Children’s Assistance Fund and the Illinois Bar Foundation chairing their annual holiday party which has grossed over $150,000 since it’s inception. Recently, Gregg is a past board liaison to the Illinois Bar Foundation, Committee member at the WBAI.

Gregg’s family resides in the South Suburbs with his older brother Jim and younger brother Jason owning and operating the family business which is the Egg and I Restaurants. Gregg has two nephews, four nieces and a six year old little brother which he enjoys spending time.
Judge Robert W. Bertucci graduated from Lake Forest College in 1979, and received his law degree with high honors from Chicago-Kent College of Law in 1983.

After passing the bar, Judge Bertucci joined the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, where he ultimately served as a first chair in a felony trial courtroom at the Criminal Courts Building. He later transferred to the Medical Malpractice Division in the Civil Actions Bureau. In 1992, he joined the firm now known as Serpico, Petrosino and DiPiero, where he mainly handled criminal defense matters.

Judge Bertucci was elected to the bench in 1992. He was initially assigned to the First Municipal District and handled both criminal and civil cases. He later served as the Supervising Judge of the Evening Narcotics Division at the Criminal Courts Building and then as a felony trial judge in the day division. Since 2000, he has served in the County Division where he is the Assignment Judge for tax deed cases and handles election, mental health, and property tax cases.

Judge Bertucci is a member of the Illinois Judges Association and has served for many years on its Board of Directors. He has also served on the election law committee of the Chicago Bar Association and currently serves on the executive committee of the Justinian Society of Lawyers. Before joining the bench, he served as the president of a Chicago Park District Advisory Council. He is also a past president of the Elmwood Park Planning Commission.

Judge Bertucci has been married to Terese, a nurse practitioner and diabetic educator, since 1979. They live in Chicago and have two sons: Christopher is a senior at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, and Michael is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Anita M. DeCarlo is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and received her Juris Doctorate from The John Marshall Law School. She has lectured and published articles for the Illinois State Bar Association and the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education.


She served on the Board for Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association and acted as the liaison to the Workers’ Compensation Section Council and Employee Benefits Section.

She has served on the Executive Committee of the Justinian Society of Lawyers since 2002 and is currently serving as the Treasurer. In addition, she was recently elected the 3rd Vice President of the John Marshall Law School Alumni Association.

In 2008, she was named an Illinois Rising Star by Super Lawyers and received a Distinguished Service Award from The John Marshall Law School.

Jessica DePinto is the founder and president of innerTrack strategies, inc., a consulting firm specializing in corporate learning strategies. Jessica studied International and Comparative Law at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law. She holds an MA in Italian Language and Literature from Indiana University. She studied Letters & Philosophy at the University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

For several years, Jessica practiced international trade regulation with Dykema, PLLC (formerly Dykema Gossett) and with the Chicago-based firm of Hodes Keating & Pilon. Jessica served as chair of practice committees for both the Chicago and Illinois State Bar Associations. Jessica has taught languages at Indiana University, Bloomington and has lectured on international trade compliance to U.S., Japanese, and Italian audiences. In 2009 Jessica and her partners formed Illinois Pre-Law Forum, LLC which helps undergraduates and non-traditional students navigate the choices relative to a legal education and a career in law.

In addition to her involvement with the Justinian Society of Lawyers, Jessica happily serves on the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Academy for the Arts, a John F. Kennedy Center National School of Distinction in arts education. She is a member of the Women in Leadership Advisory Board, The School of Continuing and Professional Studies, Loyola University Chicago. Jessica also serves on the faculty of Loyola’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies.

Jessica lives in Chicago with her husband, Roberto Morrone.
By: Jessica DePinto

Every society has its greatest generation. Richard Caifano is the embodiment of ours. In The Greatest Generation, Tom Brokaw characterized a generation of individuals who just did it and did it quietly. Many members would agree that Brokaw’s assessment applies equally to Richard.

Congratulations to President Mungai upon her selection of our beloved and senior member, Richard Caifano, to receive the prestigious Justinian Award of Excellence. The award captures Richard’s achievements as a professional, civic leader and father.

A graduate of St. Ignatius High School, Richard earned his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Marquette University and his Juris Doctorate degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Richard’s family is from the Basilicata region of Southern Italy.

Richard has been engaged in the practice of law as a sole practitioner since 1966. For over forty years, he has represented small businesses in transactional work, real estate and property acquisitions, business organization/merger as well as in litigation involving contract disputes and construction-related matters. In 2008 he was appointed to a term on the Illinois State Bar Association’s Real Estate Law Section Council.

True to his Jesuit education (Ignatius and Marquette), Richard is also an educator. He was a trial instructor at both the John Marshall Law School in Chicago and the National College of Criminal Defense Attorneys and Public Defenders in Houston. Since 1968, when he first became a member of the Justinian Society, Richard has embraced the society’s mission of mentoring Italian-American lawyers in the community.

President’s Message, continued from page 1

the Justinian Society Scholarship Fund and Children’s Endowment Fund. The contribution will not only help to enrich the lives of children in unprivileged communities but will also help Italian American law students achieve their dreams of becoming practicing attorneys.

It is my pleasure and honor to recognize both Richard and Antonio because they are wonderful examples of the visionary spirit and values exhibited by the Society’s founders.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those pillars of the Society who believed enough in me to include me in their vision of the Society’s future. First and foremost of these is my dear friend, mentor and personal advocate, Lisa Marino, who nominated me to be the Society’s secretary during her term as president in 2005. Also, among the many Justinians who have become my friends and mentors, I would like to thank Leonard Amari, Judge Gloria Coco, Jim Morici, Sam Tornatore, Richard Caldarazzo, John Locallo, Richard Caifano, Antonio Romanucci, Franco Coladipietro, Leonard DeFranco, Katherine Amari O’Dell and Jessica DePinto.

The Honorable Judge Gerald L. Shabboro, in 1967 while introducing Victor J. Cacciatore as the Society’s new president, described the Justinian Society as “…an organization steeped in tradition and principles but, hopefully, young enough to fight vigorously for the translation of [its] ideals and dreams into reality”. In the 43 years that have passed since Judge Shabboro made these remarks, the Justinian Society remains young at heart. It is with this youthful zeal that I hope to work with each of you now and in the future to make the Society’s dreams into reality.

- Cristina Mungai
President

Help Wanted!

We always have a number of resumes of young lawyers and law students at local law schools seeking law clerk positions.

There are also individuals looking for secretarial or assistant positions in a law firm setting, most with previous experience in a law office.

Please contact the Editor, Leonard F. Amari if you are interested at lfa@amari-locallo.com or #312-255-8550.
Antonio M. Romanucci
Harrison Award Recipient

By: Jessica DePinto

The Moses W. Harrison Award is awarded to an individual who has proven leadership and has improved the condition and image of Italian Americans. To appreciate the magnitude of the award, one must underscore the accomplishments of the man for whom it is named. Justice Harrison, a highly respected member of the Justinian Society, served on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1999 until 2002. Under Justice Harrison’s tenure, the Court was recognized for advancing the rule of law among practitioners and the judiciary. The Court encouraged lawyers to give more time representing the indigent and needy and adopted ground-breaking rules to help ensure and improve the fair administration of justice in capital cases.

Justinian Society president Cristina Mungai has selected Antonio M. (Tony) Romanucci as the 2010 recipient of the Justice Moses W. Harrison Award of Recognition. Members of the Justinian Society have come to know Tony as a charismatic, articulate and caring leader. Fellow members describe Tony as a credit to our ethnic and legal communities and as a visionary. He founded the Justinian Society Children’s Endowment Fund.

Tony is generous with his time and talents. He helped found and served for many years as board president of the Midwest Brain Injury Clubhouse, providing guidance and leadership to help the organization grow. He is a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and fundraiser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

For his efforts, Tony has won several awards, including a Citizens Bravery Award from the Chicago Police Department, the Italo American National Union Foundation’s David Award for Excellence in the Profession of Law, and the Constitutional Rights Foundation’s Lawyer of the Year Award. He will receive an “Excellence in Leadership Award” from the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court on October 21, 2010.

Professionally, Tony is a frequent lecturer and panelist across the country on catastrophic injury and the rights of victims. Antonio co-founded the personal injury law firm of Romanucci & Blandin, L.L.C. He has successfully tried numerous civil jury trials and has handled arbitrations and compensation claims, obtaining over $150 million in recoveries for his clients. He is considered one of the top lawyers in Illinois and has frequently been included on the Top 100 Illinois Super Lawyers® list.

Tony understands the importance of civic engagement. He is a graduate of The John Marshall Law School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A credit to his almae matres, Tony defines community in terms that both derive from and extend beyond his Italian American roots. He works tirelessly as a member of numerous professional and civic organizations. He brings his passion for the law and dedication to Giant Steps, Adopt-A-Veteran, Public Justice, Joint Civic Committee of Italian-Americans, National Italian-American Foundation, American Bar Association, Workers Compensation Lawyer’s Association, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, Northwest Suburban Bar Association, Illinois State and Chicago Bar associations. He is a governor of the American Association for Justice and serves as Vice Chair of its Motor Vehicles and Premises Litigation Group.

In 2005 past president Lisa Marino presented the first Moses W. Harrison award to representative Angelo “Skip” Saviano. Representatives include esteemed Italian American, Anthony J. Fornelli. Tony rightfully assumes his place among prominent individuals whose leadership advances the image of Italian Americans outside of our community.

Antonio Romanucci

Letters to the Editor

By: Katherine Amari O’Dell

Dear Len,
You’re an angel and my heart is swelling with joy to see my parents smiling. You know they’re smiling down with affection for you!!
- Mary Ann Hynes

Mary Ann Hynes, left, with President Cristina Mungai and President Elect Katherine Amari O’Dell

Leonard,
I’m sure have other things on your mind, but I wanted to let you know that the sausage making article was just great. My Grandpa had a small Italian grocery store for awhile when I was about nine years old. He made his own sausage there, we still have the grinder. It was the best, and you reminded me of my times spent sitting in the store watching him.

The article about MaryAnn terrific. Being from San Fili and having many family members marry someone from Rende, was too coincidental. Her parents’ dedication was awe inspiring.

The picture of you and Katherine in your mutual graduation garb - priceless!
Oh and PS: thank you the beautiful article you wrote about the Spirit of John Marshall Award.
And thank you again for the award.
- Cheryl Cesario
May Report:

By: Jessica DePinto

Change is everywhere: new decade, changes in the profession, our economy and our world. But, as members of the Justinian Society, amidst all this change we can rely on a few constants: sharing a warm spring evening with friends and colleagues, a smooth transition of officers and a great meal at Gibson’s.

On May 20, Past President John Storino graciously passed the gavel to current society President Cristina Mungai. The new officers were welcomed into the Justinian Society in the company of past presidents: Tony Fornelli, Richard Caldarazzo, Bruno Tassone, Joe Bisceglia, Gloria Coco, Jim Morici, John Sciaccotta, Lisa Marino, Celia Gamrath and Mauro Glorioso.

The meeting was also truly a family affair. President Mungai was joined by her mother, Rita, her sister, Lucia and her brother Paul. First Vice President Katherine Amari O’Dell was joined by mother, Donna and dad, Leonard. Members Lucian and Tom Panicci were both accompanied by their daughters. Judge Frank Castiglione attended the meeting with his son. Justinian and John Marshall alumna Mary Ann Iantorno Hynes was joined by her husband Jim Hynes and son Nick (both John Marshall grads).

If change is the law of life then sharing present moments in the company of good friends is one of life’s enduring principles. Thanks to long-standing Justinians and friends such as: Rich Pellegino, Tom Battista, Mayor Peter Silvestri, John DeMoss, Vince Petrosino, Nina Albano Vidmer, Roberto Morrone, and Justice Nathaniel Howse, Jr. for giving their time and spirit of camaraderie to the society. As an organization nearing its ninth decade, we gratefully have such moments in abundance.
**Annual Golf Report:**

By: Katherine Amari O’Dell

We had a beautiful day golfing on Monday, June 7th, sunny and not too hot. Our annual Justinian Society Golf outing was held at the Bloomingdale Golf Club again. We really appreciate the Bloomingdale Golf Club accommodating us year after year. They are wonderful hosts and always make our members feel very welcome. Because the club takes great pride in its challenging course with outstanding amenities within a country club setting, our golfers enjoy themselves on such a beautiful course.

This year was another success, with the help of our golf committee, which consisted of Sam Tornatore, Richard Caldarazzo, Franco Coladipietro, Vince Vidmer, Lou Siracusano, Secretary Jessica DePinto and of course, President Cristina Mungai.

We had 14 foursomes golfing at our event, including, among others, past presidents: Honorable Bruno Tassone, Michael Monico, James Morici, and Joe Biscoglia. Our Second Vice President Gregg Garofalo arranged for a foursome, including his brother, Jason. Gregg’s group was the low score winners of the day.

We give thanks to all of our law student volunteers and Jim Morici’s niece, Jenna, for helping out at the registration table and at various holes. We also thank all of our generous sponsors who made donations to specific holes as well as sponsoring the food. We would be remiss if we failed to mention that our Chair Sam Tornatore donated the cigars. President Mungai and Secretary DePinto drove the cigar cart throughout the day passing out two different kinds of cigars. Nina Albano Vidmer also drove around the fruit cart distributing various kinds donated by Amari & Locallo.

Once the golfing concluded, we assembled into the clubhouse to eat dinner and raffle off our prizes. The highlight of the Bloomingdale Golf dinner is its delicious and impressive pig roast. Maxx, son of Past President Lisa Marino, was the most excited to eat the pork directly from the carved pig. Thanks to Sam Tornatore and his committee members, we raffled off great prizes including the I-Pod Nano, a set of golf clubs donated by Richard Caldarazzo, a one-night stay at the Palmer House and other baskets, shirts, etc. We want to extend a big thank you to the Palmer House for donating a one-night stay at its hotel and for accommodating us year after year for our Installation dinner in September.

Maxx Marino checks out the menu.

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**Mentoring Program:**

By: Vincent R. Vidmer

Admission to post-graduate schooling has become increasingly more competitive throughout the years. The competitive nature of this process for some has meant curtailment of their dreams of achieving a life-long dreams of becoming doctors, lawyers and the like.

Application to Law Schools has especially been on the rise in the past years. Consequently, law schools are selecting from an admission pool that harbors higher GPA’s and higher LSAT scores. One could believe that this increase in competition would deliver better law students who are better equipped, more prepared and will consequently make for better attorneys, however, a high LSAT score is not necessarily a direct path to being a good law student such as a high GPA does not always guarantee an individual being a gifted attorney.

Leonard F. Amari, President of the John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees, past Justinian President, and past ISBA President has recognized that standardized testing does not always give a clear indication of an individual’s ability to be a first-rate student or gifted attorney for that matter. Furthermore, he has been determined, for years now, to assist students attain their dreams through admission to law schools.

A few times a year, Mr. Amari will compile a group of students (mostly seniors in college) who desire to gain admission with the aid of his able Administrative Assistant Diana Bosnjak to law school. Some have taken the Law School Admission Test (“LSAT”), others are seeking advice on LSAT preparation. Some have lawyers in their families, while others have had little interaction with the legal world. Regardless of the students’ experience level, the Justinian Mentoring Program transforms these young students into mentees and helps prepare them for the obstacles and challenges of law school admission and challenges involved in navigating the law school waters. Through the years, this simple, almost informal, program has assimilated hundreds of young students into law schools and onward to admission to the state Bar.

Many of these young mentees were on the cusp of being admitted to law school, however through relationships founded in its Justinian Society Mentoring program and personal relationships, these students were able to achieve their dreams.
of being admitted to law school. Even more impressive, are some of the program’s students who excelled so much so that they graduated at the top of their class, became editors of their school’s law review and enjoyed academic scholarships.

Mr. Amari’s compassion for hard-working students and personal appreciation for tenacious young men and women made him an easy choice for Justinians, as well as friends and family to request counsel. Mr. Amari, as a favor to friends and family, began counseling aspiring law students. Many of these young want-to-be admittees were on the “cusp” due to lack-luster performance on their LSAT score. Through the counsel of Mr. Amari, and in time, some of his experienced mentors, the program has helped students gain law school access through whatever means deemed necessary. From letters of recommendation, retaking of an LSAT, through John Marshall’s scales program, or admission to an out of state filter school and then transferring after a semester or two, Mr. Amari’s mentoring program has delivered real results to students who have dreamt of attending law school.

The Justinian law school Mentoring Program has been evolving and growing in numbers since its informal beginning in the mid 90’s. The program thrives on the cyclical relationship of the mentor-mentee cooperation. The quid pro quo involved in the mentoring program is this; after someone older has helped guide you through the beginning stages of law school, make yourself available to do the same for someone younger than you. This lesson in posterity has worked wonderfully and has created and cultivated personal relationships between students and now attorneys. One of Mr. Amari’s favorite adages is, “A relationship worth having is a relationship worth keeping.” In many ways, this expression encapsulates the magic behind the success of this mentoring program.

The program has become its own networking group, as young students become young attorneys and utilize these contacts in getting jobs as well as toward bettering their practice. The law profession thrives on mentorship, and the Justinian Mentoring Program has instilled this thinking in many young students.

Law School Updates:

By: Michael Pisano

4TH ANNUAL MEATBALL MADNESS
Every year the John Marshall Justinian Meatball Madness event improves, both in attendance and quality of meatballs. This year’s event included 14 competitors who sought to have their meatballs voted number one by a group of judges who really know meatballs: the Justinian attorneys. In addition to the approximately 500 meatballs, the event included food donated from Paul’s Pizza in Westchester. Joining us to judge the best meatballs and sauce were President Christina Mangai, Gregg Garofallo, Ron Rascia, Gabe Caparale, Vince Vidmer, Gina Rossi, and many more. On behalf of the John Marshall Justinian Chapter I would like to think those Justinians who came out to eat some meatballs and sip some vino and limoncello.

The judges voted and Lisa Perna took first place, followed by Lauren Davalle, and Christina Ranallo. Along with second place meatball, Lauren Davelle also won best sauce. I have asked each one of them for their recipe to provide to the readers, but each refused to provide their secrets.

SUMMER FOR LAW STUDENTS:
Even though school was out, many Justinian law students spent their time taking classes or working. Anthony Casaccio spent the summer at Amari & Locallo and has begun writing a restaurant review for Fra Noi. Melissa Taormina worked with fellow Justinian Scott Carfello at FINRA in Dispute Resolution. Christina Ranallo learned estate planning and corporate real estate transaction while working at the Law office of Diane J. Blair in Villa Park. I spent my summer as a summer associate with Swanson, Martin & Bell. Many Justinians, such as Ron Richio, Andi Crivolio, Jeannie LaBarbara, Anthony Gattuso, and Gina Colaluca spent their summer with the Cook County States Attorney’s office either learning the ropes or putting their 711 license to good use. Congratulations to everyone for finding jobs and thank you to any Justinian’s who hired a Justinian student for the summer.

JUSTINIAN MENTORING GROUP
The Justinian Mentoring Group continues to grow in size and success. With the help of the mentoring group, eight students passed the John Marshall Scales program and began their first year of law school in the fall. The mentoring group has a total of 20 newly admitted students who are working together with 2Ls and 3Ls to make their first year a success.

The group continues to grow in size due to its ability to produce successful law students. For example, Anthony Ingraffia has joined the long list of students in the mentoring group who have performed in the top 15% of students during the 1st semester of law school and was awarded the $12,000 Herzog Scholarship. Also, John Ferrentino, a poster child for the mentoring program, graduated Cum Laude and will begin working at SmithAmundson.
Chicago attorney John G. Locallo, a partner in the ad valorem real estate tax firm of Amari & Locallo and a past Justinian Society president, has moved up the organizational ladder of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), becoming president-elect of the organization on Saturday, June 26, at the ISBA’s 134th Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch, in St. Louis, Missouri.

In line to become the ISBA’s 135th president in 2011, Locallo is a partner in the Chicago law firm of Amari & Locallo where he concentrates his practice in real estate tax assessment law.

Locallo was first elected to the board in May 2004 and re-elected in 2007. He served as an elected member of the ISBA Assembly from 1996 until his election to the board. He is active on numerous committees, including the Scope and Correlation committee and the Steering Committee on Strategic Planning. He is a board member and past chair of the Fellows of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the ISBA.

Over the years, Locallo has been active in several other professional and civic organizations, including the Justinian Society of Lawyers for whom he served as president in 2001. A member of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, he is the past president, and currently a member, of the Chicago-Kent College of Law-IIT Alumni Board of Directors. He received the organization’s Distinguished Service Award in 2002.

Locallo graduated from the University of Illinois in 1982 and became a Certified Public Accountant the following year. He received his J.D. in 1986 and his LL.M in Taxation in 1992 from Chicago-Kent College of Law. He is a member of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity and Bohemian Lawyers Association of Chicago.

Locallo Installed ISBA President Elect

By: John G. Locallo

When I was a young lawyer, like many of us, I started attending meetings of the Illinois State Bar Association. Shortly thereafter, I became aware of the governing body of the ISBA, the Assembly. I noticed that a lot of the lawyers of the Justinian Society, like Bruno Tassone and Joe Bisceglia, were also members of the Assembly, the state bar association’s grass roots legislative body, and that we had considerable influence. The Assembly interested me because they were involved in the policies that affected the state bar and profession. But I also learned that you had to be elected to this position. At that early time in my career, the idea of running for office and being voted on by my fellow lawyers was neither familiar nor comfortable. But here we are 15 years later and I will be sworn in as president of the ISBA in 2011. So even if the thought of “running for office” never occurred to you, I encourage you to do so. My years on the ISBA Assembly were extremely rewarding. I really enjoyed being a part of an organization that has such an impact. In fact, I enjoyed every second of it— not to mention that, probably, 20 percent of the elected delegates are Justinians.

What is the ISBA Assembly you might ask? Specifically, the ISBA Assembly is the supreme policy making body of the Illinois Bar Association. The Assembly has 201 lawyer members elected on a pro rata basis from the judicial circuits, plus lawyer student members from affiliated law schools. The Assembly routinely meets twice a year. In many ways, they are similar to any congressional or legislative body. The various representatives (Assembly members) across the state convene and vote on proposals that affect the governance of the bar and the practice of law. All meeting attendance costs are reimbursed; e.g., travel, lodging.

Members of the Assembly are elected by their fellow ISBA members in the spring of every year. This past year, 39 assembly positions were available in Cook County. In fact, because not enough people submitted their names, every candidate in Cook County was elected. In future years, the field of candidates might be more competitive, but regardless, if you want to contribute to the ISBA and your fellow lawyers, submit your name for candidacy. Even if you lose the election, you still win because you will meet a lot of great lawyers, and your chances for winning the next time will improve immensely. Also, historically a great many Justinians who run are elected.

To “throw your hat in the ring,” you must be an ISBA member at the close of business on March 1 preceding the expiration of the nomination period. During the nomination period, which is typically the month of January, you must submit to the ISBA nominating petitions with at least 10 signatures of ISBA members from your geographic area (e.g. Cook County). You will also have to submit biographical materials and sign a couple of forms. Ballot positions are determined on a first come basis, so I advise you to submit your materials the first day of the nomination period. Our Society, at its November dinner meeting, helps in getting petitions signed.

This is your chance to get involved and really contribute to the organized bar. I encourage you to run for the Assembly and join our current Justinian members, including: Katherine Amari O’Dell, Tom Battista, Sam Cannizzaro, Joe Cataldo, Cheryl Cesario, Peter Corti, Dion Davi, Umberto Davi, Gina DeBella, Gina DeBoni, Mike Favia, Rick Felice, Celia Gamrath, Gregg Garofalo, Mauro Glorioso, our current ISBA President, Mark Hassakis, Paula Holderman, Steve Komie, Mark Lanzito, Laurie Levin, Joe Locallo III, Jim Morici, Cristina Mungai, John Nisivaco, John O’Brien, Kevin O’Reilly, Tara Ori, Frank Perrecone, Patrice Ball-Reed, Steve Rizzi, Letitia Sheats, Frank Sommario and John Thies.

If you have any questions or want to discuss this further, please feel free to give me a call, or browse the ISBA website at www.isba.org.
Corrao Named IBF Exec Dir

By: Leonard F. Amari

Lisa Corrao has been selected to be executive director of the Illinois Bar Foundation (IBF), the charitable arm of the Illinois State Bar Association. Corrao joined the foundation in March, 2008, as associate executive director. Her previous experience includes serving as the director of development for the Chicago Sinfonietta and vice president of Advancement for the Illinois Saint Andrew Society in North Riverside. She was director of development and communications of the Glenwood School for Boys and Girls from 1996 to 2000.

John G. Locallo, past chair of the Fellows of the Illinois Foundation says, “Lisa brings to the Illinois Bar Foundation great vision and fund raising ability. She also shares the same Sicilian roots as many of our fellow Justians. Her family comes from the same two little towns outside of Palermo as mine, Ciminna and Sambuca.” To become a Fellow, you merely have to pledge $100 per year for ten years.

Established in 1951, the Illinois Bar Foundation’s mission is to ensure meaningful access to the justice system, especially for those with limited means, and to assist lawyers who can no longer support themselves due to incapacity.

A native of Park Forest, Illinois, Corrao received her B.A. degree in Broadcast Communications from Columbia College, Chicago, in 1987. She resides with her husband, Giorgio, and their twins Alex and Mandi in Mokena.

Lisa is the sister of career Justinian, Cheryl (Ippolito) Niro, and as can be seen by the photo below, could be a twin sister.

The Illinois Bar Foundation is located at 20 S. Clark St., Suite 910, Chicago, IL 60603, and the phone number is (312) 726-6072. Further information also is available online at www.isba.org.

Favia Appointed JMLS Trustee

By: Katherine Amari O’Dell

Past President Michael Favia has been appointed a trustee at The John Marshall Law School. Michael truly deserves this appointment because of his hard work and dedication to the law school. Not only did he graduate from John Marshall in 1982, but also has been a board member of The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association since 1980. Mike is also the second vice president of the John Alumni Association.

Michael Favia is the principal and managing attorney of the law firm of Michael V. Favia and Associates, and current counsel of the health care law firm of Goldberg, Zulkie and Frankenstein Ltd. He also serves as co-counsel to the firm of Amari & Locallo.

From 1985 to 1996, Michael was appointed by the governor of the state of Illinois as the chief attorney and technical advisor to the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations. In that role, he directed the statewide enforcement of the various professional licensing statutes including the Medical Practice Act. He supervised 15 attorneys and support personnel in the statewide regulation of approximately 30 professions or 150,000 plus professionals.

In the mid to late 1980s, Michael was also an advisor and counsel to several elected officials in the city of Chicago. In 1984, he was retained as the attorney for the Chicago City Council’s Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Development. He advised various aldermen and other city officials on a daily basis.

Michael is involved in all aspects of the legal profession such as formerly served as an elected delegate to the supreme governing body of the 37,000 member Illinois State Bar Association, its assembly and chaired the Health Care Law Section Council.

Michael Favia is the Chairman of the Board of the Illinois Eye Institute Foundation which is a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to providing quality, lost cost (or free) eye care services for those in need. He is also president and CEO of the Illinois Professional Licensing Consultants, Ltd. It provides professional consulting services to licensed professionals and/or professional groups in all types of licensure issues, regulatory matters, audits, investigations and contested hearings.

Michael was the secretary of the board of trustees for the Illinois College of Optometry, which is the oldest and largest private optometry college in the United States. He is a past member of the executive committee of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans and is a board member of the Italian American Political Coalition.

Michael Favia, a beloved and respected career Justinian, resides in Northbrook with his wife, Patricia, and their two daughters, Cristina and Nicole. Congratulations Michael, as we are so proud of your appointment!

Honore Nella Legge

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

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

Justice Mary Seminara-Schostok recently became the first vice president of the Illinois Judges Association for the 2010-2011 term. This is a position she is fairly familiar with, having served as the second and third vice president during the last two years. As a member of the Illinois Judges Association, Seminara-Schostok helps serve as a voice for judges throughout the state. She is aptly qualified for this position after spending 12 years on the bench, dating back to May 1998 when she was appointed to serve as an Associate Judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit. In 2002, she was elected a full circuit court judge. During her tenure as a circuit court judge, Seminara-Schostok has presided over traffic matters, domestic violence cases, probate cases, arbitrations, misdemeanors, criminal felony cases, law division cases and she also served as the Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Division. In 2008, she was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Illinois Appellate Court, Second Judicial District.

The first of five children, Seminara-Schostok grew up in New Castle, Pa. She attended Youngstown State University in Ohio in 1982. As the daughter of an Italian immigrant, she obeyed her father’s wishes and chose a school that she could commute to attend. “My father was from Calabria, and I was not allowed to attend a college where I would have to spend the night” Seminara-Schostok recalls. Following college, she went to law school at Capital University College of Law in Columbus, Ohio. Although it was uncommon for someone in her generation and from her background to go to law school, she welcomed the challenge.

After obtaining her J.D. degree, Seminara-Schostok served as an assistant public defender in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, as an attorney with Bernstein and Bernstein in Pittsburgh, Penn., and as an Assistant State’s Attorney in Lake County State’s Attorney Office. As a young attorney, Seminara-Schostok always knew she would be sitting behind the bench one day: “I don’t think I was probably out of misdemeanor court before I made it clear that’s what I was working for.” She credits that achievement to determination and maintaining her reputation among colleagues, a skill she believes young lawyers today sometimes do not give enough credit. “It is important to be ambitious, but you have to remember that the people you go against now will be there down the line, and burning bridges is no way to get where you want to go,” says Seminara-Schostok.

One of those colleagues she has maintained a relationship with is the Honorable Daniel M. Locallo (Ret.). He has known Seminara-Schostok for over 15 years and says that “she has always had a great temperament, been very hard working and energetic.” Judge Locallo is currently affiliated with ADR systems as an arbitrator and mediator.

In addition to maintaining her relationships with colleagues, Seminara-Schostok credits community involvement to her legal success. Throughout her career she has been active with several civic and legal organizations, including serving as chair of the Criminal Law and Probation Committee of the Illinois Supreme Court and Red Ribbon Week at the Lake County Courthouse. She has been involved with the D.A.R.E program, the American Bar Association judicial internship program, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Lake County. Her legal memberships include the Illinois State Bar Association, the Association of Women Attorneys and the Lake County Justinian Society. Seminara-Schostok has served on the Illinois Appellate Court for two years now. She enjoys the academic challenges offered at the appellate level, but admits that being a trial judge for 10 years provided more action and face to face with lawyers and litigants. Seminara-Schostok is not the only one who misses her time on the trial court bench. “I had the opportunity to try a case before Judge Schostok several years ago and was extremely impressed with her knowledge of the law, even demeanor and court personality. As a defense attorney trying a case for a plaintiff, it was a little unusual for me. I was pleased to find that she was firm in her rulings, treated the lawyers and parties with respect and was consistent with her findings of law and fact. I was not surprised to find that she was elevated to the Appellate Court,” says Glenn Fencel, partner at the law firm of Johnson and Bell, Ltd.

Next year Justice Seminara-Schostok will become president of the Illinois Judges Association. She is looking forward to that role because it will give her a chance to speak on behalf of the judges in Illinois. She is also eager to be president at the same time John G. Locallo will be president of the Illinois State Bar Association because it will provide a great opportunity to collaborate with a fellow Justinian.

Seminara-Schostok Elected 1st VP of IJA

Steve Phillips: 3rd VP of ITLA

By: Michael F. Bonamarte, IV

As a fellow Justinian and member of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (“ITLA) I am honored to pay tribute to Steve Phillips, one of our own, who was recently nominated to be the Third Vice President of ITLA. ITLA is the premiere plaintiff’s personal injury attorney association and it is a tremendous honor to be selected as one of the leaders of this group. Steve is very well deserving of this honor and ITLA is fortunate to have Steve as one of its Officers.

Steve is the principal of the Phillips Law Offices in downtown Chicago, a second generation firm that represents severely injured victims. His late father John G. Phillips (a/k/a Filipe Giovanni Giangrasso), a legal legend in his own right, started the firm after he came to America from Sicily. Steve, just like his late father was, is a career contributor to the Justinian Society and donates many thousands of dollars each year to the Justinian Society Scholarship Fund. From the time he graduated from the Loyola University School of Law in 1985 his career has been exemplary. He is charismatic in front of a jury and his results speak for themselves. He has achieved several million and multimillion dollar verdicts for victims and family members in catastrophic injury and death cases.

Steve is extremely well respected among lawyers in Illinois. He has been recognized as an “Illinois Super Lawyer” and in a state-wide survey of top lawyers in Illinois Steve was in the top 5% of lawyers in his field of practice. Steve’s opposing counsel respect him so much that they often ask Steve to represent their family members and friends in personal injury and wrongful death claims. Check out his results on his website and you will understand why!

Steve regularly finds time to give back to the legal community. He teaches law as an adjunct professor at Loyola. He has written several published pieces in the catastrophic injury field. He also is a regular speaker on topics related to his field of practice. If you have the opportunity to hear Steve speak take advantage of it. I promise you’ll learn something.

Congratulations Steve and thank you for all that you do for the Justinian Society and the legal community!
Italian American Chamber Honors Bisceglia & Pramaggiore

By: John Tufano

The Italian-American legal community has a rich history of recognized leaders, a history to which two prominent attorneys contribute consistently. Anne R. Pramaggiore and Joseph G. Bisceglia received coveted awards honoring their achievements in industry and charity during the Italian American Chamber of Commerce-Midwest’s 103rd Annual Gala and Awards Dinner at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in downtown Chicago. Along with Illinois Governor Patrick Quinn (Excellence in Government Award) and Teamsters Local 731 President Terry Hancock (Labor Leader Excellence Award), Ms. Pramaggiore and Mr. Bisceglia were honored by peers for their distinguished accomplishments in the Chicagoland community.

Ms. Pramaggiore, ComEd president & chief operating officer, received the Business Excellence Award for dedication and impact in her industry. Under her leadership, ComEd provides electricity to approximately 3.8 million customers across Northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state’s population. Among her significant achievements while climbing ComEd’s corporate ranks to become the company’s first female president, this award recognized Ms. Pramaggiore’s efforts with ComEd’s comprehensive smart grid system.

Nearly unprecedented in the electric utility industry, ComEd’s smart grid system provides two-way communication, empowering consumers to adjust usage and alert utility providers when problems arise. This innovative system, guided by Ms. Pramaggiore’s leadership and vision, signifies a shift from current – and often argued, antiquated – one-way power grids where utilities release mass electricity for consumption. Ms. Pramaggiore’s smart grid efforts aim to shift control over energy usage further into the hands of the consumer, ultimately lowering energy costs across the board.

Throughout her legal career, Ms. Pramaggiore has committed her efforts to improving areas of regulated industries with the future in mind. Before joining ComEd, she was a partner in the Trade Regulation Practice Group of the Chicago law firm McDermott Will & Emery. A 1989 graduate of DePaul College of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of its Law Review, Ms. Pramaggiore was also elected recently to DePaul University’s Board of Trustees (highlighted in our Spring 2010 Newsletter). Her Italian ancestry on her father’s side is traced back to the Piedmont region of Italy, from where her grandparents immigrated to the United States around 1917.

Mr. Bisceglia, partner at Jenner & Block LLP, received the Humanitarian Award for outstanding charitable work with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and with Jenner & Block’s pro bono program. As a partner in the firm’s Litigation Department, Mr. Bisceglia is chair of the Real Estate and Construction Litigation Practice, a member of the Complex Commercial Litigation and the Trust & Estate Litigation Practices, and a member of the Real Estate Finance Litigation and Workout Task Force. Mr. Bisceglia ranks consistently as an Illinois Super Lawyer. Further, he was honored recently in the 2010 edition of The Legal 500 for Real Estate and Construction Litigation, an independent guide to preeminent lawyers in the country, reflecting the views of thousands of corporate counsel and law firm clients who are interviewed by the publication’s editors and reporters.

Drawing on his esteemed reputation within the legal community, Mr. Bisceglia has been a committee member for St. Jude’s annual Chicago Fundraiser since 1995, and has served as co-chairman of the fundraiser for multiple years. Starting in 1994, this event has raised more than $4.5 million for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the largest center in the United States for the treatment and research of catastrophic childhood diseases, such as cancer and pediatric AIDS.

Mr. Bisceglia’s leadership among the legal community is rooted in his law school success, earning his J.D. from DePaul College of Law in 1973, graduating summa cum laude and first in his class, was editor of the law review, a six-time recipient of American Jurisprudence Award, and a recipient of United States Law Week Award for scholastic achievement. His Italian ancestry is traced back to the Calabria region of Italy, and he is the father of adult daughters Sarah, Joell, and Kelly. The Justinians congratulate Ms. Pramaggiore and Mr. Bisceglia for their respective honors – two members of our community who represent professional success and Italian heritage proudly.

Raccuglia Receives ITLA Lifetime Award

By: Leonard F. Amari

The Illinois Trial Lawyers Association honored Anthony C. Raccuglia with its prestigious Leonard M. Ring Lifetime Achievement Award during the association’s convention in June.

The award is given annually to someone who has devoted “a substantial part of their life and their practice to ITLA, someone who has done more than is called for,” according to a statement released by ITLA.

Raccuglia is the owner of the plaintiff’s personal-injury law firm of Anthony C. Raccuglia & Associates P.C. in Peru, Illinois, where he has long focused his practice in all areas of personal injury law.

Graduating first in his class at The John Marshall Law School in 1959, he was awarded membership in the select Order of John Marshall, recognition for not only academic achievement but also for demonstrating student leadership with participation in extracurricular school programs. Appointed first assistant LaSalle County state’s attorney in 1960, Raccuglia handled everything from misdemeanors to high-profile murder cases, where he honed his trade as a skilled trial lawyer and an aggressive advocate for his clients.

In 1969, Raccuglia established his practice in Peru, Illinois. He served on the ISBA board of governors from 1976 to 1982, and is a past president of the LaSalle County Bar Association and a former member of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association governing board.

Early in his career, the 1959 graduate of The John Marshall Law School spent eight years in the LaSalle County state’s attorney’s office, where he served as the first assistant state’s attorney and head of the felony division. As a prosecutor, he handled major felony cases, as well as civil cases.

A Charter Life Patron Fellow of the Illinois Bar Foundation, Raccuglia’s charitable work is also extensive, yet most of it remains private and unheralded. He helped put in place a free clinic that the Elks Lodge provides for crippled children. He also chaired several Lions Club fundraising drives for polio victims. Raccuglia is also LaSalle city attorney.

Raccuglia has been an active member of The Justinian Society and ITLA for more than 35 years.
After 36 years of practicing personal injury law, I am joined by my son, Michael and daughter, Gina. Mike has excelled in his trial techniques over the past six years and is currently managing partner of our family personal injury firm. Mike has expanded our practice to include workers compensation law. Mike has also electronically brought our practice up to a state of the art, 21st Century level.

Gina has joined us after practicing as a litigation attorney for the prestigious law firm of Freeborn and Peters. While there, Gina tried multimillion dollar law suits to verdict. Mike and I are thrilled to have Gina as part of our trial team. Her experience, work ethic and knowledge has been a blessing to us. Gina has expanded our practice to include corporate and potentially class action litigation.

The fourth Di Bella, Joseph, has been excelling as an assistant states attorney for the Fourth Municipal Division. There Joe has had a remarkable career doing both numerous bench and jury trials.

To now have the extreme privilege of being senior partner of our firm and watching our family team of litigation attorneys grow is truly the greatest and most honorable thing I could have imagined 40 years ago. Words can not describe the pride I have for my children.

By: Frank J. Di Bella, Esq.

First I would like to thank brother Richard Caifano for asking me to write this article. The subject matter is to reflect upon what is like to raise a child/children to lawyer hood. Little did I ever imagine that 40 plus years ago that I would ever be honored to be a member of the wonderful world of such a great profession, let alone to be the father of three lawyers.

The Di Bella family of lawyers, from left: Joseph, Frank, and Michael. Not pictured: Gina Di Bella.

### Gamrath Appointed Cook County Judge

By: Bill Davy

Congratulations to our Past President Celia Guzaldo Gamrath on her appointment by the Illinois Supreme Court as a Circuit Judge of Cook County, Eighth Subcircuit, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Hon. Thomas R. Chiola. This appointment is effective June 10, 2010, and terminates on December 3, 2012.

The Honorable Celia Guzaldo Gamrath is a former judicial law clerk for the Honorable Thomas R. Rakowski of the First District Appellate Court of Illinois. She was a partner of Schiller DuCanto & Fleck LLP and concentrated in matrimonial law and appeals on behalf of individuals whose cases mainly involve the distribution of multi-million-dollar holdings and require sophisticated financial expertise. Ms. Gamrath has been recognized nationally as a top family law and appellate lawyer by Best Lawyers in America, Chicago Magazine’s Illinois Super Lawyers, the Leading Lawyers Network, and the Law Bulletin Publishing Company as one of “40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch.” She is the recipient of several awards, including the Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Illinois State Bar Association, the Alta May Hulett Award from the Chicago Bar Association, and The John Marshall Law School Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Gamrath served as the 86th President of our Justinian Society of Lawyers during 2006-2007 term representing only the third women on the Societies history to hold that position.

Ms. Gamrath graduated cum laude from The University of Chicago (B.A. in Political Science) in 1988 and from Indiana University (J.D.) in 1991. Ms. Gamrath has taught classes part-time and guest lectured at John Marshall in the areas of family law, civil procedure, legal writing, appellate procedure, and arbitration. Ms. Gamrath is and has been a leader/director of several bar associations and charitable foundations. The Illinois Supreme Court and U.S. District Court have also appointed her to serve on various court committees, including the legislative family-law committee created by H.B. 1101, which is charged with the task of rewriting the Illinois divorce act.

Ms. Gamrath has argued cases in the Circuit, Appellate and Supreme Courts of Illinois. She writes and lectures extensively in the field of matrimonial law, appeals, and other legal topics, and has a bimonthly column in Chicago Lawyer. Ms. Gamrath has placed five times in the Annual ISBA Lincoln Writing Contest and her works appear frequently in the Illinois Bar Journal, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, American Journal of Family Law, Appellate Law Review, and other legal publications. She is the co-author of an IICLE chapter on marital settlement agreement.

She is a third-generation Sicilian American, her great-grandparents having immigrated from the town of Caccamo in the province of Palermo just after the turn of the century, initially residing in the Austin neighborhood on the West side of Chicago. She and her husband, attorney Robert Gamrath, met while attending law school. They live in Chicago with their beautiful daughter, Caroline Grace.

On behalf of the newsletter staff and the Justinian Society of Lawyers a sincere congratulations to you Celia Guzaldo-Gamrath! Your success helps to advance this Society through your ongoing and continuous involvement here. The Justinian Society of Lawyers is proud to include you among our most distinguished and devoted members and we wish you the very best in your new endeavor.
Pomaro Hosted Meeting for Blind Lawyers

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

Nicholas T. Pomaro is well aware of the difficulties associated with a tight job market for lawyers looking for work in the current economic climate.

But those problems, he said, "are tenfold for a blind person."

"This is not sour grapes. This is just a reality," said Pomaro, a retired Cook County associate judge and former prosecutor who is blind. "Blind people, in general, have difficulty in finding work because, if they are able to do the work, the natural fears that sighted people have of blind people — the assumption is, they can't do certain things."

Pomaro, who has been blind since age six, was told by a school administrator during law school that he could never be a trial attorney because he couldn't see facial expressions of witnesses and jurors. He graduated from The John Marshall Law School in 1964 and for about a decade before he rose to the bench, Pomaro worked as an assistant Cook County state's attorney prosecuting criminal felony cases.

"It's true. I can't see facial expressions; I can't see body language. But a well-dressed, beautiful woman isn't necessarily truthful," Pomaro said. "I think I get much more out of voice inflections than other people do. … You learn to compensate. I lack sight, but I think I've developed other instincts."

Pomaro retired from the bench in 2005. Today, he runs the Kane Legal Clinic located at The Chicago Lighthouse, 1850 W. Roosevelt Road.

The clinic provides free legal services to blind or visually impaired people on low-incomes who seek representation in matters such as those related to job discrimination, social security, tax issues, and other civil matters, as well as assistance in criminal defense.

But beginning at 1:30 p.m. on June 3, the clinic is scheduled to be the place where visually impaired and blind lawyers in the Chicago area are to meet in an effort to share mutual concerns, to discuss problems or issues that are unique to the visually impaired community and, with those discussions, see if we can help people.

The gathering will serve as a brainstorming session, Pomaro said, to explore ideas of how local blind lawyers could network and help one another.

For example, "I don't know how good of an idea it is, but I have never heard of a law firm made up of blind attorneys," Pomaro said. "Usually attorneys have specialties, and maybe you can find three, four or five who have particular skills in particular areas of the law, and they can form a loose association and refer cases to each other, or help each other out, or form a law firm."

The former judge and career Justinian also hopes the forum will provide inspiration to newer attorneys who are blind, or to blind people interested in pursuing a career in law.

When Pomaro was starting out, he said, "It was very helpful to me to know that other blind people succeeded in other fields."

By late last week, Pomaro said, about 20 visually impaired and blind law students and attorneys responded to his call for a meeting, including several veteran attorneys.

"Letting people know that it can be done, that these are blind people who have made it in these various areas of the law, I think, is helpful to them," Pomaro said. "We're trying to give people hope. It was important to me, and I think it's important to everyone to have hope."

Pomaro pointed out the existence of the National Association of Blind Lawyers, a membership organization of blind attorneys, law students, judges and others in the law field that provides support and information regarding employment, techniques used by the blind, advocacy, laws affecting the blind and other issues for blind lawyers. But he said he is not aware of an association for lawyers in the Chicago area.

Anthony J. Thomas, an assistant Cook County public defender in the Felony Trial Division, serves as an officer in the National Association of Blind Lawyers. A local association for blind and visually impaired lawyers to share resources and expertise, he said, sounds like a good idea.

"Attorneys who are blind have different kinds of issues with which to deal than does a sighted attorney," Thomas said. "And, other blind attorneys who have gone through the process of going to school and getting an education, and dealing with the job market and how people respond to you in the practice of law — all those things come into play. And sometimes people can share information in terms of how to problem solve when certain situations arise."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Yusuf A. Dale, who was legally blind at birth and became totally blind at age 23, said there are plenty "tricks of the trade" that could be shared via a local association of blind lawyers.

"There are blind lawyers who are practicing successfully out here," Dale said. "That's one of the reasons this organization is needed — to bridge that gap and exchange ideas of how best to bridge that gap."

Blind lawyers, Dale said, generally have a disproportionate difficulty in getting hired, "Particularly because it's commonly believed, incorrectly so, that sight is paramount to being a good lawyer because it is so print driven."

The federal prosecutor who serves in the financial crimes and special prosecutions unit in Chicago said being prepared with "all your tools in your tool box" is key to making it work. Those tools, he said, could be the technology tools such as computers with Braille keyboards and special screen reading software, as well as human resources.

Thomas counts himself among the fortunate ones in that he was hired for the one job for which he applied after law school. He has been serving in the public defender's office since 1986. "My situation is not typical of most people," he said. "Most people I have talked to have told stories about how they've interviewed at dozens of places and have been shut out."

Thomas has been totally blind since he was 8. Born with glaucoma and no sight in his left eye and limited sight in his right eye, he was totally blinded when he was struck in the right eye while wrestling with another boy.

As a trial lawyer who appears each day in the Criminal Courts Building at 26th Street and California Avenue, Thomas has an assistant who has been hired by the county to read and write for him. The assistant also accompanies him to court, as well as to investigations of crime scenes and to interviews with clients and witnesses.

"One of the things that I've experienced in my practice is that many people who are surprised when they meet me and discover I'm blind, after they talk to me for a few minutes, whatever feelings of trepidation they might have had dissipated," Thomas said.

Thomas said he has mentored many blind people interested in practicing law. He often finds himself offering this advice: "If you believe in yourself and if you project a positive, confident demeanor and image to your client, your client will not see you as a blind lawyer, your client will see you as their lawyer."

"What you are doing for the client starts in your mind," Thomas said. "The client has to believe in you. And the client cannot believe in you if you don't believe in yourself."

For more information about the upcoming meeting for blind lawyers and students, call Pomaro at (312) 666-1331, ext. 3112.
Lawrence J. Suffredin Jr. [a career Justinian and friend] didn’t always see courtrooms, county boardrooms and the Capitol in his future.

Long before he made a name for himself as a respected lawyer, lobbyist and Cook County Board commissioner, the Chicago native pictured himself working in a church.

“I thought I was going to be a Catholic priest,” said Suffredin, a graduate of the Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary. “The ’60s were a unique time, and after college I saw there was more of an opportunity for me to do more service as a lawyer.”

And now Suffredin, 62, said he can’t imagine his life without the law. After all, it was the law, he said, that led him down the path to understanding the legislative process that he encounters in all three of his careers.

On top of his duties as a Cook County Board commissioner for the 13th District, which encompasses the city of Evanston and several villages such as Glenview, Skokie and Wilmette, Suffredin is a shareholder at Shefsky & Froelich Ltd. with a government relations practice and a lobbyist carrying a client list that includes the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Arts Alliance, Abbott Laboratories and a handful of casinos.

“ITake all the parts of my career and as long as I can keep them in proportionate to one another, I’ll be happy doing what I do,” he said.

Suffredin, a Cubs season ticket holder for more than 20 years, said whether he’s advocating for legislation or representing his constituents and clients, he always finds himself falling back on the legal education he received from Georgetown University Law Center.

After he graduated in 1972, Suffredin went to work as an assistant Cook County public defender and as a private practitioner before he joined a law firm formerly known as Simon & Spitali. It was at that firm that Suffredin said he got his first taste of state government.

He began traveling to Springfield on a more regular basis to handle work for local clients and quickly became fascinated with the legislative process.

“I realized that a day in the Capitol is like a day in a courthouse. When you’re around a courthouse every day, you get to know all the players,” he said. “I also realized in the Capitol, I didn’t need a unanimous verdict. I just needed a simple majority.”

Suffredin, who said his favorite part about being a lawyer is helping people solve problems, eventually left that firm to go back into private practice before joining the Chicago law firm of Shefsky & Froelich Ltd., where he continues to focus on government relations work.

As the director of the Families’ and Children’s AIDS Network (PCAN) and chair of the Chicago Bar Association’s Adoption Law Legislation Committee, Linda S. Coon said Suffredin’s problem solving skills have definitely been beneficial over the years.

“As a lobbyist, he uses his legal skills and really thinks about all the possible solutions,” Coon said. “Larry has been a key person to helping negotiate some of our bills…he finds solutions some of us never even thought of.”

Coon has been working with Suffredin on various adoption related measures for more than a decade. She said he played an instrumental role in the passage of a measure that made Illinois the first state in the nation to have a law providing for standby adoption, which ensures a parent’s wish for their child’s guardian will be carried out in the event of death or incapacitation.

Suffredin occasionally calls on Coon to make the trek to Springfield to testify on CBA-backed bills before committees, an intimidating process that she says is eased by Suffredin’s support and familiarity with the process.

“Larry is very friendly and maintains good relationships in the legislature,” Coon said. “He gives us an advantage. Some legislators will talk to Larry when they won’t talk to other folks because of his good reputation.”

Despite Suffredin’s trio of demanding careers, Coon said he always works to make himself available. If by chance he isn’t available, Coon said she can always reach Suffredin’s fellow CBA lobbyist, who doubles as his son.

Chicago attorney Thomas M. Suffredin said he enjoys working alongside his father, saying, “It is an interesting way to see what your dad did growing up.”

He said his father always taught him to be honest, accountable and friendly, characteristics he says have made his father a respected lawyer within the legal community.

Suffredin says he often depends on his son to keep him updated on the happenings in Springfield when his other jobs keep him in Chicago.

“I find it fascinating because so many times I had to miss his school events to be down there and now we’re down there together. It really works,” he said.

Though he always had an interest in politics, Suffredin didn’t think about running for office until his son and daughter, Elizabeth, were out on their own. He was elected to the Cook County Board in 2002 and was reelected in 2006.

Suffredin is chairman of the board’s Legislation, Intergovernmental & Veterans Relations Committee, which is responsible for recommending county positions on state and federal legislation. He also serves on the Litigation and the Tax and Revenue subcommittees, among others.

In his role as a Cook County Board commissioner, Suffredin said he considers his work that created the Independent Health and Hospital Board one of his biggest accomplishments. He said he’s also proud that he decided to create his own legislative library on his Web site – www.suffredin.org – to keep voters informed.

As a lawyer, Suffredin said it was an honor, despite the immediate outcome, to be able to take a case – Illinois v. Andreas, 463 U.S. 765 (1983) – to the U.S. Supreme Court, where as a law student he often sat in to listen to arguments.

When it comes to his job as a lobbyist, Suffredin said he is especially proud of his work for the CBA that helped put amendments to bills on the General Assembly’s Web site.

After working with Suffredin over the years, Paul L. Williams, a former lawmaker-turned-lobbyist, said he can honestly say that “Larry knows more off the top of his head than anyone I know.”

“Larry is just a well-rounded lawyer that has tons of contacts, knowledge and experience,” he said. “He’s someone I respect a lot.”

Williams said Suffredin is aggressive when he needs to be and one of those people who is so smart that you occasionally have to tell them “to pull back on their genius so they can be appreciated.”

Despite having clients with conflicting goals, Williams said Suffredin is “a lawyer’s lawyer.”

“If you’re a lawyer and you get in trouble, you call Larry,” he said. “He knows what he’s talking about.”

Interested in a Ferrari?

Anthony Gemmellaro, the son of friends of career and active Justinians, has dropped us a note to ask if any of our members are interested in buying a used Ferrari. Anthony sells Ferraris, new and used, at Ferrari of Tampa Bay, 2420 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor, Florida 34683. Don’t hesitate to contact Anthony directly at (727) 784-3377 or his cell number (727) 437-2681. Licensing regulations permit Anthony to sell new cars only to people in his geographic sales area, west coast, Naples to the panhandle, but used cars to anyone, anywhere.
I was taught to work hard and honor God and family. We were exposed to the beauty and rich cultural traditions of Italy, while learning to appreciate and cherish the opportunities of America. Our parents sacrificed a lot to give us a good education.

To please my dad, I promised to try-out college for 6 months. I enrolled at a small all-boys college, St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana. It was there that I became a serious student, earning the nickname “Books Bianchi” because I always carried a big dictionary and a stack of books wherever I went. In the spring of 1965, I graduated with a degree in accounting and was honored with the Indiana CPA Award. In 1968 I graduated from the Law School of Notre Dame and took a job with a small downtown Chicago law firm.

My pursuit of justice led me to seek employment in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office where I worked from 1969 to 1973. In 1973, I married the “girl next door.” Six months after our marriage, we moved to McHenry County where I accepted a job prosecuting for McHenry County State’s Attorney.

In 2004, I decided to run for state’s attorney. My daughters were grown and it was a good time in my life to give something back. I wanted to use my law degree in an elected position to reach a great number of people and really make a difference.

Presently, I am serving my second four year term as McHenry County State’s Attorney and won re-election in 2008. I am a businessman rather than a politician and continue to set goals and accomplish them. I focus on serving the people not other politicians or power brokers.

To summarize my six years as the elected McHenry County State’s Attorney: I am particularly proud of the Office of the State’s Attorney’s efforts to elevate the entire criminal process and keep our community safe. Before I was in office, few cases went to jury trials (five jury trials in the year before I was elected). This past year, 50 cases went to juries and we put more defendants in jail (who deserve it) than ever before.

Continued on page 17
Tony Licata: A Leading Lawyer

By: Leonard F. Amari

On an ongoing basis, The Law Bulletin, an Illinois lawyers’ publication, publishes articles and lists of what its surveys indicate are the leading lawyers in the state. Its December 2009 edition, “Leading Lawyers Network: Consumer Edition,” lists Tony Licata, a career Justinian, prominently and appropriately. This publication conducts extensive research in collecting and compiling the information contained in its feature articles. Within the legal community it is understood that one is not undeservingly highlighted and recognized in this publication. Lawyers strive for such recognition, and to be included among the most respected in the Illinois legal community is a tremendous honor.

This issue we introduce Anthony R. Licata, a recognized and acclaimed “leading lawyer.”

Licata is a shareholder and managing partner of the respected Chicago law firm Shefsky & Froelich Ltd. For many years he has been a leading “mover and shaker” in the arenas of real estate law and development and their various aspects. He enjoys his real estate practice because it allows him to work on so many projects that are essential to the fabric of the city. Licata serves as department head for the firm’s real estate group, which in the past three years alone has handled transactions with an aggregate dollar value of more than $2 billion. His practice focuses on major commercial real estate transactions and on private equity venture capital matters. In addition to his professional practice, he is a principal in numerous real estate investments.

Real estate and development is in Licata’s blood. His father, a civil engineer, worked for a highway contractor that built a significant portion of the interstate highway in southern Illinois. The company also built the dam and reservoir project involving Rend Lake. Tony is a graduated from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL in 1976 and Harvard Law School in 1979. As a law student seeking to broaden his horizons and hone his skills, he worked in the legal department at Bechtel Corporation in San Francisco. Also while a law student, he worked for the prominent national law firm Bryan Cave LLP in St. Louis. Rotating from department to department, he learned that he did not enjoy litigation work. Ultimately, the courtroom’s loss proved to be to the benefit of Chicago’s real-estate development community.

Sidley Austin LLP, one of the largest, most respected law firms in the country, recruited Licata in his third year at Harvard. He met the renowned lawyer, Newton Minow, who became a mentor to him. Licata started doing real estate work for Minow in 1979 and, through him, met Jack Guthman, a Chicago legend in the field of zoning law. He worked with Guthman at Sidley until the firm decided to focus on serving Fortune 100 clients. The real estate practice no longer fit with Sidley’s goals, Licata says, because it tends to be comprised of mostly individual, entrepreneurial clientele. Guthman took his significant real estate/zoning practice, and prominence to Shefsky & Froelich, and Licata followed him in 1995. They have worked together for more than three decades. After running the real estate group for three years, Licata was asked to become the firm’s Chief Operating Officer, a position he accepted, he jokes, “in a fit of stupidity.” Under his leadership, Shefsky & Froelich has become a major, respected law firm not only in Chicago, but in Illinois at large.

Tony’s law partner, the community leader and highly respected former president of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, John Sciaccotta, says: “Tony Licata represents the best that our ethnic community and the Illinois legal profession have to offer. Highly respected and highly skilled, Tony is always there for the younger lawyers in the firm as well as younger lawyers in the profession. He leads tutorially, and by example. I have learned more from Tony Licata as a professional than all the years I spent in law school and in legal training. I have also learned from Tony Licata how to be a gentleman and a professional.”

Tony’s family traces its roots to Campobella di Mazarra. His grandfather had the unusual distinction of serving in the Italian army in World War I, and being drafted into the United States Army to fight again in the same conflict after immigrating to the coal-mining communities in Southern Illinois, by way of New Orleans. Tony and his beautiful wife Susan live in Highland Park, and have a daughter, Haley.

Another example of the best our community has to offer.
La Morte del Topo Gigio

By: Joseph F. Licallo, Jr.

Our dog Charlie bounded down the stairs with her usual vigor and anticipation of relieving herself outside after a long sleepy night. She paused. Her head turned slightly akin. Her nose turned up sniffing, she stopped her pointed routine and walked cautiously toward the two boxes I had left on the floor and up against the bookcase. I knew then I had won!

A few days before an annoyance overtook me. The singular most aggravation in my life at the time, indeed I was mulling over email responses to a “potential” client, the discourse having started with shouting and demands of unprecedented proportions, I wanted to change his demeanor. The challenge was daunting and then, in the mist of this, I discovered those dark, skinny, hard little specs in the cabinet below the sink. I recognized there indication at once! There was a mouse in our house!

The focus of my efforts to duel with the disparate client had to be put on hold as I put all energy into the destruction of this little spineless creature that had entered my pleasure domain. First, to clean up mess left there almost to goad me. Any decent creature would find some quiet, hidden place to dispose the evidence that not only it had taken residence in my abode but it was eating, subsisting gaining nourishment and strength from some food inside my pantry! More cleaning, inspections and securing all matters edible were placed in plastic containers. He, if I may be so presumptuous, would have to find a different restaurant!

Clever the species is all matters of traps had been set. One usually most efficient, the glue trap did nothing. What to do? Where to begin? Where was the lair?

It was midnight and half asleep I was watching a movie on the big screen. Grand Torino was being played and in the fashion of other great men like Clint, and Arnold, and Rocky Balboa my mind though in slumber never left the keen awareness one must have to track down and annihilate the intruder. A slight blur of movement, just to the left of the screen and down below the bookcase. What was that? I knew instantly. Wait. Observe.

Having learned from earlier battles with the M, my son and I now recognize that grabbing a broom and a bucket, while continuously moving our feet so as not to accidentally come in contact with the beast and oh yes a lot of screaming, I was seasoned to sit quietly and not react. It poked its little black nose out of the smallest of apertures and then the head and then back in side its lair, yes, yes, I, through quiet patience and observation had found out this most guarded secret.

I went to fetch the glue pad, hoping that the sighting of the opening and the strategic placement of the item would allow me to prevail. Cautiously I placed the item just to the left of the hole and to add continued enticement I put a dab of peanut butter in the middle of the tray, having also taken time to make a small sandwich for myself.

Taking up my vantage point I watched. It did not take long. The little rascal popped his head out and with a little sniff or two walked out of the hole and right past the trap. Ignored it as if he knew it was folly to take the bait, peanut butter and all.

The outlook was bleak but I was not willing to accept this new boarder, this creature that could squeeze its body through the smallest of holes and destroy the calmness of my not so tranquil mind. Think. Think. What was to be my next chess move in this life and death struggle, man over mouse!

Cheese! Forget the peanut butter (and I had to because I ate the rest myself) and go for the cheese. A small cutting of Reggio Parmesan was the doom slayer of my little friend. Placed squarely in the middle of the glue pad so as not to allow border nipping, it would require a full run onto the middle of the destructive stickiness. I set my trap. Two small boxes place up against the bookcase so as to create a tunnel effect for the egress of my little friend.

Patience and deliberateness had won out from the former armament of bucket and broom. But, to my discomfort and surprise, I found the creature still alive and hanging onto the fibers of the rug with half of his body stuck to the glue. This was most alarming.

The creature was actually quite pretty. Big brown eyes, a furry coat of brown and white with speckles of grey and a look of total exhaustion in its struggle took be back. Nevertheless, the further removal to a plastic bag and out to the awaiting garbage can was the only course to follow.

As I lowered the little fellow into the receptacle which would soon entomb him/her to mouse Valhalla, the look upon its little face was doe full. I paused and said my good byes. And, in a small and fragile voice it looked me straight in the eyes and said, “Why?”

Recovering from the fall to earth I pulled myself up and looked down upon a mouse that had spoke to me! The only mouse in captivity that could speak! In its last and dying breath it bade me to draw near, for his voice had grown weak. “I could have made you millions” and then he died. Imagine that?

In Vino Verita

For Wine Lovers

By: Richard Caifano

Having experienced the unequaled enjoyment that is the essence of the grape upon the palate, and knowing that many of you in our Justinian audience share that enjoyment, we embark upon an informal wine sharing adventure.

In wine there is truth: we propose to share our suggestions for reds and whites that have passed our palates and therefore lead us to share the truth of that experience influenced by the quality of the grape.

Allora, we invite you to submit a favorite to me, the year and place of its harvest, a brief description of its essence, the price and place at which it may be acquired. We begin by suggesting our favorite which shall be named the wine of this season until another is voted to take its place: The Sicilian version of Nero D’Avola, 2006, imported by Arancio, a dark, fruity and tastefully engaging red whose nose delivers essence of berries.

We welcome your contributions, holding ourselves open to sharing your suggestions or simply enjoying them in camera.

Your Veritable Wine Explorer

and Past President,

- Richard Caifano
Salerno’s Pizza: Welcome to pizza heaven!

By: Anthony Casaccio
(JMLS, class of 2011)

As an active member of the mentoring program for the Justinian Society of Lawyers’ Student Division, one of the perks (aside from helping law students through their grueling first year of law school) is the catered food from Salerno’s at every meeting. Their giardiniera-and-sausage pizza is certainly one of the reasons for the 100-percent attendance rate.

In 1957, Rosario and Francesca Salerno immigrated to the United States from Italy with their boys, Vincenzo, Arnaldo (Arnie) and Joseph. Pursuing their American Dream, the Salerno brothers opened up the Berwyn Tavern in 1966, which later became Salerno’s Restaurant on 16th Street. It was here that the Salerno Empire began. As the popularity of 16th Street grew, so did the demand for additional restaurants.

The Salerno family takes pride in being one of the few restaurants to make their own Italian sausage from scratch. I can personally attest to the exceptional quality and flavor of their sausage, it is perfectly seasoned with just the right amount of fennel seed in every bite. (In my opinion, too much fennel seed ruins the texture of the sausage, not enough fennel seed leaves the sausage dull in flavor.) The pasta and pizza dough and all of the sauces are also prepared on site.

Recently, I dined at the Salerno’s in Oak Park with my parents. As a halfway point between the western suburbs and the city, this location couldn’t be more convenient. Our host for the evening was co-owner Emilio Morrone. Parking is not an issue, with a lot to the north as well as street parking along the south and west side of the restaurant.

Upon entering the restaurant, your culinary senses come alive at the sight of the fresh pizza by-the-slice counter and multicolored Gelato Uno case. Then, you get a whiff of a heavenly concoction of garlic and cheese.

Our table was located in the dining room abutting the bar. The décor is simple, with exposed brick walls and scattered pictures of Italy. One doesn’t come to a Salerno’s restaurant for the décor, though: It’s all about the food.

Whether you’re looking for pizza and beer with friends or a traditional Italian meal, Salerno’s in Oak Park is a restaurant everyone can enjoy.

The wait staff was very attentive. After we placed our order, a deliciously warm loaf of Turano bread was brought to our table. I am not typically a bread fan, but this was one of the better “bread” experiences I have had. It felt like our waiter ran down the street to the Turano Bakery and grabbed a fresh loaf out of the oven for us: It was that hot and that fresh.

For appetizers, my mom and I ordered the escarole and bean soup and my dad ordered the house salad. The house salad was … a house salad: fresh and delicious but nothing special. However, the escarole and bean soup was second on my all-time list only behind the one served at the original Giannotti’s.

For our next course, I ordered the grilled vegetable sandwich on homemade focaccia. It’s a good thing that I don’t worry about my caloric intake because it was a tad oily. Yet, I ate the entire sandwich and it was delectable. My mom ordered the beef-and-cheese sandwich with grilled onions. The sandwich was dry coming out of the kitchen, but it was perked up considerably when our waiter brought out a bowl of dipping juice.

Even though Salerno’s is traditionally known for their thick-crust (not deep dish) pizza, we ordered two 8-inch thin-crust pies and we weren’t disappointed. Salerno’s pizza is some of my favorite in Chicago; it is consistently cooked to perfection and full of flavor. Placing the Gelato Uno display in the front of the restaurant is by no means an accident; it undoubtedly caught my dad’s attention. As if we hadn’t eaten enough, he ordered a large cup of hazelnut gelato for desert. Self-proclaimed “gelato aficionados,” my parents said it was some of the best they have had outside of Italy.

The Society is proud of our first woman President, (1993), as she will no doubt be walking the Red Carpet in the very near future. Congratulations!

Coco’s New Career

Justinian Past President, and retired Supervising Judge Gloria Coco continues to reinvent herself with her exciting new career journey in field of television and film. In July 2009 she relocated to Los Angeles at her agent’s urging to Los Angeles at her agent’s urging.

Central Artists. She is now a member of the Screen Actors Guild, (SAG) and the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, (AFTRA). In March, she worked as the Legal Tech Advisor for the pilot of the new CBS Network Series, “The Defenders, and worked one-on-one with Jim Belushi, Jerry O’Connell, and Director Davis Guggenheim, who recently won an Academy Award for the Vice President Al Gore’s inspired documentary, “An Inconvenient Truth.” Judge Coco also appears as a juror in the one hour pilot to be aired this fall. This past year in Los Angeles, she has shot commercials for the University of Phoenix, UsStream Communications, and Chapman University. She also worked in the film “Water For Elephants,” starring Reese Witherspoon, Christof Waltz, and Robert Pattinson.

The Society is proud of our first woman President, (1993), as she will no doubt be walking the Red Carpet in the very near future. Congratulations!
Elder Law Update: New Rules Are Coming to Illinois - A Widow or Widower’s Worst Case Scenario

By: Anthony B. Ferraro
The Law Offices of Anthony B. Ferraro

The state of Illinois is about to propose certain rules that will penalize and place at risk our senior citizens who need or who have spouses who require nursing home stays. Quite often, one spouse promises the other that “under no circumstances will you ever go into a nursing home”.

The unfortunate reality is that many people will not only spend tremendous amounts of money and other assets in providing for the long-term care of their spouse, but will later go on to face their own challenges in the aging process.

I am talking about clients that come into our office that have been frugal their entire lives, paid their bills, paid off their home, put their kids through college and now depend on their Social Security checks and modest pension to get through life. The surviving spouse often travels on the elder care journey alone, depleted of energy, and often depleted of financial resources. This very same surviving spouse who cared for their ill spouse during their years of long-term care, must now become impoverished to the point of a mere $2000 or less in total assets and the misery of a $30 a month personal needs allowance before the State of Illinois or federal government provides any assistance for their long-term care. This is becoming a modern day living nightmare for many of our clients. We can assist you in avoiding this nightmare.

Worst Case Scenario

The new rules that may be considered by the state of Illinois will create new ineligibility periods.

The penalty periods could last for more than 5 years after the date of gift! 5 years is a long time in the life of one of our senior citizens. This would apply to any senior who has generously gifted their money to loved ones who need care or help in these difficult times.

To avoid falling into the potential ineligibility trap, it is our strong recommendation that you consider long-term care proactive planning or long-term care crisis planning. Nursing care costs are currently ranging anywhere from $6,000-$8,000 per month in our region.

Our clients are currently adopting sound legal strategies such as “5 Year Advance Planning” to achieve peace of mind and asset preservation from the persistent threat of nursing care costs.

VA benefits for our veteran clients and their surviving spouses are also a resource to help defray costs.

You need to join the fight and let us help you.

This is about fighting for you to obtain fairness that will enable you to preserve your dignity and savings during a time of frailty and need.

I am serving as a chairman on a subcommittee for a task force dubbed “The Task Force for Senior Fairness,” comprised of a group of highly respected elder law attorneys throughout the state. We along with others in the long term care community are advocating for fairness to seniors in the application of these new rules.

Change is coming, that is certain. We can however together reduce the unintended consequences and undue harshness of the rules that are being proposed.

I will be discussing these new rules and additional elder law topics that are critical to seniors, their loved ones, caregivers, and advisors at my upcoming workshops that are resuming this fall.

Nursing Home Neglect
What the Nursing Home is Supposed to Do

By: Michael F. Bonamarte
Levin & Perconti

If you have a loved one in a nursing home it is very important that you stay involved with their care. Don’t be afraid to ask questions. Make sure the following things are done. When someone is placed in a nursing home the first thing the nursing home is required to do is assess the individual. The purpose of the assessment is to identify risk factors the individual has that puts the nursing home resident at risk for future harm. For example the nursing home must assess pressure sore (aka bedsore or decubitus ulcer) risk, fall risk, malnutrition risk, dehydration risk, and the list goes on. Step two is the nursing home must develop a care plan that is individualized to meet the nursing home resident’s needs based on the assessment. Next, the care plan must be communicated to the staff, the nurses and nursing assistants, who provide the hands on care. Then the care plan must be implemented on a daily basis. Finally, to make sure that the care plan is working, the nursing home resident must be re-assessed regularly and when there are incidents, injuries and/or changes in condition. Doctors and family members must be notified when incidents, injuries and/or changes in condition occur. If the care plan is not preventing the things it is designed to prevent then the nursing home must investigate why and if necessary try new things.

If a nursing home resident sustains a fall that causes injury, develops a bed sore, becomes malnourished or dehydrated, or sustains another type of injury that the nursing home claims was “unavoidable” there is a good chance that the nursing home resident is not getting the appropriate care and treatment that he or she deserves and the nursing home is required by law to give. Unavoidability is one of the most common defenses in a nursing home case. However, in order for a nursing home to say that an injury is unavoidable they must be able to show that all of the above steps were followed: (1) Assess, (2) Care Plan, (3) Communicate the Care Plan, (4) Implement the Care Plan, (5) Re-assess, (6) If necessary, try new things. If all of these steps were appropriately followed then maybe the injury was unavoidable. When the nursing home says that an injury is unavoidable what they are really saying is that nursing home resident was at risk for the injury. For example, consider a nursing home resident who develops a pressure sore. The cause of a pressure sore is unrelieved pressure. Pressure sores usually form on the bony prominences of the body like the hips, sacral/coccyx area and heals. Nursing home residents who are immobile or who have limited mobility are at risk for pressure sores. However, not all immobile nursing home residents develop pressure sores. There are preventative measures available designed to address a nursing home resident’s risk for pressure sores. Specialty air loss mattresses that relieve pressure can and should be used for residents at risk. Regular turning and repositioning is critical to relieve pressure. Appropriate nutritional support is key in prevention and healing of pressure sores. These are just a few of the available preventative measures. A nursing home cannot say that a pressure ulcer is unavoidable for a resident at risk if they did not take the necessary steps to address the risk.
IP Corner

By: Angela Filippo

IP corner is a new column in the Justinian Society Newsletter focusing on intellectual property law (IP law). IP law includes patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets. What IP law is not is information technology law (IT Law) but as the internet becomes more pervasive IT and IP law intertwine. This column will provide a brief primer on IP law and distinguish it from IT law to help you best protect your clients’ rights. It will provide updates on federal and state decisions affecting IP law and further familiarize you with the many facets of the IP world.

Your client has a logo, invention, publication or secret – which form of IP protection does he need?

Trademark law protects brand names and source identification. You have seen millions in your lifetime – Levis and McDonald’s name obvious ones. Business names and proper names are typical to trademark protection; however, colors, smells, and jingles can also be source identifiers protected by trademark law. For example the pink color of Owens-Corning insulation, a floral-fragranced yarn, or the NBC network tri-note jingle. Trademarks identify the source of a product or service and must be distinctive in nature.

Patent law protects inventions and methods but NOT ideas. The distinguishing factor is that the invention or method must be useful and can be created and used by a person of ordinary skill in the art. The idea of converting all transportation to air-type vehicles (ala Jetsons) may be novel and non-obvious, but likely it cannot be reduced to practice and is therefore not patentable. The three components that make something patentable are utility, novelty, and non-obviousness. Definitions for these three terms of art have developed through case law and remain ambiguous even today.

Copyright law protects “an original work of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression.” It extends to protection to books, scripts, movies, objects of art, and music to name a few. It can also cover computer programs which are captured on disk or printed format. The key to copyright protection is that the work must be captured or fixed – live performances, unless recorded and captured are not copyrightable. However, the lyrics and written music are copyrightable when reduced to documentation. Copyright law is similar to trademark law because copyrights bond a creator to his work, like trademarks connect a product to an entity. Many items that are copyrightable can be trademarked as well – e.g. logos, symbols, slogans.

Trade secret law provides better protection for intellectual property because as it states – it keeps a secret, secret. However, unless measures are put into place to maintain secrecy, trade secret law will not attach, and once the secret is out, protection is lost. Another nuance of trade secret law is that the owner of the secret must derive financial gain from keeping the secret from his competitors. The secret ingredient lists for Kentucky Fried Chicken or Coca Cola are examples of trade secrets.

Where does one go to find the different sources of intellectual property law?

Patent laws are found in 35 USC §101 et seq. Trademark laws are found in the Lanham Act, 15 USC §1051 et seq. and in individual state regulations. Copyright laws are found in the Copyright Act of 1976 and 17 USC §101 et seq. Trade secret law varies from state to state where the Uniform Trade Secrets Act has had influence on those regulations.

How long does these different forms of protection last?

Patent protection extends 20 years from the date of filing. Trademark protection lasts forever provided the mark is continually used in commerce and the registration remains current. Copyright protection lasts for the life of the author plus 70 years. Trade secret protection is perpetual provided the secret is never divulged.

Is there formal training required to handle intellectual property law matters?

Trademark, copyright and trade secret laws do not require additional certification or bar admission; however, one is bound by ethical standards to not practice in areas of law too unfamiliar. Patent law, specifically patent prosecution (i.e. applications to the Patent Office), can only be practiced by a person admitted to the Patent Bar (yes, another exam!).

Where does one go from here?

As with all types of law, this corner has provided merely an insight into the four different types of IP law protection. The case law is encumbered with exceptions and interpretations. Watch this corner to continue to enhance your knowledge of this mysterious sector of law.

[Editor’s note: Angelina M. Filippo, Esq. graduated from The John Marshall Law School in May 2010 with an LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law. She is starting a solo practice focusing on intellectual property law and small business/entrepreneurial matters.]
Family Law Report
Sheltering Retained Earnings

By: Celia G. Gamrath
Circuit Judge of Cook County
Formerly of Schiller DuCanto & Fleck

In the divorce context, issues often arise about retained earnings in a nonmarital closely held subchapter S corporation. Recent case law provides guidance on how the shareholder spouse can shield retained earnings from the other spouse, and how the nonshareholder spouse can protect himself or herself and make a claim on behalf of the marital estate.

In general, when the corporation is the nonmarital property of one spouse, the retained earnings are also deemed nonmarital and not subject to division as marital property. However, the nonshareholder spouse can make a claim for reimbursement to the marital estate if he or she can show that the shareholder spouse made significant personal efforts during the marriage that caused a substantial appreciation in value and was undercompensated for such efforts.

He or she may also have a claim if the retained earnings were not historically retained in the corporation at such a high level and there is no legitimate business reason for doing so.

Courts look more critically at the level of retained earnings held in the corporation when the shareholder spouse is the sole or majority shareholder and has the authority to determine his or her salary, declare dividends and decide what level of earnings to retain in the corporation.

Two recent Illinois decisions demonstrate the application of these factors in the context of divorce.

They also provide guidance on how to shelter retained earnings, as well as how to inject their value as a part of the marital estate.

In In re Marriage of Schmitt, 391 Ill.App.3d 1010 (2d Dist. 2009), the 2nd District Appellate Court reversed the trial court’s conclusion that the husband’s corporation and all parcels of real estate he purchased during the marriage were his nonmarital property.

Kim Schmitt worked at Colonial, a subchapter S corporation, and acquired 49 percent ownership of Colonial before his marriage. During the marriage, Schmitt purchased several parcels of real estate and other business interests, including Bricks, another subchapter S corporation, using distributions paid out of Colonial’s retained earnings account. The trial court held that because his ownership interest in Colonial was acquired before his marriage, it was nonmarital property; so too was Bricks and all the real estate he purchased during his marriage using funds distributed by Colonial, and later by Bricks.

The appellate court reversed the trial court’s decision and held that because Schmitt purchased the real estate and Bricks with income and distributions attributable to his personal efforts, these newly acquired assets were marital property subject to division between him and his wife.

Quoting the 3rd District opinion of In re Marriage of Joynt, 375 Ill.App.3d 817 (3d Dist. 2007), the Schmitt court explained that retained earnings and profits of a subchapter S corporation are a corporate asset and remain the corporation’s property until severed from the other corporate assets and distributed as dividends. However, once severed and distributed, either as salary, dividends or distributions charged against a spouse’s retained earnings account, they are deemed marital property if generated from personal efforts.

Shortly after Schmitt, the 1st District Appellate Court decided the case of In re Marriage of Lundahl, 396 Ill.App.3d 495 (1st Dist. 2009), which further clarified the rule of law that retained earnings attributable to personal efforts of a spouse are marital property when distributed. The court also extended the rule to provide that retained earnings may be marital property, even when they are retained in a nonmarital business, if there is no legitimate business reason for retaining earnings at such a high level and the retention of earnings is at the sole discretion of the shareholder spouse and designed to deprive the other spouse and marital estate from sharing in the profits.

A key factor in Lundahl was that the husband was the sole shareholder of the premarital subchapter S corporation. Because he had sole discretion over how much he was paid, which was not very much, and how much of the retained earnings should be distributed to him, the retained earnings were deemed marital property.

Lundahl may have been able to shelter the retained earnings if the substantial increase in retained earnings were not attributable to his personal efforts or if he was better compensated for his significant personal efforts during the marriage.

He also might have protected their nonmarital character if he was a minority shareholder or had an independent corporate board making decisions on salary, level of retained earnings and distributions made to shareholders. Showing a pattern of historical retained earnings and legitimate business reasons for the high level of retained earnings also would have helped his case.

However, without those protections in place, the court viewed the retained earnings as income derived from personal efforts during the marriage and, thus, marital property subject to division between Lundahl and his wife.

[Editor’s Note: Jim Moster, a longtime attorney and financial planner, has been an asset to many of our members in assisting with college savings programs, and most importantly, retirement planning.]
Illinois Appellate Court clarifies the use of a request to admit regarding plaintiff's medical expenses

By: James J. Morici, Jr.

In Oelze V. Score Sports Ventures, LLC, 927 N.E. 2d 137 (1st Dist. 2010), the Illinois Appellate Court, First District recently clarified the use of a Request to Admit under Supreme Court Rule 216 by a Plaintiff to prove her medical expenses were reasonable and necessary in a personal injury action.

On February 20, 2006, Plaintiff was playing tennis on Defendant’s tennis court when she fell catching her foot in a rope exercise ladder that was hidden behind a curtain at the back of the tennis court. The Plaintiff sustained a fractured elbow and torn rotator cuff and incurred medical bills for her care and treatment as a result of this incident.

The Plaintiff served a Request to Admit pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 216 upon the Defendant asking the Defendant to admit that Plaintiff incurred particular medical expenses as a result of the occurrence, that the expenses were for reasonable and necessary treatments, and the expenses were reasonable and fair charges. The Plaintiff attached a summary of her medical bills together with a copy of each bill. The Defendant answered stating that it had “made reasonable inquiry and the information known or readily available within Defendant’s control was insufficient to admit or deny” and that not being a physician or a nurse having no training in medical billing and practice rates or treatments described in Plaintiff’s bills, reasonable and necessary medical diagnosis, care or treatment, she could not admit or deny the Request to Admit.

The Plaintiff filed a motion to deem admitted asserting that the Defendant’s responses were deficient because it did not set forth a good faith detailed reason why certain requests could not be admitted. The Trial Court denied Plaintiff’s motion finding that although the question was moot given the Court’s having granted summary judgment to the Defendant, that the Defendant’s answers were proper.

The Oelze Court went on to outline that Rule 216 permits a party to serve on any other party, a written request for the admission by the latter of the truth of any specified relevant facts set forth in the request quoting Illinois Supreme Court Rule 216. Specifically, the Court pointed out that the necessity and reasonableness of the medical services that the Plaintiff received to treat her injuries and the reasonable costs of those services as facts that are proper subjects for a request to admit pursuant to Rule 216 citing Szczablewski v. Gosset, 795 N.E.2d 368 (2008). The Court noted that pursuant to Szczablewski that the statute was not designed to shift the burden of proof to a Defendant, but rather to save time and expense of litigation by eliminating the necessity of proof regarding facts within the knowledge of the party upon whom the request was made that a party has a good faith obligation to make a reasonable effort to secure answers to requests to admit from persons or documents within the responding party’s reasonable control including from the party’s attorney and insurance company investigators or representatives.

The Court in Oelze found that the Trial Court erred in denying Plaintiff’s Motion to Deem the Facts Admitted stating that in answering a Request to Admit a party is not just supposed to make a formulaic assertion quoting the language in Szczablewski nor is it to state an answer lacking any detail of the extent of the “reasonable inquiry” it asserts that it made or why the information known and readily obtainable by it was insufficient to enable it to admit or deny the requests. Rather, the responding party must explain why it cannot answer the requests. Because the Defendant did not do so in this case; its failure to answer in detail resulted in an admission of the requested facts.

Practitioners can save time and expense of litigation regarding their client’s medical expenses by using a properly drafted Request to Admit under Supreme Court Rule 216 as outlined above.

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

Declaring Bankruptcy Can Improve Your Credit Score: Here’s How

By: Richard Fonfrías

Deciding whether to file for bankruptcy protection is not easy. Among the many concerns, one that is typically front and center is the worry that your credit rating will be so damaged that securing a loan — even at a lousy rate — will be impossible.

But here’s some surprising news: In many cases, the damage done to your credit score isn’t nearly as bad as you might expect. Over the long run, obtaining a score high enough to make you eligible for very competitive rates isn’t out of the question.

Part of the reason why your score isn’t likely to suffer all that much is that most folks seriously struggling with debt aren’t maintaining a top-notch score to begin with. “In virtually every instance, the consumer will already have repayment problems such as late payments, very high balances, charged-off accounts or collection accounts,” says Rod Griffin, a spokesman for Experian, one of the three major credit bureaus.

In light of this, some consumers may even see a slight boost in their credit scores after filing bankruptcy, according to John Ulzheimer, president of Credit.com Educational Services, a consumer credit education group. Why? To start with, your credit report is largely wiped clean when you declare bankruptcy. Your high balances are removed, as are any late payments or records of unpaid debts.

Instead, the accounts included in the bankruptcy will be marked as “Included in Chapter 7 Bankruptcy” or “Included in Chapter 13 Wage Earner Plan,” depending on which type of bankruptcy you filed. Both types of bankruptcy affect your credit score in the same way, according to Ulzheimer. Granted, you aren’t likely to see a big jump — but if you’ve just been scraping by, your score isn’t likely to fall much further.

That said, a bankruptcy could help your score over the long term, as well. Here’s why: When calculating scores, the formulas

Continued on Page 24
developed by Fair Isaac (the company that calculates the most widely used credit score, known as the FICO score) are set up to grade someone’s credit standing as compared with that of consumers in a similar financial position. To do that, Fair Isaac divides consumers into 10 groups, using what it calls “score cards.” It then ranks the consumers in each group based on the others in the group. One of these score cards is bankruptcy filers. (For competitive reasons, Fair Isaac doesn’t release what constitutes all 10 groups.)

In other words, when you file bankruptcy, your score is determined based on how you do compared with other bankruptcy filers, explains Fair Isaac spokesman Craig Watts. The reason? “It’s a much fairer comparison,” he says. “You’re not compared with people with perfect reports.”

As a result, credit scores can run the gamut among bankruptcy filers. “In that population, you’ll find some consumers who have very good FICO scores, some who have very bad FICO scores, and in between,” Watts says. (Fair Isaac doesn’t have statistics on the average FICO score for bankruptcy filers.)

Granted, you won’t be able to bring your score up to the perfect 850 as long as your bankruptcy stays in your report, but with good credit management after filing, a score in the 700s isn’t impossible.

Then again, your credit score alone shouldn’t affect whether you decide to file bankruptcy. “You have to be realistic about your ability to get back on your feet financially,” says credit expert Gerri Detweiler, author of “The Ultimate Credit Handbook.” Most experts would still say that if you can dig your way out of debt without declaring bankruptcy, that’s a better way to go. This is because, among other things, you may be forced to sell certain assets — in some states even your home or car — to meet the bankruptcy filing requirements. (This may be the case with Chapter 7 bankruptcy, but not Chapter 13.) Another issue: Given the tougher new bankruptcy rules, you may not even be able to declare bankruptcy.

That said, if your debt payments are crushing you, bankruptcy will give you a much-needed fresh start. And with a few clever credit repair strategies, your score could be back in the 700s within two or three years.

**Bouncing Back**

Here’s how to raise your credit score as quickly as possible after declaring bankruptcy:

1. **Damage control**
   Make sure all the accounts you included in your bankruptcy are listed as such, and show $0 balances if you filed Chapter 7, says Detweiler. If a creditor continues to report the account as delinquent — which they shouldn’t — your credit score would suffer.

2. **Get new credit cards**
   That’s the most important step in your bankruptcy recovery, Detweiler says. If you can’t get approved for an unsecured credit card, start out with a secured card. With a secured card, you will make a deposit with the credit-card issuer, which will in essence be your credit limit. Typically, after a year of on-time payments, you could “graduate” to a regular, unsecured credit card.

3. **Piggyback**
   If you have a trusted friend or relative, ask them to make you an authorized user on one of their credit cards. Your bankruptcy won’t affect your friend’s credit — and you’ll automatically get the account history for that card in your credit report.

4. **Bigger loans**
   What about auto loans and mortgages? You can start shopping for auto loans as soon as a few months out of bankruptcy, says Steven Snyder, author of the book “Credit After Bankruptcy.” Traditional banks are likely to turn you down, but the financing folks at the dealership may be more lenient, especially if they’re in a bind to meet sales quotas. Mortgage lenders will want to see at least two years of good credit behavior, according to Snyder.

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

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**Future Justinian National Champ**

By: Robert W. Bertucci

Justinian Third Vice President Judge Robert W. Bertucci traveled to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis in February to watch the 69th Annual Brigade Boxing Championships with his son Michael, who was invited to a Naval Academy candidate’s weekend visit. (Michael ultimately turned down an Appointment to the Naval Academy to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He plans on becoming a Justinian before his older brother.)

For the third time in three years at the Naval Academy, Christopher Bertucci, Midshipman 2/C, won the annual Brigade Boxing Championship at 156 lbs. (Middleweight). After winning the Brigades, Christopher went on to Nationals at West Virginia University where he also finished first for the third time. Thereafter, he fought at Nationals in New York. After winning his fights on April 8 and 9, he fought in the championship bout on April 10, 2010, and won the National Title in a unanimous decision.

Christopher’s next goal is to win the Brigade Championship in his final year at Navy. In the seventy year history of Brigade Boxing; a select few midshipman have won it all four years. He would also like to retain the national title next year, but will likely be pursuing a Masters in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University beginning his last semester of senior year. If so, he will have difficulty training with the boxing team. Fortunately, the nearly eight month boxing season has not impacted negatively on Christopher’s academic performance. He continues to rank near the top of his class and was recommended for the Masters program by his academic advisor.
"Fratelli Balli" ISBA President Mark Hassakis and John G. Locallo in London.

President Elect John Locallo interfaces at a recent Illinois State Bar Association function with retired Chief Justice Moses W. Harrison, career Justinian, and past president, Leonard F. Amari. Of course, John Locallo was sworn as president-elect of the ISBA and will become president of this 32,000 member organization next June at its annual meeting at The Abbey in Lake Geneva.

Have you eaten at Fiorentino’s yet? Located at 2901 N. Ashland, Chicago, with ample parking, and run by Francesca and Steve Fiorentino, wife and son of career Justinian Steve.

The Tassones, Gemmellaros, and Amaris with Steve, Francesca, and son Steve Fiorentino.

Consul General Alessandro Motta and his beautiful wife, Sandrine, break bread with Leonard and Donna Amari; Joseph and Kristine Locallo; and Jim and MaryAnn Hynes at Fiorentino’s, 2901 N. Ashland. Proprietor and hostess, Francesca Fiorentino, pictured in the second row, far right.

Justian Executive Committee meeting. Standing, from left: Gregg Garofalo, Vince Vidmer, Lisa Marino, Cristina Mungai, and Judge Bertucci. Seated, from left: Anita DeCarlo, Katherine Amari O’Dell, and Jessica DePinto.

Stunning bride, Jenna Locallo, on her wedding day (left). Above: Proud and happy parents of Jenna Locallo, Kristine and Joseph Locallo, Jr.

WEDDING OF JENNA LOCALLO AND MICHAEL KAY
JUSTINIANS HOST BREAKFAST TO HONOR COMMISSIONER PETER D. SILVESTRI, AT OUR HEADQUARTERS

JoAnne Serpico, president of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans along with Commissioner Silvestri, past presidents Joe Gagliardo and Anthony Fornelli.

Commissioner Silvestri along with Antonio Romanucci, past president, and Richard Pellegrino.

State Representative and past president, Franco Coladipietro, along with Amari & Locallo intern, John Marshall 3L, Anthony Casaccio, with Tony Casaccio, president of Inland Development Corporation.

JUSTINIAN SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN RACE JUDICATA.

Each and every year our good friend, Meg Benson, and the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Corporation sponsor Race Judicata at the lakefront. A fundraising event for obvious purposes, this year over 4,000 lawyers and support folks participated in Race Judicata, making it the most successful year ever. Of course, the Illinois State Bar Association Sunday Runners fielded a team this year as well. Approximately 40 folks participated and earned, by their participation, the new generation of ISBA Runners tee-shirts, this year sponsored by the ISBA Mutual Insurance Company and our good friend, President John DeMoss and the Chairman of the Board Irene Bahr. Thanks to Bob Downs and Leonard Amari for the designing of the t-shirt.

Left: Umberto Davi, Judge Steve Pacey (winner, over 60 category), John G. Locallo, Bob Downs, Franco and Amy Coladipietro.

Right: Franco and Amy Coladipietro, John Locallo, and John Lag.

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is given a Chicago Cubs jacket from retiring president of the 7th Circuit Bar Association, Michael Monico. The Justice spoke during the annual meeting of the 7th Circuit Bar Association & Judicial Conference of the 7th Circuit Monday, May 3, 2010 in Chicago.

Justinian Lou Cairo on an African Safari.
On June 9 at the beautiful Elmcrest Banquets in Elmwood Park, the Italian American Political Coalition, the political arm of our Italian-American community, honored Italian-American and other judges at a banquet. Also honored, for their career of dedication to the profession and the community were two giants from our community, John Spatuzza and Anthony Fornelli.

Al Gallo, John Spatuzza & Franco Coladipietro

Fred Serpe, John Spatuzza, and Richard Pellegrino.

Richard Pellegrino, Tom Battista, Anthony Fornelli, and Fred Serpe.

JMLS student Anthony Casaccio, Alderman Fioretti, Tony Romanucci, and Joe Cataldo.

Kevin Hull, Alderman Fioretti, Russ Hartigan, and Jon DeMoss.

Michael Conway, Alderman Fioretti, JMLS student John Simpson, and Jessica DePinto.

Past presidents Len DeFranco, Sam Tomatore, Alderman Fioretti and Roxanne L. Rochester.
The Illinois State Bar Association has been honored with the American Bar Association Day Grassroots Award. The honor recognizes the ISBA for its effectiveness in lobbying Congress on behalf of issues of concern to the justice system. The association is one of two to receive this year’s award for state organizations. The Grassroots Award was given in conjunction with ABA Day, a series of Capitol Hill events held last week in Washington, D.C., and designed to involve the American legal community in improving access to justice. With an executive director of the caliber of Bob Craghead, and its wonderful Board of Governors, elected officers and marvelous staff, the ISBA is one of the preeminent bar associations in the country.

Edward D. Manzo, a partner in Husch, Blackwell, Sanders LLP, has been named the new president of the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago. Manzo previously served IPLAC as litigation committee chair, membership committee chair, board member, vice president, president-elect, and principal counsel in several amicus briefs filed with the U.S. Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Court. The longtime IP lawyer recently joined the Chicago office of Husch, Blackwell, Sanders LLP as a partner. Manzo concentrates his practice in intellectual property litigation. Also, West Publishing recently released the 2010 edition of Patent Claim Construction in the Federal Circuit, edited by Husch Blackwell Sanders’ Edward D. Manzo. Manzo originated the book and has served as its editor-in-chief since its first commercial publication in 2006.

Mitchell L. Marinello, of Novack and Macey LLP, has been awarded the Most Valuable Volunteer Award (Publications) by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education.


Steve Phillips was nominated to be the Third Vice President of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. He will become President in 2013.

Cook County Deputy Sheriff Joseph Fiorentino (right) received the 2010 Law Enforcement Award from the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA) at a ceremony held May 11 at the ISBA Chicago Regional office. ISBA President John G. O’Brien (above) presented him with the award, which was created to recognize sworn law enforcement officers for conduct that promotes justice and to distinguish those individuals whose service to the public brings honor and respect to the entire criminal justice system.

Steven M. Ruffalo has been installed as president of the DuPage County Bar Association for 2010-2011. Ruffalo is a partner in the law firm of Fuchs & Roselli, Ltd., where he concentrates his practice in commercial and municipal litigation and trial work.

Other officer and their positions are: Colleen M. McLaughlin, president-elect; Sharon R. Knobbe, 2nd vice president; Patrick B. Hurley, 3rd vice president; John A. Pleviak, secretary-treasurer; Lynn M. Mirabella, assistant treasurer; Timothy M. McLean, general counsel; and Gerald A. Cassioppi, associate general counsel.

In addition, four elected members of the DCBA’s 16-member board of directors were installed last week. They are Angela M. Aliota, James J. Laraia, Terence C. Mullen, and John Joseph Pcolinski Jr.

John Marshall Law School Professor Michael J. Polelle has retired from the faculty of which he has been a member for 35 years. Before that, he was on the faculty of DePaul University College of Law for five years. He joined John Marshall in 1975. Polelle created and administered a summer program for John Marshall students at the University of Parma in Italy. With Professor Bruce L. Otley at DePaul Law, he co-wrote Illinois Tort Law, published by Lexis Nexis/Matthew Bender.
Gina DeCiani, longtime Justinian and adjunct faculty at Loyola University School of Law, was a panelist at Loyola University’s Women’s Leadership Conference in May. An engaging speaker, Gina educated approximately 100 conference participants with her reflections of leadership. She shared the panel with officers of McDonald’s Corporation and Sky Chicago, Inc. She has also been recognized by Diversity MBA Magazine as one of the Top 100 under 50 Diverse and Emerging Executive Leaders for 2010.

Lenny DeFrano graduates from Fordham

Dominick L. Lanzito of Querrey & Harrow Ltd. has been appointed to the Illinois State Bar Association’s Assembly. The Assembly is the ISBA’s policy-making body, consisting of 201 lawyer members. At the law firm, Lanzito focuses his practice in federal litigation, municipal liability and general corporate matters.

Scott D. Verhey (below) was named to the Board of Directors of the Danny Did Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated in its mission to prevent deaths caused by seizures. Visit www.dannydid.org for more information. Verhey operates a solo practice in Chicago concentrating in commercial litigation and eminent domain.

Anthony C. Raccuglia of Peru, was awarded the prestigious Leonard M. Ring Lifetime Achievement Award at the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association Convention on Friday, June 11. The convention will be held at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort in Oak Brook. The criteria of the award is as follows: “This award is given annually at the convention banquet to someone selected by a committee appointed by the president. The recipient is someone who has devoted, as Leonard did, a substantial part of their life and their practice to ITLA, someone who has done more than is called for. Someone who had the standards of Leonard, the work ethics of Leonard and the commitment to ITLA that Leonard had. At the same time, it keeps alive the memory of Leonard Ring.”

Congratulations to retired Supreme Court Justice and Justinian friend Ben Miller upon being recognized with the prestigious Honorable George N. Leighton Justice Award.

Congratulations to Gabriel M. Caporale and his future wife upon their wedding on October 10, 2010.

Congratulations to Sarah Scarpelli has been named the director of admission and financial aid for the Northern Illinois University College of Law.

Todd A. Smith, longtime and active friend of the society, and a founding partner of Power, Rogers & Smith, Chicago, was installed as the 57th President of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association in mid June at its annual convention.

The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association recently elected its 2010-2011 officers, including, Michael V. Favia, 2nd Vice President and past Justinian president, and Regina A. Scannicchio, of Scannicchio & Associates, treasurer.

A good friend of our society, the next Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, Justice Thomas L. Kilbride has been given the 2010 Award of Excellence in the Judiciary from the Illinois State Crime Commission. Kilbride received the award at the group’s 14th annual “Salute to Those Who Make a Difference” awards dinner. Michael Prueter, president of the commission, said Kilbride was honored for his “years of professionalism, integrity and superior performance in the court system in Illinois.”

President Elect Katherine Amari O’Dell with Illinois Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride.

Congratulations to longtime Justinian supporter, Judge Gerald C. Bender, upon receipt of the Decalogue Society of Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award. Interesting to note that Steve J. Rizzi has been elected second vice president of the Decalogue Society.

Congratulations to Judge Gerald C. Bender with Past President Leonard Amari.

Congratulations to Gina Arquilla DeBoni who in early June became the managing attorney at the prestigious and very successful catastrophic injury firm of Romanucci & Blandin.

Gina Arquilla DeBoni, left, with Franco Coladipietro and Celia Gamrath.

Congratulations to Mark E. Wojcik upon being elected secretary of the Illinois State Bar Association. Wojcik, a career Justinian, is a law professor at The John Marshall Law School, where he teaches international law and other courses, including torts, legal writing and sexual orientation law. He is also the author of a casebook on AIDS Law, a legal writing text for nonnative speakers of English, and a book on Illinois legal research.

Mark Wojcik with Alderman Ed Burke and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke.

The Women’s Division of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans recently announced the recipients of its prestigious 2010 Impresa Awards including three active lawyers from our community. Judge Jill Cerone Morisie, Linda Mastandrea, and Anne R. Pramaggiore were saluted along with a handful of other outstanding Italian American women from our community at its gala dinner held on Saturday, September 11th, 2010 at Medinah County Club. Jill Cerone Morisie is an elected circuit court judge hearing cases in the 3rd Municipal District in Rolling Meadows; Linda Mastandrea is a former U.S. Paralympics Gold Medal winner and is an attorney representing the disabled; and Anne R. Pramaggiore is the first women president and chief operating officer of Commonwealth Edison.

Past president and newly elected judge, Celia Gamrath, along with Judge Jill Marisie, and Justinian Carole Griffin Ruzich.

The Women’s Division of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans recently announced the recipients of its prestigious 2010 Impresa Awards including three active lawyers from our community. Judge Jill Cerone Morisie, Linda Mastandrea, and Anne R. Pramaggiore were saluted along with a handful of other outstanding Italian American women from our community at its gala dinner held on Saturday, September 11th, 2010 at Medinah County Club. Jill Cerone Morisie is an elected circuit court judge hearing cases in the 3rd Municipal District in Rolling Meadows; Linda Mastandrea is a former U.S. Paralympics Gold Medal winner and is an attorney representing the disabled; and Anne R. Pramaggiore is the first women president and chief operating officer of Commonwealth Edison.

Anthony Fornelli with his beautiful daughters and granddaughter.

Anthony Fornelli with his career protégé Leonard Amari.

Must Read: Cosmo F. Ferraro, Ed.D. recently published “Profiles of Italian Americans: Achieving the Dream and Giving Back” (Bordighera Press), and in which he highlighted the distinguished careers of prominent Italian Americans throughout the United States. With pride, we announce in these pages that one of the people highlighted is our own Anthony J. Fornelli, past president of the Justinian Society, past recipient of our distinguished Award of Excellence, a Laureate of the Illinois Academy of Lawyers of the Illinois State Bar Association (one of a very small handful ever to have reached this esteemed status), recipient of the Cardinal Bernadin Award of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans, role model, friend and mentor. No one has done more in terms of giving back to the community than Anthony J. Fornelli. In the Ferraro tome, he recites page after page of the wonderful accomplishments of Anthony J. Fornelli and as many pages of how he has given back to the community, including, one of the founders and one of the continuing movers and shakers to create Casa Italia in Stone Park, IL, the home of the Italian American Community in the Chicagoland area; founding board member and past president and continuing leader in our Italian American Political Coalition; creator of the Italian American war museum, and creator of and continuing chair of the Italian American Executive Hall of Fame, both housed at Casa Italian, publisher of our community voice Fra Noi, to mention a few. Tony is an example of the best our community has to offer and the book by Cosmo F. Ferrara does him justice. A must read.

Justinian obtain Senior Counsellor status in 2010; fifty years distinguishing themselves in the practice of law in the state of Illinois; Victor Ciardelli, Frank De Pauli (deceased), Gildo Fato, Anthony Fornelli, Anthony Pauletto, Angelo Ruggiero, Thomas Santora, Louis Siciliano, and Charles Winkler.

Congratulations to John M. Madonia, who circuit judges of the 7th Judicial Circuit have selected for an associate judgeship.

Snowbird Special! Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath, luxury home with heated pool/spa overlooking Troon Mountain in northeast Scottsdale, Arizona is available for seasonal rental. Why spend another January/February dealing with Chicago’s winter? It’s always sunny and beautiful at this very private residence. Call Jim Morici at 312/813-9235 for photos and details.
Verdicts & Settlements
By: Michael F. Bonamarte

Congratulations to Anthony Raccuglia & Associates on a $4 million dollar verdict in LaSalle County. Anthony represented the family of a couple who were killed when their vehicle was hit from behind by the Defendants tractor trailer as they approached a construction zone on Interstate 39. The Defendants admitted liability at trial. It is believed that the Defendant driver fell asleep at the wheel.

Congratulations to Dominic Fichera and Howard Miller of Fichera & Miller on a $2 million dollar settlement for the family of an adult bicyclist who was struck and killed by the Defendant driver at the intersection of Ogden and Grand Avenue.

Congratulations to John Gregorio of Gregorio & Associates on a $700,000 settlement. John represented a Plaintiff flagger who was struck by an Asphalt truck while it was operating in reverse at a road resurfacing project in Urbana. The Plaintiff sustained leg damage and necessitated below the knee amputation. Plaintiff alleged that the reverse warning system was not functioning while the defense argued that Plaintiff was at fault for walking behind the moving truck.

Congratulations to Past President James J. Morici, Jr., who recently concluded a $1.75 million verdict for a west suburban man who suffered a severe ankle fracture when a moving truck struck him while he was on a construction site. The settlement includes $1 million for medical expenses to treat his injuries. Jarvis’ potential earnings capacity in the career of his choice has also been severely impacted.

Miscellanea, Continued

Congratulations to Craig Tomassi who obtained a not-guilty verdict for his client in an automobile accident case. The Plaintiff in the case was stopped waiting to turn left on northbound Laramie & Cicero when her vehicle was rear-ended by Defendants. Plaintiff said that she had just pulled onto Laramie from westbound 14th Street after stopping for a stop sign and making a right turn. Plaintiff claimed the impact caused cervical herniations. Defense contended that Plaintiff failed to stop at the sign and suddenly pulled out in front of him. Defense also attributed to cervical herniations to degeneration as opposed to trauma.

Congratulations again to Anthony Raccuglia of Anthony Raccuglia & Associates on a $1.5 million dollar settlement. Plaintiff suffered a closed head injury in an automobile accident during head on collision with Defendant’s tractor. Allegedly, the farm combine attached to the Defendant’s tractor was operating partially in Plaintiff’s lane. In addition to the closed head injury, Plaintiff suffered multiple fractures. There were no independent eye witnesses to the accident.

Congratulations to Carl Salvato of Navigato & Salvato on a $1.3 million dollar settlement for his client in an automobile accident. Defendant lost control of his vehicle on eastbound I-70 and crossed the median striking westbound Plaintiff’s vehicle and causing fatal injuries to a father and a son.

Congratulations to Past President John Locallo, First VP Katherine A. O’Dell and Hon. Patrice Bal- Reel (center) at the Women’s Bar Association’s 2010 Golf Outing. Photo below
Trocchio, Angelo
Our prayers are with the family of Bob Trocchio, active Italian-American community member, president of the Columbian Club, upon the passing of his father, Angelo Trocchio.

Verhey, Glen
Our condolences to the Verhey family upon the death of Glen Verhey after his short illness. Glen is survived by two children Laurie and Scott (Margaret) and numerous grandchildren.

Alfred E. Gallo:
A personal reflection by Leonard F. Amari

Recently, our ethnic community, the Illinois legal community, the banking industry, The John Marshall Law School family, his legions of friends, and admirers, lost a giant, Mr. Alfred E. Gallo. Space disallows listing all of his accomplishments and successes. To mention just a few: prominent lawyer and community leader; the dean of past presidents of the Justinian Society, the recipient of its esteemed Award of Excellence (2003); a Laureate of the prestigious Illinois State Bar Association Academy of Lawyers (2008); career member of his beloved law school, President of its Board of Trustees (2000 to 2007); WW II volunteer, U.S. Army, Counterintelligence Corps, stationed in Africa and Italy; creator and supervisor of the Trust Department of the, then, LaSalle Street Bank (1955); president of the Cosmopolitan National Bank of Chicago (1971); Chief Operating Officer and Chairman of the Board of the United of America Bank and O’Hare International Bank (1975); creator of the Land Trust Council of Illinois, President of the trust division of the Illinois Bankers Association; creator of and chairman of the board for many years of the Sicilian American Cultural Association; co-creator of the Ecclesiastical Foundation for the Perpetuation of the Queen of All Saints Basilica; board member Greater North Michigan Avenue Association; board member of the Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine; founder of the elite Oenophilists’ Society of Chicago, etc, etc.

Mr. Gallo’s accomplishments listed are just that, benchmarks of a successful career and a good life. Implicit in all of those accomplishments are the many lives that he touched, the people he helped, the contributions to his community and to our ethnicity, the legal profession, and to legal education.

An example of Mr. Gallo’s great esteem is found in the following quote, upon being selected a Laureate of the Illinois Academy of Lawyers, the highest accolade an attorney can attain in the Illinois legal community, retired Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice, Moses W. Harrison, said, in supporting his nomination: “I can think of no person in our profession more deserving of a nomination as a Laureate than Alfred E. Gallo. I have great personal admiration of this dedicated and generous man of good will, as do all who come in contact with him.”

As Al’s successor as the President of JMLS Board of Trustees, I can appreciate his contributions to this 111 year old law school. AI recognized the opportunities provided by this law school as a returning war veteran and dedicated the rest of his career to contributing as a member of its Board of Trustees, in fact, its Executive Committee, for over thirty years. In 2000, he was elected President after having served as First Vice President of the Board for many years. Because of Al Gallo, I became a member of the Board of Trustees in 2000, his first official act. Because of Al, I succeeded him as President in 2007, promising to continue on his legacy of making JMLS a preeminent law school in the state of Illinois, graduating lawyers capable of practicing law, trying cases, and helping people, always remembering to give back to the law school in appreciation for the access and opportunity provided to its graduates, to us.

Al’s allegiance to the law school, passed on to me and so many others, is just an example of his legacy, one that exists in the Justinian Society, the banking industry, to wine aficionados, recognizes of the value of continuing the legacies of ethnicity, such as the Sicilian American Cultural Association, the legal profession, in the community.

There are many folks from our community not unlike Al Gallo, that give for altruistic reasons, to make the community a better place, to advance Italian Americans in the professions, especially law and banking, to better the Italian American condition in the Chicagoland area, but none any more so than Alfred E. Gallo.

Mr. Gallo was my mentor, my role model, and my friend, a significant influence in my value system, my success as a lawyer and my position at The John Marshall Law School, like so many others whose lives he touched and for so many years. Mr. Gallo, you were a kind man and a giant, you will be missed and you will never be forgotten or failed to be appreciated, so long as there are folks like me who recognize all the positive things you have done and for so many years, touching so many lives.
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By: Leonard F. Amari

The Dean of Justinian past presidents, Alfred E. Gallo (J.D. 1949), has been elected unanimously by The John Marshall Law School board of trustees, his beloved alma mater, president of its Emeritus Board. The Emeritus Board, like at many educational institutions, consists of prominent former trustees as well as honorary members who have distinguished themselves in their careers and especially for their contributions to JMLS.

We copy verbatim, here, an article that was written about the beloved Mr. Gallo not so long ago that captures his great affection and respect for the school. Of course, the article does not capture the great affection that he enjoys among his brother and sister Justinians.

“I dread to think of where I would be or what I would be if I had not graduated from The John Marshall Law School. Edward T. Lee, the Dean of the Law School in 1940, was gracious in accepting me with only two years of undergraduate studies at Wright Junior College and credits for studying and obtaining successful grades from the University of Illinois. Working as a checkroom manager and night assistant desk clerk at the Midwest Athletic Club in Chicago, I was able to pay my tuition, upkeep and contribute to the family expenses, of which I was very proud. I completed one year of law studies.

As threats of war persisted, and it appeared that I would be unable to complete my law studies, I volunteered for the Counterintelligence Corps of the United State Army and was accepted. The acceptance was conditional upon my completion of basic training. Infantry basic training was hell at Fort Benning, Georgia, where it was common knowledge that one parachute commando could annihilate 10 infantry men. Occasionally, one of our men would injure four or five commandos before he was shipped to the nearest hospital.

My army career took me to Africa and Italy, training for military government and intelligence assignments. There were some hair-raising experiences, but many interesting remembrances.

Upon being discharged, I knew that I wanted to continue the study of law.

During my attendance at John Marshall, I had the pleasure of studying under great professors: Edward T. Lee, Arthur J. Goldberg, James Milne, Palmer Edwards, Noble Lee and others. I am sure that I speak for many graduates when I say I disliked Noble Lee, but when it was all over, I realized that I learned more from that man than from anyone else. After graduation, having been fortunate enough to have reached a high position in the banking and trust fields, Noble Lee and I became close friends and I felt nothing but admiration and respect for him. It’s a pity we don’t have any recordings or videos of him so that some of our current students and graduates could appreciate the harrowing, but rewarding, experiences we shared with him!

Recognized as a leading trust advocate and a friend of many trust experts in Chicago and the State of Illinois, I was responsible for forming the Land Trust Council of Illinois, with a membership exceeding 100 banks. I also was president of the Trust Division of the Illinois Bankers Association. Banking was equally rewarding, as I was president of several banks, two at one time. Another proud achievement was my attaining the position of director of a satellite bank and the holding company of The Northern Trust Company.

After retiring from banking and trust operations (but still remaining director of an outstanding institution), I was able to practice law as I dreamed, specializing in banking, probate, corporate, real estate, mergers, acquisitions and environmental matters.

Having been a marginal student, but doggedly determined to become a lawyer, I always try to help ambitious marginal applicants by getting them entered in our conditional summer class. Several have graduated with high honors and some even wrote for our fine law review. This is a great program that we should continue forever.

The help and guidance of many successful graduates and members of our Board of Trustees—Louis Biro, Alvin W. Long, Samuel Maragos, Phillip Baim, Walter Hamman and John Cadwalader Menk, to name a few – has been much appreciated. They have helped me to serve on the Executive, Investment and Audit Committees for more than 25 years. I am proud to say that I am able to repay my time and efforts to The John Marshall Law School, the institution responsible for my enjoyable experiences, prestigious positions, and successes.

In addition to the practice of law, I found time to organize the Oenophilist Society (lovers of wine), where we have enjoyed great camaraderie, gourmet provincial dishes and delectable vintage wines. The Republic of Italy also bestowed upon me the Star of Solidarity, for fostering the knowledge and appreciation of the life and works of Michelangelo.”

[Editor’s note: This article was written and submitted just prior to his passing. Mr. Gallo has served as a role model, mentor and friend to so many Justinians who have followed him.]

The legacy of Alfred E. Gallo, both in the Justinian Society and at The John Marshall Law School, will always be appreciated and recognized.
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