

Chartered October 21, 1921

Spring 2014

Justinian Society Newsletter

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President's Message

As you read this Justinian Society of Lawyers Spring Newsletter we are fast approaching the end of our year. It has been an honor to serve as president of the Society.

The year started with our successful golf outing in June, with the net profits going to our Children's Endowment and Scholarship funds. That was followed by our wonderful Installation and Awards Dinner in September at the Palmer House Hilton. The Honorable Anita M. Alvarez, Cook County State's Attorney, was our Award of Excellence recipient (in memory of Assistant State's Attorney Joseph Nigro), and her acceptance speech was among the highlights of the evening. Along with the many Presiding Judges of the Circuit Court of Cook County and other distinguished guests seated at the dais, we were fortunate to be joined by Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride, and Cook County Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans, who graciously administered the oath of office to my fellow officers and me.

Our Lifetime Achievement Award recipient (in memory of Justice Moses Harrison), Italian Senatore Renato (Ron) Turano, was called to Rome to attend to senate matters days before the Installation Dinner. However, he called me upon his return and requested the opportunity to come to our October Scholarship Dinner to personally thank the Society for his award. Senator Turano attended our Scholarship Dinner at Petterino's and was very gracious and thankful in his warm remarks to our members.

I had the pleasure of sitting with Ron at dinner as he discussed his desire to host a group of Justinians in the Italian Senate. In addition,



he discussed his interest in sponsoring a judicial exchange program involving Justinian members of the judiciary and Italian judges. With those seeds planted, we can look forward to these future benefits for our members. After dinner, Senator Turano proudly witnessed the presentation of over \$35,000 in law school scholarships to deserving law students, all of whom were in attendance, from several Chicago law schools including Chicago-Kent, John Marshall and Loyola. Most of these scholarships were matched by the respective law schools.

Once again at our Children's Endowment Fund Dinner in March the fund awarded money to those in need. It is another great endeavor the Society can be proud of. At our last dinner of the year at Gibson's Steakhouse in May, I presented mentoring awards as I ended my term as president. The Honorable Gerald L. Sbarboro Mentoring Awards were presented to the Honorable Thomas L. Kilbride, Justice, Illinois Supreme Court, and to the Honorable Timothy C. Evans, Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County. Each of the honorees received the award for their outstanding and consistent commitment to professionalism, camaraderie, service and mentoring.

When I think of the humble beginnings of my family in America, I know how blessed I am to be a member of this great profession, to have served as a judge for over 20 years, and to have served as an officer and president of the Justinian Society of Lawyers. As I close, I want to thank so many past presidents who early on offered their help and guidance. I also want to thank all of those who so diligently serve the Society, be they officers, executive committee members, or volunteers. In particular, I want to thank the many busy law students who so willingly volunteered when called upon. The Justinian Society can be proud of its rich history and of the prominent place it continues to hold in the legal profession.

- **Hon. Robert Bertucci**
President

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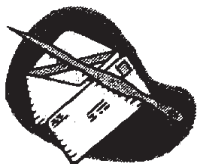
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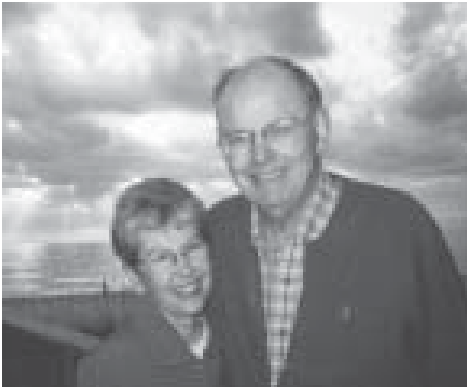
By: Katherine A. Amari O'Dell

REMEMBERING "MOSE"

Dear Sweet Leonard,

When Donna called tonight, I was just starting to read the Justinian Newsletter. I just came back to it. Your article and obit just blew me away. What a wonderful tribute from a wonderful friend. Mose would have been so happy. I must sign off now, because I am crying so much that I can't see the screen.

- Sharon Harrison



Sharon and the late Justice Moses Harrison

Caro Leonard,

It must be your goal to outdo yourself each and every time you publish. Outstanding! Complimenti,

- Bob Bertucci

Leonard,

Great article and pictures remembering your dear friend Moses Harrison. Thirty one years ago in 1982 I appeared before Justice Harrison as part of a three-judge panel in the Fifth District in Mt. Vernon. It was my first court appearance anywhere. I was scared shitless, but he treated me kindly and with respect. Then he joined us on our 12" softball league. We called him "crazy legs" Harrison. Fun times. Good memories. Great guy. He will be missed.

- Mark LaRose

Leonard,

My condolences...good man. I was lucky to know him through your friendship. God Bless.

- Scott Verhey

Dear Leonard,

One of the best people one could ever hope to call a friend, God grant him rest.

- Richard Caifano

Mr. Amari and Anthony:

I am writing to thank you for the incredibly generous scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative that I was selected as the recipient of the Moses Harrison scholarship.

Your generosity has inspired me to continue giving back to the Justinian Society throughout my legal career and beyond. I hope one day I will be able to help young Justinians achieve their goals, just as you have helped me.

- Frank Battaglia



Frank Battaglia photographed with Anthony Casaccio

[Editor's note: Good for you Frank. Mrs. Harrison and Judge (C W) Harrison, will be pleased to know the scholarship in Justice Harrison's name went to someone we are all fond of and deserving. Just remember, as "Mose" did during his entire life, pay it forward.]

Leonard,

I just read your remarks "Remembering Mose." Wonderful work as usual. Although I did not know the Justice well, I felt an insight to his life in your words. Thanks for highlighting his life for all of us. You do a great job – Keep it up!

- Don Storino



Left to Right: Don Storino, Umberto Davi, Joe Bisceglia, Gregg Garofalo

Dear Ms. Amari O'Dell:

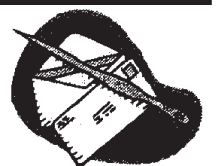
It was kind of you to send me the most recent edition of the Justinian Newsletter. I always enjoy reading it, and this edition was no different. The story about Judge Robert Bertucci written by my good friend, Leonard Amari, was excellent. You are doing a marvelous job as Justinian editor. Thank you for all your hard work.

- Judge Timothy Evans



Chief Judge Tim Evans with Mary Ann Hynes

Anyone wishing to share information with their fellow Justinians is encouraged to contact Newsletter Associate Editor **Katherine Amari O'Dell** at our Justinian headquarters address: 734 North Wells Street, Chicago, IL 60654; phone (312)255-8550; fax (312)255-8551; kaa@amari-locallo.com.



Justinian News

Installation Report

By: Cindy J. O'Keefe

We're back!!! This was the sentiment of many Justinians, bringing our celebration back to the Palmer House after a one year hiatus. On September 11, 2013, the Installation and Awards Dinner took place honoring our fellow distinguished Italian Americans and our esteemed officers for the 2013-2014 year. The Honorable Robert W. Bertucci was sworn in as president of our prestigious society.

We were honored to once again have Honorable Gloria Coco as chairperson the Installation Committee. Judge Coco has organized the Installation Dinner for the Justinian Society since 1985; her efforts ensured that this event was the highlight of the year.

The Honorable Joseph Urso presented Anita M. Alvarez, Cook County State's Attorney, with the 2013 Justinian Award of Excellence. This year the award was in honor of Assistant State's Attorney Joseph Nigro. Joseph Nigro was a career prosecutor, much like Anita, serving with distinction throughout his career under several State's Attorneys. Judge Urso, longtime Alvarez' friend and mentor, saw her rise as an assistant state's attorney when she tried the Girl X case in his court room. Ms. Alvarez enjoys the distinction as the first female Cook County state's attorney, sworn in by Judge Urso in 2008. Ms. Alvarez leads the second largest prosecutor's office in the nation, supervising more than 1,600 employees whose majority of cases include prosecuting violent crime, seeking justice for victims and their families. Ms. Alvarez started her career as an assistant state's attorney in 1986, spending more than 20 years handing hundreds of felony cases ranging from homicide, narcotics, armed robbery, criminal sexual assault, and domestic violence. She also spent more than three years in Gang Crimes Unit where she prosecuted gang-related homicides. Anita worked her way up through the ranks, serving as chief deputy state's attorney; chief of staff to the Cook County state's attorney; Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau; deputy chief of the Narcotics Bureau, and supervisor of the Public Integrity Unit. Alvarez is not just an accomplished attorney, but a dedicated wife, and mother of four children. Her perpetual drive, dedication to law, and unfaltering spirit have elevated Anita to her current position. Ms. Alvarez noted that she believes in "leaving the ladder down so others can climb." Over her illustrious career, she has left many ladders down for others. Many thanks, Anita Alvarez, for paving the way for the others behind you.



Carlos Vera, John Locallo, Joe Locallo Jr.



Justice Lloyd Karmeier, Jessica DePinto



Carl Salvato, Bill Serpico and Vince Petrosino



Richard Caifano, Erica Minchella, Tony Cuda

The Award of Outstanding Achievement Award in honor of Justice Moses Harrison was presented by Leonard Amari, senior partner at Amari & Locallo. He gave a moving speech in honor of Moses W. Harrison II who passed on April 25, 2013 after a distinguished career as a lawyer and jurist. Moses Harrison was public school educated, and worked his way as a ranch hand and truck driver through college. Justice Harrison attended Washington University Law School in 1958, remaining a general practitioner until 1973, where he earned his first judgeship in Madison County. In 1979, he became a justice of the 5th Appellate District, and was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1992, serving with distinction until his retirement in 2002. Moses became chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court in 2000; he was the first Italian American in the Illinois high court as well as its first chief justice. Justice Harrison was a man of great compassion; he has written numerous dissents against corporate and governmental policies that were unfair to the poor and the elderly, the less fortunate, and those on death row. Celebrating the life of Moses Harrison would be incomplete without the mention of his wife Sharon. Ending his position as Supreme Court Justice of Illinois early, he spent the balance of his years with his inseparable wife, Sharon. Sharon was his high school sweetheart, his anchor point for all of his years, never to be excluded from any part of his life. Moses enriched and touched the lives of everyone around him. Justice Harrison once said, "The reason for our existence is to help other people- and the way you should judge people is how they treat other people on a day to day basis." Moses lived the words he spoke, treating each individual he encountered with caring, mutual amity, and respect. Justice Harrison left us as a great leader and role model, he will be missed is surely an understatement.

The Honorable Renato Turano, Senatore of the Republic of Italy, was recipient of our esteemed of the Outstanding Achievement Award which was accepted by his daughter Lisa Turano Solano, as he was unable to attend due to his duties as senator. Senatore Renato, President of Turano Baking Co., is a cornerstone of the Italian community; he has presided over the Columbian Club of Chicago, Calabresi in America Organization, Italian American Chamber of Commerce -Midwest, and co-founder of Casa Italia. Senatore Turano also has been honored by the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans, the Italian Cultural Center, and the Italian American Civic Organization of Berwyn. On behalf of all Justinians and Italian Americans, we thank you for your lifelong dedication to all Italians.

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Paul Castiglione, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, Judge Robert Bertucci

Mauro Glorioso, of the Property Tax Appeal Board, introduced the Honorable Robert W. Bertucci as the Justinian Society's President for the 2013-2014 year. Coming from humble beginnings, losing his father at 6 years old and battling cancer, Judge Bertucci has worked his way up from an assistant state's attorney in the Criminal Prosecutions Bureau of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, where he served as a first chair in a felony trial courtroom at the Criminal Courts building and later working in private practice in criminal defense. Judge Bertucci was elected to the bench in 1992 handling both criminal and civil cases. Currently, he has the assignment judge for tax deed cases and handles election, mental health, and property tax cases. Judge Bertucci has served many years as a member of the Illinois Judges Association, serving on its board of directors. Judge Bertucci is married to Terese, a nurse practitioner and diabetic educator. He is the proud father of two sons, Christopher, and Michael. Christopher is a 1st Lieutenant, USMC, graduate of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis in 2011, completed his masters in security studies at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 2011. Michael is currently a Senior at the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana; he pursues a Political Science major and an English minor, planning to attend law school next fall.

In addition to President Bertucci, other distinguished officers who were installed were the 1st Vice President Anita M. DeCarlo of Vasilatos Law, the 2nd Vice President Jessica M. DePinto of Deloitte Tax LLP, 3rd Vice President Frank A. Sommario of Romanucci & Blandin, Treasurer Michael F. Bonamarte of Levin & Perconti, and Secretary Vincent R. Vidmer of the Law Office of Vincent R. Vidmer.

This was truly a beautiful evening. The Palmer House provided a beautiful backdrop for our Justinian event. The wonderful assortment of Italian cheeses and meats during cocktails, and the delicious entrees made the evening complete with good friends and family on such a special night of honorees.



David and Janet Sosin with Leonard Amari



NIU Dean Jennifer Rosato, Judge Gloria Coco (ret.)



ISBA leaders: Umberto Davi, John Locallo, ISBA President Paula Holderman, Rick Felice and Vincent Cornelius



Jessica DePinto, Justice Lloyd Karmeier and Katherine Amari O'Dell

Scholarship Report

By: Vince Oppedisano

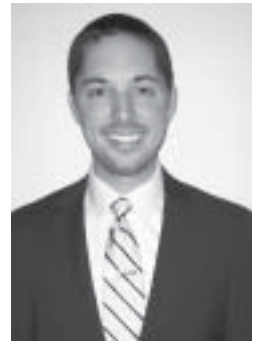
The Justinian Society's Scholarship Fund is one of the most important features of the Society. Historically, the Justinian Scholarship Committee, participating Chicago-based law schools and scholarship contributors, have worked together to provide financial assistance to young Italian-American law students. Each year the Society holds a scholarship dinner to present the awards to deserving law students.

This year's Justinian Society Annual Scholarship Dinner was held at Petterino's on Thursday, October 17th. The Society awarded a total of \$36,000 in scholarships this year, and John Marshall and Loyola matched all scholarship amounts awarded by the Society. The purpose of the scholarship fund is to give Italian-American law students a chance to offset the substantial financial cost of obtaining a legal education. The Society awards scholarships on the basis of Italian ancestry, scholarship, and need.

The evening began with the customary cocktail hour, during which Justinians enjoyed conversation with old friends and became acquainted with the numerous new faces in attendance. Attendees then moved to the dining room to enjoy some delicious Italian dishes courtesy of Quarto's.

President Bertucci began the dinner with some opening remarks regarding the significance of the scholarship fund. Many past presidents and distinguished individuals attended the dinner, including Judge Gloria Coco, Joe Bisceglia, Anthony Farace, Sam Tornatore, Rich Caldarazzo, Mauro Glorioso, Tony Romanucci, Umberto Davi, Len DeFranco, Enrico Mirabelli, Frank Pellegrino, Steve Phillips, Dean Jean Gaspardo of Loyola Law School, Elmwood Park Mayor Angelo "Skip" Saviano, and President of the Association of Foreclosure Defense Attorneys Erica Minchella. Also present at this year's Scholarship Dinner were almost all of the scholarship recipients, several other law students, and many newly admitted attorneys.

Renato Turano, Italian Senator and Chairman of the Turano Baking Company, gave a speech because he was unable to attend the previous month's Installation Dinner to accept his Outstanding Achievement Award from the Society. He expressed genuine concern about young Italian Americans losing touch of their ancestry and spoke of the importance of main-



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taining and representing Italian culture. He also invited the Justinians to join him in Rome for the Italian Senate's hosting of the New Jersey State Bar Association in November.

Scholarship Committee co-chair and past President Umberto Davi individually announced each recipient and called them to the podium to accept their scholarships while fellow co-chair Anthony Farace distributed the awards. President Bertucci spoke again after dinner to report the total amount of scholarship money awarded this year and to recognize a handful of especially generous contributors to the scholarship fund: the Battista Family, Louis & Gloria Cairo, the Morico & LoBello families, John G. Phillips, the Storino Family, the Garofalo family, and the partners at Amari & Locallo.

Eighteen students from three Chicago law schools received scholarships this year. The John Marshall students who received scholarships were Frank Battaglia, Dana Benedetti, Leonard Cannata, Vincent Incopero, Laura Luisi, Chris McCleary, Justino Mirabelli, Nicole Petrarca, Daniel Pellegrino, Marie Sarantakis, and Luke Wiley. IIT-Kent students receiving scholarships were Claudia Bertacchi, Vincenzo Chimera, Lindsey Orlando, and Nicole Wilmet. The Loyola students accepting scholarships were Bob Cosantino, Steven Montalto, and Bianca Saviano.

The amount of scholarship money awarded each year has grown substantially over the decades. In the 1960s and early 1970s, a single \$500 scholarship was awarded annually. In the late 1970s the Society began a funding drive to create more scholarship money from voluntary member contributions to be awarded to qualifying law students. In recent years tens of thousands of dollars have been awarded to very appreciative students annually.

The amount of funds given to deserving students has clearly grown by leaps and bounds, but the Society is not satisfied. Each Justinian Newsletter includes a request for scholarship contributions, as does the annual membership application. A large number of Justinians have benefitted from Justinian Society scholarships in the past, including myself. The scholarship fund relies on the continued generosity of the Society's members in order to continue its success.

With the seemingly ever-increasing financial burden law school places on its students, it is important to remember how far a scholarship can go toward easing that burden. Additionally, part of the intent of the awards is that young Justinians who receive them will have additional motivation to become or remain actively involved in the Society throughout their legal careers. Through the generous contributions of the Society's members, hopefully even more scholarship money will be available to our Italian-American law students next year.

Past Presidents Dinner Report

By: Michael Pisano

The Justinian Society gathered at Quartino Ristorante in November 2013 to recognize the

past presidents. As always, the upstairs of the restaurant was overflowing with Justinians eager to break bread and enjoy a glass of wine. The vintage décor at Quartino provided a unique yet traditional Italian dining experience, perfect for a night dedicated to

recognizing the historical leadership of the organization. The following past presidents were in attendance: Joe Bisceglia, Richard Caifano, Richard Caldarazzo, Hon. Gloria Coco, Umberto Davi, Len DeFranco, Jerome DePalma, Gregg Garofalo, Mauro Glorioso, Enrico Mirabelli, Cristina Mungai, Katherine O'Dell, Antonio Romunucci, Hon. Bruno Tassone, Michael Favia, and Hon. Lisa Marino. We thank you all, including those who could not be in attendance, for your contribution to the development of the Justinian Society over the years.

In my experience, the past presidents are always familiar faces that can be seen at other Justinian events, not just the events where they are the honored guests. The continued involvement of these individuals, even after their term as president has passed, is what makes this organization so great. The leaders and members of this group truly care about the success and continued development of this organization. These individuals lead by example and an annual dinner in their honor serves as a great motivator and reminder for the young Justinian members to maintain and increase their involvement with the Justinian Society.

In addition to the honorary past presidents in attendance, numerous judges, elected officials and candidates were recognized. There were also a number of law students from various Chicago-area law schools in attendance. This



was all around a very successful and well attended event. The dinner concluded with the always tasty chocolate fondue as well as a few cocktails in the River North neighborhood. The officers and President Hon. Robert Bertucci continue to provide great events which are well attended by a wide range of legal professionals and law students.



Past Presidents in attendance at the November 2013 meeting

Joint Justinian Dinner Report

By: Bill Davy

The first meeting of the calendar year was held once again at The Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont on January 23rd. The Joint Justinian's meeting always draws good crowd and this year was no exception. The

January meeting is held west of the city to promote its purpose of bringing together members of the society from not only the city but the surrounding suburbs. The Rosewood has been a particularly good location over the years because of its proximity to the highway, high level of service and of course, excellent food.

The full slate of officers were in attendance, Hon. Robert W. Bertucci, president; Anita DeCarlo, 1st vice president; Jessica Depinto, 2nd vice president; Frank A. Somarrio, 3rd vice president; Michael Bonamarte, treasurer; Vince Vidmer, secretary. Also in attendance were a number of judges and an unusually great number of past presidents including, Katherine Amari O'Dell, Cristina Mungai, Mauro Glorioso, Lisa A. Marino, John Sciacotta, Antonio Romanucci, John Locallo, Leonard DeFranco, Michael Favia, Umberto Davi, Hon. Gloria G. Coco, Hon. Bruno J.



Left to Right: 3rd Vice President Frank Somarrio, President Judge Robert Bertucci, 1st Vice President Anita DeCarlo

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Joint Meeting, continued from page 5

Tassone, and Leonard F. Amari.

The night's agenda was short, which seems to be becoming a welcomed trend, and focused on the benefits of your involvement with ISBA Mutual. President Hon. Robert W. Bertucci introduced John G. O'Brien of ISBA Mutual, who said a few words about membership. ISBA Mutual has worked hard to offer attorneys benefits well beyond insurance coverage and we got a chance to learn a little about what they have to offer.

Something that people might not be aware of is that ISBA Mutual actually gives back insurance premiums to its members to the extent that it is able; they have given back \$15 million since Year 2000. It is an endorsed professional liability program for the ISBA. They offer rate structures designed for newly licensed attorneys. Coverage for ARDC matters are built into the policy with no deductible payment. They are working together with the ISBA to bring you free legal research as well as online CLE. They will offer a renewal premium reduction and MCLE for attending their Annual Jerry Mirza Risk Management Seminar and the ISBA Solo & Small Firm Conference. They also offer expert legal defense from trial proven lawyers.

If you are a member of the ISBA and haven't gotten a chance to check out ISBA Mutual, I would recommend looking them up at www.isbamutual.com.



Judge Regina Schannicchio, Lisa Turano and Judge Lisa Marino



Richard Felice, President Judge Bob Bertucci and Past President John Locallo

CEF Dinner Report

By: Vince Oppedisano

This year's Justinian Society Children's Endowment Fund (CEF) dinner was held on March 20th at Lux Bar. The dinner is held annually in March to benefit the Society's CEF, which presents a grant to a different charitable organization each year. The fund was established in 2002 by past president and Italian American community leader Antonio Romanucci, and it continues to thrive. This year's grant recipient was the Ronald McDonald House of Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

The Ronald McDonald House of Chicago and Northwest Indiana is a prominent charitable organization whose mission is to care for families of children with complex medical needs by providing comfort, compassion, and a sense of community. Accepting the Society's \$5,000 endowment on behalf of the Ronald McDonald House were the charity's Vice President of Development Jim De Maria and its Scholarship Program Director Jill Sterling. Jim spoke to the Society, stating the Ronald McDonald House tries to get hospitalized children's parents to only concern themselves with the health and well being of the child. The charity provides everything else—a room in which to stay, a bed to sleep in, a shower in the morning, and multiple meals every day. The House also operates a scholarship program, the arm of the charity that received the Society's endowment this year in order to help young people obtain a better education.

Antonio delivered a speech that truly highlighted the continuing success of the CEF. He

noted the attendance at this year's dinner was significantly larger than last year and pointed out the Justinian Society has earned a reputation as the ethnic bar association that contributes to children's causes and takes care of children in need. The Society raised \$3,500 by selling all 100 raffle tickets for this year's annual drawing (the two winning tickets for the remaining \$1,500 were selected by esteemed past President Leonard Amari). Joseph Feinberg of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Feinberg Pavilion made an extraordinarily generous gift of \$10,000 to the CEF. Antonio estimated the Society would raise a total of between \$15,000 and \$20,000 (!) this year with all the other generous donations from the Society's members.

As always, several past presidents were in attendance, including the Honorable Bruno Tassone, the Honorable Lisa Marino, the Honorable Gloria Coco, Leonard Amari, Joseph Biscaglia, Richard Caldarazzo, Michael Favia, Mauro Glorioso, John Locallo, and Enrico Mirabelli. Officers included Anita DeCarlo, Frank Sommarino, Michael Bonamarte, and Vincent Vidmer. The CEF now has a corpus of approximately \$75,000 after this year's donations. Antonio Romanucci said the goal several years ago was to get to \$50,000, and now the next goal for the CEF is to reach \$100,000.

As Antonio also stated, the money the CEF recently contributed to the Illinois Eye Institute through past president Michael Favia helped the Institute diagnose a young boy with neuroblastoma (a type of brain cancer) in time to save his life. This is one of the many immeasurable positive developments that encapsulate the importance of the continued success of the CEF.

[Editor's Note: Subsequent to the meeting, Joseph W. Feinberg of the Feinberg Group made an additional annual \$10,000 contribution to our Children's Endowment Fund. Of course, the Feinberg Group, and Joseph W. Feinberg's family, are known for their decades and generations of generosity. I point out to you the Feinberg Wing of Northwestern Memorial Hospital. It is also important to note that Joe Feinberg is a money manager, who has done wonderful work for many years in investing the funds of the Illinois State Bar Association/Mutual Insurance Company, the entity that insures most of our members. On behalf of the Justinian Society, especially the beneficiaries of your generosity, we thank you Joseph W. Feinberg, and salute you and your wonderful family.]



Bill Davy, 1st VP Anita DeCarlo and Past President Anthony Ferraro



Past President Mike Favia, Gene DiMonte and Steve Fiorentino.



Dominic LoVerde, Michela Petrosino, Vince Petrosino

Student Update

By: Nicole Petrarca

The John Marshall Law School, J.D. Candidate, January 2015

It is a new year and new semester for The Justinian Society of Lawyer's student members. There are many accomplishments to share with our family in the parent organization. Congratulations to the following Justinian students and all others not listed below on their achievements in 2013!

- Michael Manseau: Named to the Dean's List, received the CALI Award in Products Liability, and is a recipient of the DiMucci Family Scholarship.

- Robert Cannatello, Jr. and I are both recipients of the Frank and Jeanne Lupel and Joseph and Katherine Amari Scholarship at \$10,000 each – which are annual JMLS Lupel & Amari Scholarships. Robert is currently working as a 711 in the Cook County State's Attorneys Office, traffic division. I am currently working as Law Clerk in Catholic Charities of the Archdioceses of Chicago's In-House Counsel Department.

- Luke Wiley: Finished in the top ten of the Spring 2013 ABA Negotiation Competition, received the CALI Award in Constitutional Theory, and is a recipient of a Justinian Society Scholarship.

- Justino Mirabelli: Interning with Priority Sports, is a recipient of the Fred F. Herzog and Justinian Society Scholarships.

- Maria Sarantakis: Recipient of John Marshall Law School Dean and the Justinian Society Scholarship, Adrienned's Helping Hand Award, was appointed to the Illinois Legal Aid Online Young Professionals Board, and is currently working as a Research Assistant for Professor Diane Kaplan.

- Chris McCleary: Recipient of the Fred F. Herzog and Justinian Society scholarships. In the Fall 2013, Chris externed for Judge Lisa Marino. Chris recently landed a position as a Law Clerk in Fieldglass' In-House Counsel Department. Fieldglass is a technology company that license vendor management software to Fortune 500 companies around the world.

We would like to welcome Kristaq Profkola to the The John Marshall Law School Student Chapter. Kristaq is a Fulbright student studying at John Marshall pursuing his LLM in IBT 2013-2014.

Welcome to all of the incoming students and mentees who have joined the Mentoring Program this Spring. The Mentoring Program is lead by Leonard Amari, the co-chairs Robert Cannatello and myself, along with several 2Ls and 3Ls who donate their time to guide incoming law students through their first semester of law school. Robert and I look forward to mentoring these students and wish them the best of luck in their law school careers and pursuits. Rob-



Enrico Mirabelli, Timothy Meloy, Vincent Vidmer



John Locallo, Anna Krolikowska, and Michael Favia



John Perconti and Mike Bonamarte



Frank Sommario, Natalie Petric, Mike Bonamarte



Tony Romanucci, Joseph W. Feinberg, and Anthony Farace



Nicole Petrarca and Robert Cannatello



Spring Mentees with co-chairs: Left to Right: Nick Thompson, Nicole Petrarca, Robert Cannatello and Jimmy Knepper

ert and I would also like to congratulate those students who just finished their first semester of law school in the Fall 2013. You have all made The Justinian Society and Mentoring Program very proud.

As a social event update: This past fall The John Marshall Law School Justinian Society Student Chapter paired up with The Midde Eastern Law and the Hellenic Law Societies to host the first annual Mediterranean Night. The event featured ethnic food donated by each of the three student organizations, wine, and a belly dancer.

The annual Scholarship Awards Dinner was held at Petterinos, where members joined together to celebrate the successes of the students in 2013. The following students received scholarships from The Justinian Society and its donors: Dana Benedetti, Laura Luisi, Justino Mirabelli, Marie Sarantakis, Luke Wiley, Frank Battaglia, Leonard Cannata, Vincent Incopero, Chris McCleary, Daniel Pellegrino, Vincenzo Chimera, Nicole Wilmet, Claudia Bertacchi, Lindsey Orlando, Steven Montalto, Bianca Saviano, Bob Cosantino, and myself.

The Justinian Society and its student members have had a great year so far, and we look forward to continued success in the rest of this New Year! Good luck to all those students who are preparing for the February Bar Exam, continue making the Justinian family proud!

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Mentoring Report

By: Richard Caifano

The Society has long been at the forefront of assisting young members to become acclimated to the practice of law. We did that on a less formal basis under the leadership of Leonard Amari who would gently prod our more seasoned members into taking a recently admitted Justinian under their wings.



As many now accomplished members of our Society will attest: It worked well. In 2009 the Illinois Supreme Court introduced a more formalized mentoring system, one that required experienced attorneys interested in sharing their knowledge and talents with new lawyers to register with an approved program and in the process, obtain CLE credits.

Because it was thought to be a can't miss opportunity for the Justinian Society to continue its laudable mentoring program, we moved quickly to obtain official mentoring status with the Illinois Courts Commission.

A visit to the Justinian website (justinians.org) or to the Mentoring website maintained by the Illinois Courts Commission on Professionalism (<http://lawyermentor.ilscpc.org/jsl/>) allows one to access the necessary registration forms. And, as administrator of the JSL mentoring program, I am only a phone call or email away from a pairing a registered mentor with a mentee.

In my mind, the program's success seemed a given.

That hope has not been realized. After three years we have had one mentoring pair complete the one year program. For whatever reason, our experienced practitioners have not expressed an interest in the mentoring plan. They have failed to register. So, young members of the Society who have register have not benefitted simply because we can't match them with a mentor.

A sad commentary on our proud Society.

It's not that involved. By registering, you commit yourself to eight hours of commitment to a mentee to explore a plan of mentoring over the course of one year. The plan is designed by the mentor and mentee and may be facilitated to include in court or office time devoted to acquaint the mentee with the practice of law and the proper conduct of attorneys. And, in completing the process both the mentor and the mentee receive continuing legal education credit.

It is my hope that this report on the unsatisfactory status of the Mentoring program will prompt you to get involved.

Register and then call me to let me know you are involved.

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Hon. Celia Gamrath Elected Treasurer of the ISBA

CHICAGO, IL, August 6, 2013 – The Honorable Celia G. Gamrath, a judge in the Domestic Relations Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, has been elected treasurer of the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA).

Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Gamrath was a partner of the Chicago law firm of Schiller, DuCanto & Fleck. First elected to the ISBA Board of Governors in 2005 as a Cook County Under Age 37 member, she is currently serving a second term on the Board, serves on the ISBA Assembly, Bench and Bar Section Council, and Special Committee on Judicial Disqualification Standards. She is a former chair of the ISBA Standing Committee on Women and the Law, and a former member of the ISBA Unauthorized Practice of Law Task Force. Judge Gamrath is a five-time recipient of the ISBA's Lincoln Award Legal Writing Contest, and a long-time Fellow of the Illinois Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the ISBA.

A past president of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, she is a member of the American Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association and Women's Bar Association of Illinois. Judge Gamrath has been listed in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin's "40 Under 40," Best Lawyers in America for Appellate and Family Law, and the Top 50 Women Illinois Lawyers by Super-Lawyers and Leading Lawyers. She is secretary of the Board of Trustees of The John Marshall Law School.

Judge Gamrath received her J.D. cum laude from The John Marshall Law School in 1994 and her B.S. from Indiana University in 1991.

The 32,000-member ISBA (isba.org), with offices in Springfield and Chicago, provides professional services to Illinois lawyers, and education and services to the public through a website (illinoislawyerfinder.com), consumer brochures, and distribution of legal information.



Celia Gamrath with Senator Dick Durbin (left) and Rob Gamrath (right)



John Marshall Graduation, Deanna Cairo with President Amari



John Marshall Graduation, Anthony Pasquini with President Amari

**Students: Join your
Justinian Student
Chapter and become
a member of the
Justinian Society
of Lawyers at no
additional fee!**

**Contact your student
chapter president for
more details!**

ISBA 2nd VP

Planning Sicily Trip

By: Katherine A. Amari O'Dell

The tradition with the governance of the Illinois State Bar Association, the 34,000-member statewide association of Illinois lawyers, is that during his or her term, the president may choose an ISBA membership tour any place in the world. Because of his roots, ISBA 2nd vice president (following incoming president Rick Felice) Umberto Davi is considering annual trip to be to his homeland in Sicily. In his own words, past Justinian President Davi writes the following:

"I have said it before and will continue to say it: America is a wonderful country to live in; it affords us a great life that we can shape and enjoy as we see fit. It's a true blessing to be able to take part in all that America offers to us, if we see fit to join in, do our share and participate for the greater good. I love my country of birth and enjoy going back to see the family and sample the local culture but it has always felt very good to come back and I continue to thank my mother for her foresight and courage in deciding to relocate our family. Here our resources are vast but easy to take for granted unless we are able to see and experience the other side.

Part of the reason Jan and I decided to take this trip to Sicily was to personally explore the feasibility of going to Sicily for my ISBA President's trip in the Spring of 2016. We were pleased with what we found and learned and the details of it are beginning to take shape. We are now confident that such a trip can be organized and offered to the ISBA members; we are going to continue working on all the details, including affordability for all our members, and hopefully it will all come together. It would be a true honor to have you all experience what the island offers culturally and otherwise.

As an aside and while we were in Sicily, we did try to get to Bagheria so that we could meet and greet the Tornatore Family but again simply ran out of time. No worries though; we just looked at it as a good reason to go back soon.

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the Justinians and for taking the lead in the Scholarships Committee; your hard work is much appreciated by all of us.

Baciamo la mano and ciao for now!"

- Umberto Davi

What Path Will You Choose?

By: Nicole Petrarca

On November 13, 2013, The John Marshall Justinian Society Student Chapter co-hosted a panel event along with The John Marshall Law School Career Services Department. The title of the panel event was "What Path Will You Choose?" The Student Chapter asked five John Marshall alumni of The Justinian Society to serve as panelists: Leonard Amari '68, Umberto Davi '82, Franco Coladipietro '93, The Honorable Celia Gamrath '94, and Gina Rossi '08. The panelists were asked to discuss their career paths, beginning with the jobs they obtained upon graduation and ending with their present day positions. The panel discussion was intended to give the student audience insight into the various areas of law the panelists practice, and advice for the students in landing a job after law school.

Franco Coladipietro currently serves as the Mayor of Bloomington, and as such served as an example of an alternative career path outside of legal practice. Mr. Coladipietro discussed his time during law school studying at Amari & Locallo, and how "luck follows hard work." This gave the students hope that all of their hard work during law school will one day pay off.

The Honorable Celia Gamrath began by saying that "every connection she made began with John Marshall." Judge Gamrath advised the students that we must always be working to broaden our network, as that is the best way to find opportunities. Also, she left the audience with this idea of the "trilogy of trust," and how important it is that you do not break the trust of those colleagues you have in your network as they are the connection to future opportunity.



Top row Left to Right: Umberto Davi, Disa DiBuono, Franco Coladipietro, Hon. Celia Gamrath, Chris McCleary. Bottom Row Left to Right: Leonard Amari, Gina Rossi and Nicole Petrarca

Mr. Amari talked about his transition from practicing litigation to real estate taxation. While Mr. Amari found his niche during his second employment position, he offered this piece of advice to the students: "you will have experienced three professional situations before you find your niche." This advice will help the students in realizing that they might not land their dream job right out of law school, and that is okay. We need to keep in mind that it may take some time for us to find our niche in the legal community.

Mr. Davi followed discussing his immigration, and how he worked his way through law school. Mr. Davi has a distinguished practice in the area of family law. He left the audience with an insightful statement that as attorneys we should always make our families our priority, as they are the ones there to support you during the ups and downs of your legal career. During our busy lives, we might forget the importance of our family and Mr. Davi's point serves as a nice reminder to the students during their busy time in law school, but also when they begin practicing.

Gina Rossi's point of view was relatable to the students, in that she recently graduated from John Marshall when the legal market began to experience a downturn. Ms. Rossi was a member of the Justinian Student Chapter while attending John Marshall, and landed a job with the CTA practicing litigation out of law school. Ms. Rossi currently worked at the firm Johnson & Bell, and discussed her role as an associate in a large litigation firm. She also stressed the importance to never burn bridges between both our fellow classmates, fellow Justinians, and fellow John Marshall alumni, as they will not only be our colleagues, but potential referrals, employers, and references.

The prestige and built up excitement of this panel event drew in attendance at approximately 40 students, faculty and staff from John Marshall. The Student Chapter cannot say thank you enough for the panelists for taking time out of their busy schedules to come speak. The Student Chapter hopes to continue having panels such as this and inviting Justinians and alumni of John

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Marshall. If you are interested in speaking to the Student Chapter please contact either Disa Dibuono (dbuono@law.jmls.edu) or Nicole Petrarca (npetrar@law.jmls.edu).



From left: Leonard F. Amari, Umberto Davi, Franco Coladipietro, Gina Rossi and Hon. Celia Gamrath

JMLS Scholarship Luncheon

Brings Donors, Recipients Together - Including Justinian Graduates and Students

At a special luncheon August 16, 2013, The John Marshall Law School brought together 25 donors in appreciation of their generosity that has enabled the Law School to award scholarships to outstanding students this academic year.

Dean John E. Corkery, in addressing the guests at The Standard Club luncheon, reminded the guests that "Your scholarships help our students by giving them the opportunity to develop themselves to the very best of their abilities and encourage our students as they strive for excellence."

Corkery said by meeting the donors, students got to know leaders in the legal field who are committed to making a difference in the lives of others, especially through their generous support of the law school.



From left, JMLS President Leonard F. Amari, Nicole Petrarca, Warren Lupel, and Robert Cannatello. Nicole and Robert are the Co-Chairs of the Justinian Society mentoring group.

William Beach, chief development officer, explained how scholarships were critical in his academic and personal development. He encouraged everyone to continue their scholarship support at John Marshall.

Honored guests were 3L Julie Tenuto, recipient of the Frank and Jeanne Lupel and Joseph and Katherine Amari Scholarship, who thanked donors Leonard Amari, John Marshall Board of Trustees President, and Warren Lupel (1968 JMLS classmates).

Judge Regina Scannicchio (JD '88) Alumni Association president and Alumni Association Scholarship donor, and Karie Valentino (JD '96), donor and chairperson of the Alumni Association Scholarship committee, met with Alumni Association scholars Nicholas Esterman, 3L, Sarbani Mukherjee, 2L, Andrew Symms, 3L, and Mary Walters, 3L.

Professor Robert Johnston, donor and namesake of the Robert Gilbert Johnston Endowed Scholarship, met scholarship recipients Lenny Cannata, a Justinian student chapter member, 2L at the luncheon.



Nello Gamberdino, Dean William Powers, Nicole Petrarca, and Disa DiBuono. Nicole and Disa are Co-Presidents of The John Marshall Justinian Student Chapter.

ISBA Mutual Celebrates 25th Anniversary *with donations to charities*

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, ISBA Mutual Insurance Company, an entity that is very, very generous in sponsoring Justinian activities, e.g., underwriting the cost of our newsletter, our golf outing, etc., headquartered here, will make financial donations to several bar associations statewide, as well as provide donations to local charities on behalf of ISBA Mutual members, according to Jon W. DeMoss, president and chief executive officer.

The donations are part of a 2013-14 statewide campaign, themed "We Are You," whose purpose is to build awareness of the company and its successful track record. When it was founded in 1988 by members of the Illinois State Bar Association, ISBA Mutual became one of the first bar-related insurance companies in the U.S. to offer professional liability insurance to its members as a way to control the skyrocketing cost of premiums. For the 9th consecutive year, ISBA Mutual declared a dividend in 2013, returning \$1.7 million to policyholders, representing an average of ten percent of each policyholder's premium.

In addition to liability insurance, ISBA Mutual offers surety bonds and a risk management program. ISBA Mutual hosts an annual Continuing Legal Education program for policyholders, which is free to all attendees who also receive a \$100 credit towards their premium.

ISBA Mutual is governed by a board of directors composed of the current and past leadership of the Illinois State Bar Association including Justinians past Presidents Leonard Amari and John Locallo, as well as ISBA President-elect Rick Felice and 2nd Vice President Umberto Davi. Further information is available at www.isbamutual.com.



From left: Jon DeMoss, Anthony Farace, Vincent Vidmer, Vincent Oppedisano

Justinians you should know:

Joseph Garofalo **How I Came To Be Known As** **"Joey Flowers" and was accepted** **into the workers' compensation** **lawyers community**

By: Joseph Garofalo

Thirty-six years ago during March, 1978, I began my career as a workers' compensation defense lawyer working as an associate attorney at Gifford, Detuno & Gifford, Ltd. I graduated from DePaul University School of Law during Spring 1977 and successfully passed the Bar that summer. After six months in a real estate practice that I hated, I was ready to move on to the heady world of litigation.



During my first week on the job I spent a lot of time learning the highways and byways of the Industrial Commission where our practice was centered. I was immediately taken with the friendliness of the practicing bar which was totally out of character from the lawyers I'd encountered at the Daley Center. I thought they were a bunch of back stabbing SOB's. I was also amazed by the number of Italian lawyers practicing before the Commission - with my name, Garofalo, I felt right at home, although in reality I had been a Swede masquerading as an Italian my entire life.

One morning after parking my briefcase at our firm's table in the Attorneys Room at the Commission on the 12th Floor of the old State of Illinois Building, I was paged to the Assignment Room by Alice Thompson (Alice is a sweetheart and still works for the Commission). When I reported in response to the page, Alice told me that there was an attorney looking for me and she then proceeded to page Emil Caliendo. A few minutes later a distinguished gentleman in a dapper suit, tie, shined shoes, pocket kerchief, and deep suntan entered the room. He looked like one of the characters from the wedding scene in The Godfather.

When he looked at Alice, she said: "That's the guy" and pointed at me. With that, Emil's voice boomed my name, "Ga rof a low!" pronouncing it like he was saying Buffalo. I responded, "Yes, Sir. That is me." I stuck out my hand to shake his but he refused it. He proceeded to tell me that there was "bad blood" between our families and wanted to know if I was prepared for a new start or if I was hell bent on pursuing old grudges. I could not have been more confused and told him I had no idea what he was talking about.

Instead of telling me, he asked me if I know what my name meant in Italian. I didn't and he proceeded to tell me that it meant "carnation," like the flower you'd wear on your lapel. He then asked me if someone in my family was named Mauro Garofalo. I told him I didn't know any Mauro Garofalo. I told him my deceased father's name was Denphon and I had a deceased Uncle Angelo. Outside of them I had never gotten to know any of the Garofalos as I had been raised by my mother and her parents. When I told him my background I could see the sense of relief spread across his face.

Then he told me the story of the bad blood between the Garofalos and the Calientos. Emil told me that as a young man he and Mauro Garofalo had been friends but somehow got into a disagreement which led to a fist fight. Emil got the better of Mauro during the fight and seriously injured him. Mauro's family responded by suing Emil and the Calientos. The fact of being sued wouldn't have been so bad except that when Emil graduated from law school and was trying to be admitted to the Bar, the law suit became a major impediment to him before the Morals and Fitness Committee of the Supreme Court.

Instead of going before a Judge to resolve the suit, both the Caliendo and Garofalo families agreed to meet before the local Godfather in Chicago, to negotiate a peace between the families. A peace between the families was negotiated and it resulted in the Calientos paying some money to the Garofalos. Following the payment, the law suit was dismissed, the impediment was removed and Emil was accepted as a new member of the Bar. The dust up between the families had cost Emil a one year delay in obtaining his law license. He always attributed the delay in starting his career to the trouble he had with the Garofalos.

After telling his story he put his arm around my shoulder and told me he was glad to learn I was not part of the Garofalos with whom his family had so much trouble and told me that we could be friends despite my name. But with that, he gave me a new name. Noting my name, Garofalo, i.e. carnation, he dubbed me "Joey Flowers." In fact, he called into the room a few of the other lawyers, who were present namely Jim Demuno, Vito DeCarlo and Frank Discipio. He introduced me to them as "Joey Flowers" the new attorney who worked for their friend, Joe Detuno. From that day on I was welcomed among an array of attorneys who practiced before the Commission as "Joey Flowers" or just "Flowers." Emil didn't like calling me by my last name because it always reminded him about the bad history.

Interestingly, Emil's brother, Angelo (a.k.a "Chick") was also one of the workers compensation practitioners at the time and went on to sit as an arbitrator for many years. In subsequent years I tried many cases before "Chick" and never had a problem. Emil and I also went on to become good friends. While we weren't lunch buddies, I'd often see him at Postl's gym in the evenings where we'd swim and sit together in the sauna.

Knowing the Caliendo brothers and having Emil give me my "Commission name" is part of my unique history practicing before the Commission. I guess it was part of my initiation and a sign of acceptance in what used to be kind of a clubby practice.

I think back fondly about how I was treated by all the old lions of the practice who somehow made a place for me and accepted me into their "club." I enjoyed laughing and joking and also trying cases with them. They accepted me as one of the insiders in their community. Those days are long gone now as the character of our practice has entirely changed. Regardless, it was an interesting way to start my career and I am happy for the warm memories of working with them. They made me not only feel like I was a member of a profession but they also gave me a sense of belonging to something special that belonged only to those concentrating their practices in this area. You don't find that in every area of practice and they sure don't teach you this in law school.

Finding My Athletic Potential

By: Linda Mastandrea

As a child growing up with cerebral palsy, physical education, sport and recreation were seemingly out of reach for me. I sat on the sidelines, was picked last for teams if at all and was sent to study hall or the library instead of PE.

When I got to college at the University of Illinois, my whole life and the direction my future would take were irrevocably changed when I was introduced to wheelchair basketball. It opened the door to a whole new universe of opportunities I hadn't known existed — a new way of looking at myself, my future possibilities and potential.

After learning that I could actually be a competitive athlete, I got involved in wheelchair track and road racing. Over the span of a decade, I raced my way around the world to 15 gold and five silver medals, including gold and silver in the 1996 Paralympic Games.

Though I no longer compete, my involvement in disability sport and my status as a Paralympic champion continues to open the door to opportunities for me, including a career in disability law and advocacy, working with people with disabilities to help them gain access to education, employment, housing, transportation sports and recreation.

Another amazing opportunity that came about as a result of my Paralympic participation happened in 2006, when I got involved in Chicago's bid for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. After promoting the bid around the nation and the world for three years, in 2009, I was selected to be part of the delegation that would present Chicago's case to the International Olympic Committee on why we should be awarded the honor of hosting the 2016 Games alongside President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and then Mayor Richard M. Daley. What an honor!

More recently, my Paralympic sport background led to me getting involved with Variety, the Children's Charity of Illinois. Variety helps children with disabilities become active and involved through the Kids on the Go! Program, which provides adapted sports equipment — like sports wheelchairs, handcycles and adapted bikes — to children whose families can't afford it. This allows children who are often relegated to the sidelines like I was to participate, and play with their families and friends. We also promote youth getting involved in the highest levels of sport through our Live to Achieve grant program,

which offers up to \$1,000 toward travel, training and competition expenses for youngsters with Paralympic potential.

I know firsthand the importance of sport in the lives of young people with disabilities. Without it, I would not have developed the self-confidence to pursue a career in law, the opportunity to travel and speak around the world or the ability to help create the next generation of successful young people with disabilities both on and off the field.

To learn more about the Variety organization, programs and fundraising events, visit Varietyofillinois.org.

Judge Pileggi Career Justinian retires, eyes work on city's vacant property

[Reprinted with permission from the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, Marc Karlinsky]

Cook County Supervising Associate Judge William G. Pileggi retired from the bench this week after 16 years in the court's housing section.

But his work is far from over. He said he's still committed to improving property conditions in struggling city neighborhoods.

About 30 of Pileggi's friends, colleagues and family members gathered Monday for lunch in a Daley Center courtroom to wish him well. Circuit Judge E. Kenneth Wright Jr., the presiding judge of the 1st Municipal District, told the group how much he appreciates Pileggi's work.

"We're losing one of our stars," Wright said.

As Pileggi began his own remarks, Wright held a plastic cup and offered to catch any tears. "I loved what I did," Pileggi said. "I hope the next chapter will be as rewarding as the last 16 years have been."

Pileggi was appointed to the court in May 1998 and was assigned to the 1st Municipal District's housing court about a month later. By 2009, he became supervising judge of the section, and he was reappointed to a new term in 2011.

The housing section focuses on the physical construction of buildings and other conditions that could make a building unsafe — such as lead paint, moisture, crumbling exterior walls or criminal nuisances. Judges can order a building vacated or demolished.

While Pileggi primarily handled court calls for condominium conversions and demolitions, as the housing section's supervising judge, he assisted on all calls.

A 1976 graduate of the IIT Chicago – Kent College of Law, Pileggi began his career as a Cook County assistant state's attorney before heading to Pileggi, Guzman, Ginex and Fecarotta in 1981. His three other partners there — Ronald A. Guzman, Thomas Fecarotta and Gregory Robert Ginex — all since became state or federal judges.

He helped start the Greater Illinois Title Co. in 1985 and served as its general counsel and vice president from 1996 through 1998 when he was appointed.

Pileggi said the housing court, while not given the same notoriety of other sections in the circuit, is one of the most important because it affects the health and quality of life for everyone in the city.

"We don't deal with dollars, we deal with lives," he said.

The same parts of Chicago that make headlines for shootings and violence are often the same ones where properties are abandoned or not safely maintained, Pileggi said. He said his court call helped ensure people had safe places to live.

Pileggi explained that vacant lots throughout the city are troublesome since nobody wants to own one.

Many properties carry thousands of dollars in back taxes and liens, which would be assessed to anyone who claimed ownership or bought



Left to Right: Judge Robert Bertucci, Scott Carfello, Bill Pileggi

the property. Instead, the properties just sit, providing no tax revenue and often creating safety hazards, he said.

While he's not sure what exactly he'll do next, Pileggi said he wants to lower the cost of fixing neglected buildings.

Even when a vacant property needs repairs, he said, it would often be worth saving if not for the hefty back taxes a developer would owe the county assessor.

The end result is often demolishing an otherwise salvageable building; the housing court has already ordered about 450 demolitions this year, Pileggi said.

But he said he always focused on the positives – the many opportunities when buildings are brought into compliance and are used.

He envisions a program in which back taxes would be abated to allow repairs to happen right away, then reassessed over time when a property's value has increased.

Such a program, whether through the government or non-profit agencies, would help move stagnant real estate in hard-hit areas, he said.

"It's not an issue of marketability," he said.

But before any program is developed, Pileggi said he'll take some time to travel with his wife, Roseanne. Their 40th anniversary is Sunday.

As he closed his remarks Monday, Pileggi thanked the many judges who came to wish him farewell, and gave some parting advice to those still on the bench.

"We're privileged to serve," he said, "and we should remember that every time we take those three steps up."

Joseph R. Marconi

'Treat your employees like you treat your boss.' Marconi juggles management duties, law practice at Johnson & Bell Ltd.

[This article is being republished from the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin with permission, by: John Flynn Rooney]

When Joseph R. Marconi joined Johnson & Bell Ltd. 25 years ago, it was mostly known as an insurance defense law firm.

At the time, Marconi became the firm's 38th lawyer. He now serves as a vice president of the 115-lawyer firm.

"Our genesis was insurance defense," said Marconi, who also heads the firm's business litigation and professional liability groups. "But it's evolved over the years."

Johnson & Bell is now known outside Chicago as a national firm that represents businesses, including insurance companies.

The firm's client roster includes Walgreen Co., Exxon Mobil, Volkswagen, Atlas Copco and Panda Express.

The firm has 10 practice groups, including one that defends against toxic tort cases throughout the country. The professional liability section lawyers defend doctors and hospitals in Illinois and Indiana and represent other lawyers in malpractice cases.

As a firm vice president and executive committee member, Marconi works with William V. Johnson, the firm's president and executive committee chair, and other committee members.

"I try to talk to (Johnson) about developing new ideas and then put them into action," Marconi said. "You try to make things better around the edges and slowly things get better."

Other executive committee members Marconi works with to run day-to-day operations include

Robert M. Burke, John A. Childers and Joseph B. Carini III.

Marconi and the others address business-related matters such as personal issues, client conflicts and the firm's office lease.

"It's important to get a consensus for whatever you do," Marconi said.

Johnson said Marconi typically arrives at the office by 7:00 a.m. and works there on the weekends. Marconi ensures the firm's policies are up to date and he works closely with its administrative staff, Johnson said.

"He's very important to the management of the law firm," Johnson said. "He spends a lot of time on administrative work making sure the firm runs properly."

Marconi maintains an open-door policy for employees to drop in and talk.

"I like to deal with people one-on-one and you can get to the heart of the matter," Marconi said. "I try to treat everyone like a professional."

The firm's managers try to leave the lawyers alone so they can effectively represent clients.

"We don't micromanage our lawyers," Marconi said. "We have a good group and we trust them."

Marconi's goals for the firm include continuing to develop its national client base. He also wants the firm to gradually grow.

On average, Johnson & Bell increases its roster of lawyers by between 3 percent and 5 percent annually.

"We're not looking for quick growth," he said.

During the recession that started in 2007, the firm didn't lay off any employees.

"The recession slowed us down, but things are building back up again," Marconi said.

Johnson & Bell has between 20 and 30 lawyers with extensive trial experience. That factor, combined with the firm's competitive billing rate structure, positions Johnson & Bell to attract new corporate clients.

"They are determining that our work is as good as, if not better, than the services they get from a big firm," Marconi said. "We have experienced lawyers working on files. They don't always get that at a big firm."

Johnson & Bell is a member of ALFA International, a global legal network, and the firm markets itself through that group.

Marconi also works with the firm's chief financial officer and human resources director. He spends between 20 percent to 25 percent of his time on firm management matters.

"It's in fits and starts," Marconi said.

If Marconi is trying a case and management issues arise, other firm officials step in and handle those office-related matters. In his law practice, Marconi regularly represents professionals and companies in business disputes.

"I'm a trial lawyer, but in the non-personal-injury area," Marconi said.



Left to Right: Joe Marconi, Mary Ann Hynes, Joseph Cataldo

Continued on page 14

He's represented clients in three jury trials so far this year.

For the past 25 years, Marconi has served as general counsel for ISBA Mutual Insurance Co. That company is owned by Illinois Lawyers and provides liability insurance coverage for them.

Leonard F. Amari, a partner at Amari & Locallo, taught Marconi in law school and was an Illinois State Bar Association officer when the insurance company was formed. Amari suggested that Marconi become the company's general counsel.

Marconi's "been the company's alter ego since," Amari said. "For the most part, every time we have a big case, a heater case, we give it to him."

Amari called Marconi, "even-tempered, gentle, observant and mature."

As a youth, Marconi worked in his father's family baking company in Chicago Heights. He also worked at his mother's family's towing and auto parts business.

In college, he played offensive tackle for the Iowa State University football team.

While later working as a football coach at Iowa State, he decided to pursue a legal career. He attended The John Marshall Law School and graduated from there in 1976.

Marconi initially worked for a sole practitioner and then started his own law firm. He next joined Johnson & Bell in 1988.

As for his management style, Marconi draws on advice he once received from his father.

"My dad told me you have to treat your employees like you treat your boss," he said. "I try to remember that."

Patrick A. Salvi

Renowned catastrophic injury lawyer and Renaissance man

It seemed like only yesterday that we highlighted the career of Patrick A. Salvi Jr. (Fra Noi, January, 2013 edition) in these pages upon his being named one of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin prestigious list of 40 lawyers under the age of 40. As I mentioned then, the young Salvi boasts of an impressive legal pedigree. His grandfather, Albert, practiced law for decades in Lake County and five of his nine children including Patrick's father, this month's subject, Patrick A. Salvi, are lawyers.

Because, using the old adage, "the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree," we highlight this month the senior Patrick A. Salvi, renowned catastrophic injury lawyer, extraordinarily successful representing victims in the tort field, raconteur, a renaissance man, as the reader will see hereafter.

Patrick A. Salvi concentrates his legal practice in several limited areas primarily involving a trial practice in cases concerning serious



Left to Right: Mark Hassakis, Justice Mary Seminara Schostok, Pat Salvi

personal injury, medical malpractice and wrongful death. Mr. Salvi recently achieved record breaking jury verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients including a record high \$33 million jury verdict. Additionally, he very recently won medical malpractice settlements of \$15 million (a record high), \$12.5 million, \$12 million, \$7.25 million, \$5 million, and \$3 million and wrongful death settlements for \$9 million, \$8.25 million (a record high) and \$3.75 million, \$3.1 million and personal injury cases for \$2.82 million, \$1.25 million and \$1.1 million.

Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard was established by Mr. Salvi in Waukegan, Illinois in 1982. With offices in Chicago and Waukegan, the law firm has 12 lawyers and is supported by more than 25 staff members including paralegals, nurse paralegals and administrative assistants.

Today, Mr. Salvi is ranked by his peers as one of the most prominent attorneys in the country in his field. He was named one of the "Best Lawyers in America" by Woodward/White Inc. Mr. Salvi was the recipient of a 2011 and 2012 Award for Trial Lawyer Excellence by The Jury Verdict Reporter and Law Bulletin Publishing Company. In 2013, Mr. Salvi was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Jury Instructions in Civil Cases. He is also a member of the prestigious Economic Club of Chicago providing members of the business world a platform to express and discuss economic, business and social issues. Other accolades include: "Highest Rating for Legal Ability and General Recommendation" and "Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers" from Martindale Hubbell American Law Directory; member of the AAJ Leaders Forum; "The Leading American Attorneys of Illinois" from The Consumer Law Guidebook; "One of the Top Ten Personal Injury Lawyers in Illinois" and "Top 5% of all Lawyers in Il-

linois" from a survey of lawyers and judges conducted by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company's Leading Lawyer Network. In 2001 he was invited to become a fellow in the prestigious International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is also a former President of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and served a three-year term (2010-2012) as Chairman on the Character and Fitness, 2nd District Committee of the Illinois Board of Admissions to the Bar. Additionally, Mr. Salvi is Chairman of the Law School Advisory Council and is an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of Notre Dame, teaching "Personal Injury Litigation" to 3rd year law students. And the list of his accomplishments and recognitions could go on and on.

Born the oldest of nine children to an attorney father who worked as general practitioner in Lake Zurich, Salvi always had an interest in sports. He coached his younger brother's baseball teams and scratched his own sports itch by playing goalie for traveling hockey teams in Northbrook.

He went to St. Mary's University of Minnesota with hopes to play goalie at the NCAA level, but he didn't make the cut – the team had seven goalies vying for two spots. So he spent four years manning the net in a Winona city league.

After graduating from Notre Dame Law School in 1978, Salvi went into his father's general law practice. He was drawn to the courtroom and soon found the fastest way to spend time at trial was picking up cases from the Lake County public defender's office.

Salvi began practicing with the late and truly respected and revered Michael Schostok out of their Waukegan office. A string of successes led up to the firm's 1999 opening of a Chicago office.

Salvi, continued on page 15

Shortly after that, Salvi & Schostok became Salvi Schostok & Pritchard, with the addition of David Pritchard, who at that point was a 22-year veteran defense lawyer.

In 2008, with his law firm established in Chicago, Salvi bought the Gary SouthShore RailCats. It was the first of what are now his three minor league baseball teams.

His second team – the Schaumburg Boomers – came in 2011 after the Schaumburg Flyers franchise stalled; its overdue rent payments led to the Boomers' lease at the Schaumburg stadium. The North Shore Navigators are a New England wood-bat, summer league team for college players based in Lynn, Mass.

The grandfather, Alberto Salvi, came to the United States in the early 1900s and was a famous harpist. He emigrated from a small town outside of Venice.

Strong supporter of his Alma Mater, Notre Dame, baseball magnet (so to speak), prominent lawyer and community leader, Patrick A. Salvi is truly a renaissance man and one of the best our community has to offer.

Enrico J. Mirabelli

Mirabelli honored for work to save local sports hall

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

Enrico J. Mirabelli still remembers the first time he saw the race car that Mario Andretti drove in the 1970 Indianapolis 500.

It's tough to forget, since it was the day he first saw boxer Jake LaMotta's leopard print robe.

And the day he saw the baseball that ended Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak, signed by DiMaggio and the third baseman who threw him out.

And Mike Eruzione's blood-stained uniform from the "Miracle on Ice" hockey game at the 1980 Winter Olympics.

And Wisconsin fullback Alan Ameche's 1954 Heisman Trophy.

Mirabelli, a partner at of Beermann, Pritikin, Mirabelli, Swerdlove LLP, didn't have to travel the country to see these pieces of sports history. He did it all in Chicago at the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame.

The hall wouldn't be there today, though, without the pro bono efforts of Mirabelli. His work was honored last week with the hall's annual Les Trilla Champions Award.

"I think he saved the hall," founder George Randazzo said.

Mirabelli first saw the hall's memorabilia collection in 1998, when it dedicated its new site at 1431 W. Taylor St.

Started in 1977 by Randazzo to honor Italian-



Jim Montana with Enrico Mirabelli

American boxers, it quickly became a museum to all Italian-American athletes, first in Elmwood Park at 7906 W. Grand Ave. and then in Arlington Heights at 2625 Clearbrook Drive.

In the late 1990s, the city of Chicago gave the hall a lot on Taylor Street. Randazzo built the hall. Mirabelli — a resident of the area — watched it go up.

He had attended the hall's dinners in Arlington Heights as a guest of a friend, and he was "awestruck" when he attended the dedication and first laid eyes on the hall's collection.

Six years later, Mirabelli was nominated for the hall's board of directors, an honor he quickly accepted. He was in that position in the late 2000s when the national financial crisis contributed to the hall almost defaulting on a loan from Bridgeview Bank used to complete the building.

Drowning in debt and at risk of losing the building and the memorabilia, Randazzo turned to his friend Nasser Kazeminy, an Iranian businessman who runs the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. Kazeminy was considering becoming the hall's new landlord.

Randazzo, however, had only one problem. He needed someone to join him for meetings with Kazeminy, someone who both knew the law and loved the hall. This was the sort of man who could be trusted.

Randazzo called Mirabelli.

"Enrico, listen," he told Mirabelli. "I've got an appointment with Mr. Kazeminy in Minneapolis. Would you come with me? I need an attorney."

Randazzo's specialties were networking and raising money. His friend and attorney, Lou Hall, was going to review all matters concerning real estate. Mirabelli would fill in the gaps on everything else.

For more than two years, he worked pro bono. He flew on his own dime to Kazeminy's offices in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C. He advised Randazzo on all proceedings between the hall, the bank, Kazeminy and Kazeminy's attorneys. He reviewed documents. He restructured the

hall's bylaws to prevent future calamities.

Most importantly, he helped draft the new lease making Kazeminy the hall's owner and savior.

Mirabelli knew how rare it was to have a man like Kazeminy in your corner. On the way back from their first meeting with Kazeminy, he told Randazzo, "George, you found your white knight."

Randazzo feels the same about Mirabelli. Hence the champions award, named after Les Trilla, another longtime friend of the hall.

"You look at a man who champions something not when you're flying high," Randazzo said. "It's when you're nothing. Well, when all of this stuff was going bad, Enrico being an attorney and leaving his law practice to get on a plane and go to Minneapolis and come home and do stuff on Saturdays and Sundays ... that's somebody who is championing your efforts."

Randazzo surprised Mirabelli when he told him about the award. Mirabelli even tried to persuade Randazzo otherwise.

"I don't deserve that award," Mirabelli told Randazzo.

"Enrico, you probably deserved it three or four years ago," Randazzo said.

"That's the impetus," Mirabelli said about his work with the hall. "I want my children and grandchildren to be able to go into the hall and see this memorabilia."

His children are already a part of the hall — his youngest son, Enrico Jr., spent his high school summers volunteering there.

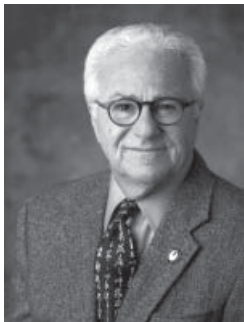
Mirabelli did what he did, he said, for Enrico Jr., for his other two sons and for his parents.

"If you are proud of your Italian heritage, why wouldn't you want to help preserve that?" Mirabelli said. "And since you have a legal ability, why wouldn't you want to give back by using your legal talents and committing your time to preserving this legacy that George started? For all of those reasons, it seemed like the right thing to do."

Everything a senior counselor needs to know (or should know) about blogs

By: Leonard F. Amari

As we all know, especially us older Justinian lawyers (and especially me!) the internet has become an ever growing part of each and every one of our lives. But, if we want to continue to practice law, in fact, just to effectively communicate, we had best come into the 21st century world of intellectual communication. For example, do we still need to ask ourselves what is a blog? I think so because there are many misconceptions regarding blogs, and their importance is more relevant than one may think. Also, maybe as part of the older generation (ugh!), we've never really learned what a "blog" is, why they exist, and why we old timers really have to care. Here is a basic explanation for those of us that find this stuff hostile.



It is written that a blog is a discussion or informational site published on the World Wide Web and consisting of discreet entries ("posts") typically displayed in reverse chronological order (the most recent post appears first). Until about four or five years ago blogs were usually the work of a single individual, occasionally of a small group, and often covered a single subject. More recently "multi-author blogs" (MABs) have developed, with posts written by large numbers of authors and professionally edited. MABs from newspapers, other media outlets, universities, think tanks, ISBA Committees and Section Councils and the like, interest groups and similar institutions account for an increasing quantity of blog traffic. The rise of Twitter and other "microblogging" systems help evolve single-author blogs into societal newstreams – (ouch!).

Many major retailers and manufacturers, service organizations, hotels and restaurant chains use blogs. The ability to publish content online (and largely control what is published) is an asset to almost all businesses from solo lawyers, architects and doctors to the largest corporations in the country.

Many blogs provide commentary on a particular subject; others function more as online brand advertising of a particular individual or company. Most blogs are primarily textual, although some focus on art (art blogs), photographs (photoblogs), videos (video blogs or

"vlogs"), music (MP3 blogs), and audio (podcasts). A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, webpages, and other media related to its topic.

To put it in terms us grey beards can understand, a blog is basically a type of website, or part of a website, that is similar to a forum and allows users to publish or comment their thoughts in a chronological fashion, all while the website regularly updates this content. Over the last decade, blogs have gained increasing notice and coverage for their role in breaking, shaping, and spinning news stories.

The main misconception regarding blogs comes from people that associate blogs with their content. In other words, some may think of blogs as online dairies where people share their opinions, ramblings and personal events. While a blog may fit that definition, it is just one of the many things you could do with a blog. Blogs are used for a plethora of purposes. As mentioned above, companies use blogs to communicate and interact with customers and other stakeholders. Newspapers have incorporated blogs in their main website to offer a new channel for their writers. Additionally, individuals create blogs to share their expertise with the world on specific topics. Many blogs provide commentary on a particular subject; others function as more personal online dairies; others function more as online brand advertising of a particular individual or company. The ability of readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important contribution to the popularity of many blogs.

Those who blog ("bloggers") now provide nearly – instant commentary on, for example televised events, creating a secondary meaning of the word "blogging": to simultaneously transcribe and comment on speeches and events shown on television. (For example, "I am blogging Obama's Speech" means "I am posting my reactions to the president's address into my blog as I watch him on television or listen to it on the radio.") Real Time commentary is sometimes referred to as "liveblogging."

In the early 2000's, the role of blogs became increasingly mainstream, as political consultants, news services and candidates began using them as tools for outreach and opinion forming. Both United States Democratic and Republican Parties' conventions credentialed bloggers, and blogs became a standard part of the publicity arsenal. Some blogs were an important news source, for example, during Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 and the aftermath a few blogs which were located in New Orleans, including the Interdictor and Gulfsails were able to maintain power and in Internet connection and disseminate information that was not covered by the main stream media.

As lawyers, we may or may not become bloggers. We may or may not turn to and utilize blogs, but it behooves us to at least know what a blog is, why such a thing exists, how perhaps we can avail ourselves of blogs. More things to complicate our lives – darn!

Condemnation Proceedings: A Stipulation?

By: Bryan Lynch

As part of a condemnation proceeding, if a taking agency such as the State or a municipality ("condemnor") offers to stipulate to certain improvements or issues, an owner's counsel should remain mindful of Ronald Reagan's famous quip revealing the nine most terrifying words in the English language, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

The condemnor may offer just such a stipulation to avoid paying additional remainder damages as part of a just compensation award, and could do so under the seemingly oxymoronic title, "unilateral stipulation." While stipulations can help narrow issues for trial, any indefinite language in a stipulation can cause considerable headache down the road, even depressing an owner's property value.

The rights of the condemnor and property owner are clear when it comes to stipulations: "The condemning authority in an eminent domain action is entitled to file a stipulation in open court binding itself to provide improvements to mitigate damage to the remainder; the landowner then has a vested right to enforce the stipulation." *Illinois State Toll Highway Authority v. Heritage Standard Bank and Trust Co.*, 196 Ill. App. 3d 5, 24, 552 N.E.2d 1151, 1165 (2d Dist. 1990).

Stipulations can be as idiosyncratic as the parcels of land they relate to. For example, a condemnor could propose a unilateral stipulation, attempting to mitigate for the owner damages due to storm-water runoff from the project, a new culvert drainage system. If owner's counsel allows the condemnor to unilaterally stipulate to "sufficient" drainage, this empowers the condemnor with discretion to make decisions on a whole host of variables – pitch, gradient, width, depth, surface material, or coefficient – when the condemnor might focus on cost-effective measures to the detriment of the drainage system's efficacy. Accordingly, the owner's counsel must demand detail and, where uncertainty exists, engage real estate experts, such as engineers and appraisers, to inform the negotiations.

Another example of a stipulation might attempt to mitigate remainder damages by providing the owner with additional access. This includes, for instance, furnishing one particular condemnee with a road on the easterly side of an east levee for access to land east of a canal (*East Side Levee District v. Jerome*, 306 Ill. 577, 580, 138 N.E. 192, 193 (1923)), or granting another



Continued on page 17

condemnee the right to cross railroad tracks with a switch track and crossing to connect land with a railway, which was perpetual and ran with the land (Lyon v. Hammond & Blue Isl. R.R. Co., 167 Ill. 527, 532, 47 N.E. 775, 777 (1897)). Here, in addition to incorporating all necessary detail, the owner's counsel should diligently work to ensure that such a stipulation runs with the land. If owner's counsel has not ensured that access is both perpetual (running with land) and alienable (able to be sold), the property owner will be damaged in terms of reduced resale prices, which should have been but was not recovered as part of the just compensation award in the underlying case — this, beyond the obvious detriment to the owner's heirs. There is also no going back: All related issues must be raised during the condemnation process, because they will be barred in any future proceeding. *Lake Ka-Ho, Inc. v. Kramer*, 131 Ill. App. 3d 782, 786, 475 N.E.2d 1379, 1382 (5th Dist. 1985).

The misnomer that is the "unilateral stipulation" can lull owner's counsel into believing the stipulation addresses the evils caused by the take. To the contrary, a court has the discretion to reject stipulations (*Bloome v. Wiseman, Shaikewitz, McGivern, Wahl, Flavin & Hesi, P.C.*, 279 Ill. App. 3d 469, 479, 664 N.E.2d 1125, 1132 (5th Dist. 1996)), and the owner can cite to ample case law in arguing that a stipulation with material terms that are not clear, certain and definitive will be unenforceable. See, e.g. *People v. One 1999 Lexus*, 367 Ill. App. 3d 687, 855 N.E.2d 194, 200 (2d Dist. 2006); *West v. H.P.H., Inc.*, 231 Ill. App. 3d 1, 6, 596 N.E.2d 1, 4 (1st Dist. 1992) (clear and definitive). An unenforceable stipulation admitted into evidence would work a great injustice and injury to the property owner. Based on the stipulation, the jury will award less in damages; yet the condemnor will only be bound by the promises contained in a loosely drafted or vague stipulation.

Whether unenforceable or merely including a section of vague language, a stipulation could serve as a mirage for the jury (an attractive basis for lowering just compensation), and an empty desert for the property owner.

Bryan Lynch offices at 734 N. Wells Street, Chicago, Illinois where he concentrates his practice in the representation of property owners in eminent domain, condemnation and property rights matters. Mr. Lynch's eminent domain experience includes the representation of industrial, commercial, and residential property and business owners throughout the metropolitan area. Mr. Lynch further represents clients in the unique areas of prosecuting unconstitutional takings (inverse condemnation), regulatory takings, extractions, and a variety of other property rights matters. Mr. Lynch can be contacted at 312.573.2727 or via email at bpl@blynchlaw.com.

After tragedy, Schostok's faith remains strong

[This article is being reprinted with permission from the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, Written by Andrew Maloney, *Law Bulletin* staff writer]

Mary Seminara Schostok is, quite literally, fit for justice.

"I love to exercise and run. I did my first 5K (recently) and I run about 2½ to 3 miles about three times a week," said Schostok, a 2nd District Appellate Court justice since 2008 and the recently installed president of the Illinois Judges Association.

Her routine also includes pilates, yoga and tabata — a circuit workout that lasts only a few minutes but blends multiple, high-intensity cardiovascular moves.

"It's something that I love to do because I can get a quick workout," she said. "It's so addictive."

Schostok's exercise life, in some ways, parallels her legal career. Sometimes it's been about intensity. Sometimes it's been about endurance. It's never been easy, but it's always been rewarding.

A Pennsylvania native, Schostok was the only one of the six children in her family to attend college.

"In a town where not a lot of women aspired to be lawyers, I always knew at that time that I

was probably a little more tenacious than most," she said. "And I remember a teacher in high school saying to me, 'Did you ever think about law school?' So that kind of got me thinking."

She studied business education at Youngstown State University and law at Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio. There, she not only earned her degree, but met her future husband, Michael P. Schostok.

"The first day I laid eyes on him, I knew he was the man I was going to marry," she said. "He didn't know it, but I did."

The couple ended up working together as prosecutors in the Lake County state's attorney's office. There, they handled "the type of cases that could make you nauseous at times," Schostok said — murder, child abuse and rape, to name a few.

In the decade she spent there, perhaps no case is more memorable to her than the lone case that she and her husband prosecuted together. It was his final case before entering private practice — an armed robbery in which the defendant, a sailor at the Great Lakes Naval Base, was convicted of holding up and beating a cab driver.

Schostok said she learned a lot from her husband during the process. But the couple's ultimate take-away was that it would be wise not to practice law together.

Fred Foreman, the chief judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit, is the former Lake County state's attorney who assigned the couple to work on the case together.

"There were a lot of comparisons made to Spencer Tracy and Kathy Hepburn," he said, referencing the 1949 film "Adam's Rib," about a husband and wife who work as opposing attorneys.

"But Mary certainly complemented Mike, and Mike was an outstanding assistant state's attorney. ... They were quite a combination, and they always have been."

Schostok's husband went on to become a president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and



Pausing for a photo are the foundation's board members (from left) Matthew L. Williams, Justice Mary Seminara Schostok, TJ Saye and Marisa Schostok.

a name partner at Salvi, Schostok and Pritchard P.C.

Schostok herself was appointed an associate judge in 1998 and a circuit judge in 2001. She was elected in 2002, then appointed to the 2nd District Appellate Court in 2008.

Schostok was slated to become president of the IJA in 2011, but held off to spend more time with Michael when he was diagnosed with brain cancer.

"She's someone who has her priorities straight," said DuPage County Circuit Judge Robert J. Anderson, second vice president of the IJA, who met the couple years ago when his wife and Michael were Illinois State Bar Association board members.

"It was a devastating experience that she went through with grace and courage and, from my perspective, continuously did the right things."

Michael died in July 2012 at age 51, leaving behind his wife and three adult children.

"Going through what we went through, it's still unbelievable. I still wake up every day thinking I had a bad dream, because you don't ever think your 51-year-old husband would suffer from a disease that was going to take him," Schostok said. "It ripped a part of me that will never be replaced."

Schostok was born and raised in a Catholic household, and despite the jarring loss of her husband, her faith remains unshaken. She is unambiguously spiritual in conversation and in practice, and said she has remained that way throughout her entire career.

"My faith is strong, and without my faith I don't think I would've been able to get through my time and the illness and the death of my husband. Not having faith, I don't know how people function," Schostok said.

"I don't let religion get in the way of my job, but I pray every day for the Lord to give me guidance and assisting me in judgment, my temperament and my patience."

As a prosecutor or while on the bench, Schostok said, pursuing or rendering justice in some of the more disturbing child sexual abuse or sexual assault matters, "you really feel like you're doing God's work with those cases."

Colleagues said Schostok's compassion is one of her hallmarks, yet she is far from a pushover. One of her initiatives leading the IJA is aggressively defending judges from what she considers unfair criticism — from the media or otherwise.

"When people criticize judges ... they have no idea what we bring home with us," she said. "If there's an opportunity for our organization to defend a judge, we do it." She's also called for judges to highlight themselves when they do good works outside the courtroom, and pushing for increased literacy by having members of the bench promote reading in schools.

"I tend to see a correlation between literacy and criminal behavior," Schostok said. "By being able to read and educate yourself on different matters, that helps with ignorance and it helps us grow as people, and absolutely that would go hand-in-hand with illicit or criminal

behavior."

Foreman said Schostok's start on the trial bench has prepared her well to lead the IJA, in part because she's seen all types of cases.

"I think when you have that kind of experience and you've been in the trenches, people just respect you," he said. "You've been there, and you've seen that."

Schostok said one of her more prescient decisions from the bench was a sentence she handed down for a woman who'd been convicted of a drug charge.

"The prosecutors recommended prison time, and the public defender was asking that she get some probation and get some help," Schostok said.

The woman pleaded for leniency so that she could be around for her child.

"And I don't know, maybe she just got me on a good day, because I said, 'You know, I'm going to give you that chance,'" Schostok said.

The result was ultimately rewarding for both the woman and for Schostok.

"She came back to me and she looked like a completely different woman," she said. "I was just fulfilled that this woman had a second chance, and I gave it to her. I was very humbled by that."

[Editor's note: The Michael Matters Foundation has partnered with NorthShore University HealthSystems to create a grant that will provide financial assistance to brain tumor patients receiving care at the NorthShore Kellogg Cancer Center, located at Evanston Hospital. The \$25,000 Michael Matters Grant will help patients maintain their quality of life during their treatment. The foundation was created last year in honor of the late Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C. trial attorney, Michael P. Schostok, who died of a brain tumor last year. For more information, visit michaelmatters.org.

SACA Medal of Merit Brunch: 2013

The Sicilian American Cultural Association, founded among others, by Alfred E. Gallo, past president of the Justinian Society of lawyers, had its annual Medal of Merit brunch at the wonderful Monestaro's restaurant on Sunday, September 22, 2013. The three distinguished recipients of this prestigious award this year included the high respected businessman, Dominic Gambino, who, along with his partner, Tony Gambino, runs the extraordinarily successful and continuing growing chain of grocery stores known as Tony's Finer Foods. Very few people in our community are as supportive of the various Italian organizations and functions than Gambino and Ingrafria. Besides being extraordinarily successful businessmen and contributors to the improvement of the Italian American condition, they're highly revered and certainly Dominic is deserving of this prestigious recognition.

Along with Dominic Gambino the Honorable Jennie Giambastiani received this prestigious



SACA founder: the late Al Gallo

award. Of course, she sits in the immigration court.

Also, receiving the third award, is the highly respected attorney, career Justinian and one of the founders of SACA, Emil Venuti.

Previous Justinians who have been honored with his award include Justinians, and all past presidents of the Illinois State Bar Association, Leonard F. Amari, Sheryl L. Niro and the late Honorable Michelle Coccia, Larry Pusiteri and Ralph Gabrick in 2001. In 2002 one of the legends of our Italian community and certainly in our legal community, Tony Scariano. In 2004 the late Dennis Ferrine and the late Justice Moses W. Harrison received this significant award. In 2006 Reverend Michael J. Garanzini, president of Loyola University received this recognition and in 2009 our very own dear friend Dominic DiFrisco. In 2011 it was Alfred E. Gallo as recipient and in 2012 the Honorable Frank Orlando.

Many of the leaders of this cultural association, created to keep alive the culture of Sicily, involve Justinians. For example, Sam Cannizzaro is the president this year, Katherine A. (Amari) O'Dell serves as 1st vice president. Directors include, Leonard F. Amari, Sam Cannizzaro, Nello P. Gamberdino, Edward Manzo, Judge Frank Orlando and Emil Venuti. If you are interested in participating in the activities of this wonderful association that has dinners approximately once a month at Monestaro's, 3935 W. Devon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, contact any of the officers.



Katherine O'Dell, Dominic Gambino and Leonard Amari

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.

Bless our sister Justinian, Dr. Mary L. Milano for another annual contribution of \$1,000 to our various Justinian charity funds. Of course, anyone who knows this dear lady, brilliant lawyer and hardworking State of Illinois employee, is not surprised. To her, every day is good neighbor week. Thank you Dr. Milano.

Now we ask each and every member, have you made a contribution to one of our two generous and successful charities?

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.

OFFICES FOR RENT

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

Save the Date:

JUSTINIAN SOCIETY OF LAWYERS

ANNUAL INSTALLATION & AWARDS DINNER

SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

PALMER HOUSE HILTON HOTEL

CHICAGO

HELP WANTED!

We always have a number of resumes of young lawyers seeking an associate position, 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.

Interested parties can contact the Editor, Leonard F. Amari at 312-255-8550 or lfa@amari-locallo.com. A listing of those seeking positions are also listed on our website, along with their resumes. View them at: www.justinians.org.

NEWSLETTER STAFF MEMBERS WANTED

The surest way to become an officer and eventual President of our Justinian Society is by being a staff member/contributor to our highly regarded semi-annual newsletter. The only responsibility is to attend society functions and submit articles for publications, and maybe take photos of the event being attended.

President-elect Anita DeCarlo is in the process of making Justinian committee appointments.

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

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

INSURANCE TOPIC

By: Roy Puccini

Over the past year we have seen many things that have changed in our business life, some of which have and will affect many business people for years to come. Some of these changes are insurance related and must be included in a client's insurance coverage or added to their current coverage. Clients have to be made aware of the coverage and look to add to their coverage. The client needs help from his legal advisor as well as his insurance agent to keep him updated. I have mentioned some of these updates in my prior articles. These updates now have to be included in your clients programs to prevent financial losses to them. The updated coverage involved is as follows.



Employment Practices Liability (EPL)

Employment Practices Liability is critical in protecting your clients from a potentially catastrophic cost of employment litigation. With changes in the Affordable Health Care Act, many companies have made changes such as reducing staff and work hours. Others have out sourced some of their services to reduce staff. EPL policy picks items of failure to promote, wrongful termination, age discrimination, harassment, plus others too broad to mention. Most large companies with a Human Resources Department are in a good position to defend themselves but with mounting defense costs, that can be enormous. Smaller companies need this coverage to protect themselves in order to stay in business.

Fiduciary Liability

Individuals who administer employee benefit plans are subject to Personal Liability under ERISA. Even with participant directed plans, fiduciaries can be held liable for variety of reasons including the selection of investment options monitoring those investments and educating employees of the options. Plan Fiduciaries cannot transfer their responsibilities to another party such as an insurance company or third party administrator (TPA). Steps can be taken to reduce personal liability but the Fiduciary remains responsible for the management of the plans.

Crime Coverage

Employee dishonesty is costly for business and for a small business it can destroy that business. It is important for your clients to have excellent internal controls and follow them. These controls sometimes can fall short of stopping a trusted employee from engaging in a fraudulent activity. Coverage should be included in your clients program.

Directors and Officers Liability

Regardless of the number of shareholders of a private company, personal assets of directors and officers are exposed to litigation from creditors, customers, and even employees as well as shareholders. A private company may not have the same exposure but they are still exposed to securities litigation and other conflicts. Personal liability policies will now, in most cases, pay for defense costs, so coverage has to be under a D&O policy. Along with Employment Practice Policy some insurance companies write both D&O and EPL under one policy.

Professional Liability

This is an error and omissions liability and there have been more and more claims in this area. It does not matter if a company produces a product or just sells products that have been manufactured elsewhere. Many products are now manufactured overseas and coverage is not available in the United States. The selling company will be the primary company that will be sued. Costs to defend these claims have been very costly, even frivolous.

Data Breach Coverage

We've heard about the recent Target claim and continues to be on going. Many small businesses believe that data breach only happens to large companies. Thirty-five percent of data breaches were from companies of less than 100 people. It can be anywhere, from a medical organization, one of the hardest hit, but it can affect any business (i.e. accounting firms, insurance agencies, law firms, restaurants and even schools). Data breach can happen anywhere someone can get name, social security number, date of birth or license number.

Any business that collects and stores personal information is at risk for data breach. Sometimes a data breach is the result of a nefarious hacker preying on small business vulnerability. Just as often it can happen after a smartphone, tablet, laptop or a flash-drive is lost or stolen. Even information discarded in a dumpster instead of being shredded could be found and used. Insurance companies are providing broad coverage including legal and other services including defense cost and settlement options. Any small business that handles customer information or processes credit card transactions are vulnerable.

The most important point of all is that it is critical that a client work together with his attorney and insurance agent and together help get the best coverage with the best carrier to protect against situations. Many insurance companies will work with the client's attorney to settle a case. No one knows the client as well as his current attorney. Insurance companies are willing to work with many firms to settle claims.

TORT NOTES

By: James J. Morici, Jr.

DEFENDANT CORPORATION AND PLAINTIFF'S AND DEFENDANT'S DOWNTOWN OFFICES KEEP FORUM NON CONVENIENS CASE IN COOK COUNTY

The Appellate Court of Illinois, First District, has ruled that where the corporate owner of a van involved in a Will County motor vehicle collision and both its lawyers and the plaintiffs' lawyers maintained offices in downtown Chicago, Cook County was a proper forum for the purposes of forum



non conveniens and the lower court's denial of defendant's Motion to Transfer was affirmed.

In *Blake v. Colfax Corp.*, 2013 Ill.App.Lexus 416 and 2013WL 3130162 (1st Dist., 2013). Plaintiffs were injured when a van owned by the defendant corporation and driven by one of its employees, crossed the center line crashing into plaintiff's oncoming car. The collision occurred in Will County which was the county of residence of the plaintiffs. The offending driver and a non-party eyewitness resided in Plainfield, Kendall County. The Will County Sheriff's Department, the Plainfield Paramedics Department and the emergency room were all located in Will County as was plaintiff's subsequent surgery. Plaintiffs' further medical treatment was predominantly in Will and DuPage Counties.

Of note, to the Court, was that the van involved in the occurrence was stored in Cook County and was subject to an order of protection entered by the Circuit Court after plaintiffs filed suit.

After hearing arguments on the defendant's Motion to Transfer based on Forum Non Conveniens to Will or DuPage County, the trial court ruled that the defendant had failed to meet its burden of showing that a transfer to either county would be more convenient and better serve the ends of justice. The court found that the private interest factors favored maintaining the action in Cook County since plaintiffs had chosen that forum and that was the defendant corporation's principal place of business. In addition, one of the plaintiff's worked at the Merchandise Mart and submitted an Affidavit

Continued on page 21

AMPUTATION CASE SETTLES FOR \$5.0M

stating that the Daley Center was substantially more convenient for him. The court also found that practical considerations slightly favored Cook County because the Daley Center was in close proximity to the law offices of counsel for both plaintiffs and defendant.

On appeal, the First District affirmed the lower court noting that such rulings rest within the sound discretion of the trial court and are not subject to reversal on appeal unless "no reasonable person would take the view adopted by the trial court."

The court further wrote that the Doctrine of Forum Non Conveniens "was designed to give the courts" discretionary power which should be exercised only in exceptional circumstances when it has been shown that the interest of justice require a trial in a more convenient forum." Citing most recently *First American Bank v. Guerine*, 198 Ill.2d 511, 520, 764 N.E.2d 54 (2002). The court found that in weighing the private and public interest factors that the totality of the circumstances did not strongly support transfer away from Cook County. The court noted that the defendants are prohibited from asserting that plaintiffs' chosen forum is inconvenient to the plaintiffs citing *Langenhorst*, 219 Ill.2d at 448. The court also noted that the defendant's corporate headquarters and the work address listed by the defendant driver was on Chicago's north side, near downtown and that the defendants regularly performed work in Cook County including work at Chicago's Daley Center Courthouse.

The court, again citing *Langenhorst*, supra., noted that "Both plaintiffs and defendant's attorneys maintain offices in downtown Chicago and that that fact could result in lower litigation expenses and the costs being billed to the parties."

The Appellate Court also found that Cook County had an interest in how the defendant corporation, as a resident of Cook County, fulfilled its obligations to train and supervise safe drivers and to service and maintain its vehicles, was of interest to Cook County. Further that since the corporation presumably paid taxes in Cook County, that jurors would not be unduly burdened by a trial involving the alleged negligence of one of its corporate residents.

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.

Pedestrian at Wisconsin auto auction recovers after being crushed between two SUVs.

Justinian Past-President James J. Morici, Jr. recently settled an above-the-knee amputation case with West Bend Mutual Insurance for a Chicago man crushed between bumpers of two SUVs. The insurance company has agreed to pay \$5.0 million on behalf of Badger State Auto Auction.

Benjamin Romero, 41, a Chicago resident and tradesman, was attending an auto auction at the Badger State Auto Auction facility in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin on August 25, 2011. While walking among cars lining up to enter the auction building, a practice allowed by Badger State so customers could get a closer look at vehicles, he was crushed between the bumpers of two SUVs. Francis Yeager, an auto auction employee stated that the 2004 Ford Explorer he was driving "just took off like a bat out of hell" according to Romero's lawyer, James J. Morici, Jr., a partner at Morici, Figlioli & Associates.

Morici, who is also licensed in Wisconsin and Arizona, stated that the case will continue against Ford Motor Company and Fairview Auto, the vehicle's owner.

Romero suffered near-fatal injuries and fractures to each leg with his right leg being unsalvageable and succumbing to an above-the-knee amputation during his hospitalization at the Theda Clarke Medical Center to which he was airlifted in Neenah, Wisconsin. His recovery continued with multiple surgeries at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and an extensive period of inpatient and outpatient physical therapy at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, according to Morici. Romero continues to suffer extreme pain and mental anguish as a result of his many fractures, multiple surgeries and difficulty in being fitted with a properly fitting prosthesis to his right lower extremity, his lawyer said.

Trial is scheduled for October 14, 2014 in the Circuit Court of Fond du Lac County against Ford and Fairview, Morici said. "We welcome the challenge of trying this case in a difficult semi-rural county and expect to face substantial jury bias against Mr. Romero who speaks only Spanish," said Morici.

The suit alleged that Badger State Auto Auction failed to properly enforce safe crowd control procedures by allowing its customers to come inle with moving vehicles. The Thurs-

day afternoon auction commonly attended by over 400 buyers usually sells 1,000 to 1,200 vehicles per week, Morici said. "The entire layout of the auction traffic flow pattern and lack of crowd control was an accident waiting to happen. Defendants, Ford and Fairview, have suggested that Yeager, a 75 year old, part-time worker who had only been employed by Badger State for six weeks prior to the incident, mistakenly hit the gas instead of the brake," said Morici.

"Corroborating Yeager's account of the vehicle's actions is a technical service bulletin made as an exhibit during depositions describing similar vehicle behavior as a result of problems with the vehicle's air intake control module," said Morici.

The settling Defendants were covered by only \$6 million in insurance with two other pedestrians injured as a result of the vehicles striking them after the collision. One man was knocked to the ground and has undergone multiple back and neck surgeries as a result and the other suffered a crush and fracture injury to his foot when one of the vehicles rolled over it, Morici stated.



Anyone wishing to share information with their fellow Justinians is encouraged to contact Newsletter Associate Editor **Katherine A. Amari O'Dell** at our Justinian headquarters address: 734 North Wells Street, Chicago, IL 60654; phone (312)255-8550; fax (312)255-8551; kaa@amari-locallo.com.

Photo Stories



JMLS Dean's reception hosted at Amari & Locallo in the Fall



Guess Who, Guess Where?



ISBA Past President's mid-year breakfast meeting.



Above: Café in Paris, no relation to our friend, recently retired judge and pal, Frank Castiglione.



Above & Left: Post installation dinner ritual, stopping at Gene & Jude's!



Above: Active Justinians in attendance at the ISBA Distinguished Counselor's luncheon in November 2013



Above: Vincent A. Oppedisano joins the law firm of Amari & Locallo in November 2013 upon being sworn in by the Illinois State Bar Association. Pictured here with Amari & Locallo partners, Leonard F. Amari, Franco A. Coladipietro, John G. Locallo and Anthony M. Farace.



Left: Congratulations to Gina Gipperich, daughter of Justinian Frank DiBella, on the birth on Jack Joseph (DiBella) Gipperich, born September 9, 2013. Best wishes!



Above: Kevin Madsen (of Amari & Locallo) brings his daughter Zoe to work for the day!



Above: Congratulations to Grace and her husband Matt Clarkson, on the birth of their son, Gabriel. Proud godfather is Vincent Vidmer and nonna is Nina Vidmer.

Photo Stories



Above: Justinians participating in the annual Columbus Day Parade in Chicago.



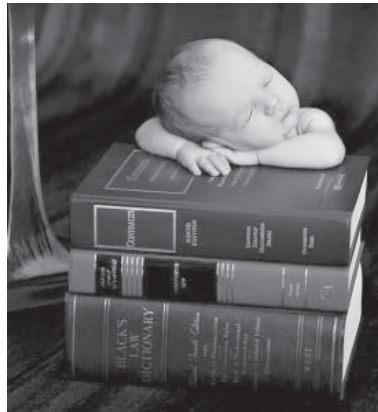
Above: Franco Coladipietro poses with his alligator friend in Florida.



Above: Congratulations to the Gagliardo family on the birth of their daughter Ava Marie.



Above : Eddie Allegretti, nephew of past presidents John & Joe Locallo and John Allegretti, wins in a world classification competition in Liverpool, England.



Above: Congratulations to Bob Constantino and his wife Michelle on the birth of their son Nico.



Above: Fred Serpe gets sworn in as president of the West Suburban Bar Association with Richard Caldarazzo and below with Ro Sorentino.



Left: Congratulations to Michael DiBella on the birth of his daughter Olivia Marie.



Above: Congratulations to Frank Sommaro on the birth of his daughter, Sophia.



Miscellanea

By: **Leonard F. Amari**

➤ Schain, Banks, Kenney, & Schwartz, Ltd. announced that Cook County Commissioner **Peter N. Silvestri** has joined their firm as Of Counsel working in the firm's government approvals, zoning, real estate and municipal practice groups.



Franco Coladipietro, John Sciacotta, Peter Silvestri and Dominic DiFrisco

➤ Congratulations to the following lawyers of our community who are celebrating 50 years and for being recognized as "Distinguished Counsellors" by the Illinois State Bar Association in October 2013: **Gino DiVito, James Ferrini, Paul Galanti, Frank Maggio, Anthony Rocco and Philip Rosi.**



Gino DiVito and Jim DeLeo

➤ The Advocates Society hosted a reception in late August of 2013 in honor of **Hon. Paul J. Biebel**, a longtime friend of the Justinians.

➤ Our society bids a fond farewell to longtime leader of the Illinois State Bar Association, our friend, **Douglas M. Barringer**. Doug has left the ISBA after almost 30 years to take a significant position with the Illinois Education Association. We wish our good friend Doug all the luck in the world in his new position and look forward to him maintaining a relationship with those of us that have so much respect for him.

➤ Congratulations to immediate past president, **Gregg Garofalo** marrying the extraordinarily lovely **Rebekah Williams** on October 11, 2013. We wish these two dear people tremendous happiness together in the years ahead.



Gregg and Rebekah Garofalo

➤ Illinois Appellate **Justice Mary Seminara Schostok** was installed as president of the Illinois Judges Association at the group's annual meeting in the fall of 2013. She has been an officer of the association since 1997. Congratulations!

➤ On October 17, 2013, Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans sponsored the Annual Circuit Court of Cook County Italian Heritage Month Courthouse Tour at the Richard J. Daley Center. Ninety people attended, including prominent members of the Italian-American community and high school and elementary students. Circuit Judges **Robert Bertucci** and **Celia Gamrath** spoke individually about their background, education and career, and the importance and pride in being Italian-American judges. Judge Bertucci also spoke about the history, mission and charitable work of the Justinian Society of Lawyers, and Past Justinian President Mauro Glorioso spoke on behalf of the JCCIA. The panel did a great job highlighting Justinian members' contributions to the practice of law and to the administration of justice.

➤ Congratulations to the **Law Firm of Amari & Locallo** on celebrating their 25th anniversary of being in the business. The boutique real estate tax reduction firm has offices in both Cook and DuPage counties.



Amari & Locallo Partners: Joseph Locallo Jr., Leonard F. Amari, John Locallo, Franco Coladipietro, & Anthony Farace

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph W. Balesteri** (Power, Rogers & Smith P.C.) and **Louis C. Cairo** (Goldberg, Weisman & Cairo Ltd.) on being selected as officers of The Society of Trial Lawyers for 2013-2014.

➤ Congratulations to **Michael D. Monico** of Monico & Spevack on receiving the Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Philanthropic Award from Lawyers Lend-A-Hand on April 30 at the Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago.

➤ Congratulations to **Anthony J. Monaco** on being elected equity partner at Swanson, Martin & Bell LLP. Monaco focuses his practice on product-liability, pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, toxic tort litigation and class-action defense.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph G. Bisceglia** on being recognized, once again, as one of the Top 100 "Super Lawyers" in Illinois for 2014.

➤ Congratulations to **Carmen P. Forte** on joining the firm of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Ltd.



➤ **Robin Iori** has been appointed to the Volunteer, Marketing Committee with the Chicago Bar Foundation.

➤ **Katherine Amari O'Dell** led a speaking engagement on February 28th with the Seniors of Harwood Heights to discuss senior citizen tax exemptions and freezes.



Katherine Amari O'Dell with Harwood Heights Mayor, Arlene Jezierny

Miscellanea

➤ In February, **Marianne Raimondi Cohen** joined Taft Law Offices in Cleveland, Ohio. We wish Marianne the best of luck in this endeavor.

➤ Brother **Sam Tornatore**, past president, was honored at the Italian American Political Coalition Municipal Event in the summer of 2013. Congratulations, Sam!



Sam Tornatore, Mauro Glorioso and Vince Vidmer

➤ **Hon. Nicholas T. Pomaro** (ret.) was honored with the Jacob Bolotin Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Harris Family Foundation.

➤ The Woman's Bar Association of Illinois hosted an event on October 5, 2013 with featured presentations by Illinois Judges Association President and career Lake County Justinian **Mary Seminara Schostok** and Lake County Circuit Court Judge **Margaret J. Mullen**, who discussed civility in the practice of law.



Mary Seminara Schostok with John Locallo

➤ **Antonio DeBlasio** has formed DeBlasio & Donnell with offices in Chicago and Oak Brook, Illinois.

➤ **Michael DiSanto** is serving as the prosecutor for the City of Naperville, Illinois.

➤ **Anthony M. Sciara** joined Robinson, Shapiro & Schwartz, LLC in Chicago, Illinois. Sciara concentrates his practice in commercial litigation and civil appeals.

➤ **Hon. Cheryl D. Cesario** received the Francis D. Morrissey Legal Achievement Award from the Corporate Law Association of The John Marshall Law School. Cesario, a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County, has been appointed as a delegate to the American Bar Association's National Conference of State Trial Judges.



John Simpson, Judge Cheryl Cesario, Matthew Dattilo, Judge Sophia Hill

➤ **Umberto Davi** has been installed as second vice president of the Illinois State Bar Association. Davi is principal at Davi Law Office in Western Springs, Illinois, where he specializes in family law and real estate.



Justice Thomas Kilbride, Mary Ann Hynes and Umberto Davi

➤ **Hon. Celia G. Gamrath** was installed as treasurer of the Illinois State Bar Association. Gamrath is a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County.



Judge Lisa Marino, Carla Michelotti and Judge Celia Gamrath

➤ **Karie Valentino** joined Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith LLP in Chicago, Illinois, as partner. Valentino concentrates her practice on medical malpractice litigation, commercial litigation, general tort liability and product liability. She is serving as treasurer of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois.

➤ **John E. Zummo** has joined Howard & Howard in Chicago, Illinois. He concentrates his practice on representing financial institutions in litigation, bankruptcy and receivership proceedings.

➤ **Gina C. Adduci** joined the law firm Krieg, DeVault LLP in Chicago, Illinois, as a new associate. Adduci concentrates her practice in business, governmental affairs and public advocacy.

➤ **Tyler Philippi** has joined Jackson Lewis in Omaha, Nebraska, as an associate. Philippi concentrates his practice in the areas of ERISA and employee benefits.

➤ **Eileen Sergo** has joined Rieff Schramm Kanter & Guttman, LLC in Chicago, Illinois. Sergo concentrates her practice in real estate assessment and tax law.

➤ **Joseph G. Bisceglia** has been honored for Outstanding Service to DePaul University, as part of their 2014 Alumni Honorees. Congratulations on this recognition!



Secretary Mike Bonamarte, Joseph Bisceglia, and recently elected Judge John Allegretti

➤ **Nicole Jaconetty**, daughter of prominent member Tom and Judith (Hamil), will graduate from Fordham in May and be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as well. Congratulations!

➤ **News from the Morici Law Firm:**
• Past president and 1979 Chicago Kent alum, **James J. Morici, Jr.**, was honored at the ITT/Chicago-Kent College of Law 125th Anniversary Alumni of Distinction Dinner on November 21, 2013 at the Renaissance Downtown Chicago Hotel.

Continued on page 26

- The Italian American Police Association honored James J. Morici, Jr. as "Man of the Year" at their 50th Annual Dinner Dance on November 2, 2013 at Alta Villa Banquets in Addison, Illinois. It's fitting that this association of police officers has chosen Morici. As an Assistant State's Attorney, he earned a reputation as a hardnosed First Chair Prosecutor at 26th and California. Working with Chicago and suburban police departments, Jim helped put some of the most dangerous people in the County behind bars throughout the 1980's.

- Congratulations to Morici, Figlioli & Associates, an "all Justinian" firm as they celebrated its 15th Anniversary on September 18, 2013 led by founding partners David Figlioli and past Justinian president James J. Morici, Jr. The firm has grown from three lawyers to eight lawyers. Over its existence its recovered over \$150 million for its personal injury and worker's compensation clients.



Jim Morici with the late Judge P.A. "Buc" Sorrentino

- Congratulations to **Matt Panichi** upon the opening of his own law office doing mostly transactional work – real estate, business law, estate planning, etc. Looking for a bright energetic young Justinian to refer these matters to – call Matt at 312-757-4899



Matt Panichi

- Attendees at the recently held ISBA Women in the Law celebration.



Leonard Amari, Chief Justice Rita Garman, Retired Circuit Court Judge Sheila Murphy, Justice Mary Seminara-Schostok

- **Mark Panzavecchia**, prominent New York litigator, former John Marshall Law School Justinian student member, returns to his alma mater after 20 years. Pictured with Dean John Corkery, his evidence professor.



Mark Panzavecchia with Dean John Corkery

- Congratulations to our beloved past president **Cristina Mungai** on her recent engagement!



Judge Lisa Marino, Jessica DePinto, Katherine Amari O'Dell, Cristina Mungai, Anita DeCarlo



- Congratulations to **Gabe Caporale, Jr.** upon the opening of his own law office doing mostly transactional work – real estate, business law, estate planning, etc. Looking for a bright energetic young Justinian to refer these matters to – call Gabe at 312-622-1202



Anthony Casaccio, Gabe Caporale (center) and John Tufano

- Professor **Mark E. Wojcik** of The John Marshall Law School has been named a board member of the Legal Writing Institute. Wojcik will serve a four-year term, starting with the board's installation at the institute's biennial conference in Philadelphia in July. Wojcik is also helping organize the ninth annual Global Legal Skills Conference for legal writing instructors. The program is May 21 to 23 at Italy's University of Verona Faculty of Law.



Alderman Ed Burke, Professor Mark E. Wojcik, and Justice Anne Burke

- Congratulations to retired Judge **Frank B. Castiglione** upon his joining the catastrophic injury firm of Walsh, Fewkes & Sterba. Of course, the Sterba in the name is the recently retired Appellate Court Justice, the highly respected David Sterba. Between Frank and David, and the other folks in that office, this highly respected firm will impact in our profession in assisting injured plaintiffs. We wish Frank good fortune in these new endeavors.

Photo left: John G. Locallo, David Sterba, Katherine Amari O'Dell, and Judge Frank B. Castiglione

➤ Distinguished (younger) past President, **Enrico J. Mirabelli**, is being recognized for his significant and long term contributions to the continuing existence and success of the Italian American Sports Hall of Fame with its Champions Award, named after Les Trilla, a long-time supporter and friend of the Sports Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Enrico. For information about the award and how to continue to support the Hall of Fame, call 312-226-5566.



James Montana with Enrico Mirabelli

➤ Past President **Bruno Tassone** introduces us to his pal, **Sam Pizzo**, of Tom James Company, the world's largest manufacturer and retailer of custom clothing. As a highly trained tailor, Sam comes directly to your home or office, saving you valuable time. He will plan, coordinate and maintain your wardrobe so that you are perfectly attired for any situation – business, casual, social or formal. As a wardrobe consultant, he is well-versed in fabrics, styles and patterns, and he will assist you in selecting a wardrobe that will compliment you with the finest clothing and the best value at a price that is comfortable to you. If you are interested, call Sam Pizzo at (810) 588-0266



Past President Hon. Bruno Tassone and Sam Pizzo of Tom James Company.

➤ Congratulations to past President **Leonard DeFranco**, honored by The John Marshall Law School Alumni Association with the Distinguished Service Award on May 9 at the Palmer House Hotel, Chicago



➤ Romanucci & Blandin, LLC - Conference Room Dedication Ceremony honoring Retired Hon. Bruno J. Tassone. On February 14, Romanucci & Blandin, LLC hosted a reception honoring retired Hon. **Bruno J. Tassone**, a past President of the Justinian Society of Lawyers. To memorialize his dedication and commitment to the law, Romanucci & Blandin named one of their client conference rooms in his honor. Hon. Tassone is an important part of the family at Romanucci & Blandin and has served as a mentor to many aspiring lawyers, many of whom are Justinians. Many Justinian friends were present for the dedication, including Antonio M. Romanucci, Joseph G. Bisceglia, Joseph M. Gagliardo, and Richard F. Pellegrino, and current 3rd Vice President Frank A. Sommario.



From left: Justinian Society 3rd Vice President Frank Sommario, Bruno Tassone, Antonio Romanucci and Stephan Blandin

➤ **Ron Mentone** released the book "Dominic and Ross, My Two Uncles" in 2013 which can be ordered at BLURB Books (under author name R.J. Mentone) or from his office by calling (708) 343-9669. A brief synopsis of the book is below:



"Dominic and Ross, My Two Uncles," is the story of the friendship of Ross and Dom from 1929 to 1945. Set in Chicago, these two face the challenges of growing up in the years before and during World War II. With an Italian neighborhood as the background, Ross and Dom travel from eight year old boys to young men in their twenties.

When Ross Parrisi opens the door to the Flowers of Italy Social Club, his life will never be the same. Ross is there to help his best friend, Dominic Marino, who is seeking the aid of Don Sisto Renza, the neighborhood crime boss. Dominic has become the enemy of Octavio Malo, hitman for the Don, who has sworn to kill him.

The novel comes to a conclusion when their siblings marry, but along the way Ross and Dom become the closest of friends. Individually they find love, success, and danger as the Chicago Mob is a constant presence in their lives. The friendship of these two young men is the crux of this novel with many twists and turns along the way.

➤ Congratulations to **Christine Castellano**, General Counsel for the Fortune 500 Company, Ingredion (formerly known as Corn Products), upon being elected to the Board of Trustees of The John Marshall Law School.



Photographed with Ms. Castellano are, from left, Leonard F. Amari, president of the JMLS Board of Trustees; and members of the JMLS BOT Nominating Committee: Joe Gagliardo and Nicholas Zagotta.

Verdicts & Settlements

By: Michael F. Bonamarte

➤ Congratulations to **Regina Picone Etherton** of Regina P. Etherton & Associates, LLC, on a \$1,917,199.67 verdict for a shoulder injury. After only 1.5 hours of deliberation, a jury following a three-day trial before the Honorable Elizabeth M. Budzinski, awarded a plaintiff who fractured his shoulder when he fell off his bicycle as it struck a defect in a city street, \$1,917,199.67. The plaintiff, a 39-year-old father, husband, and triathlete, was riding his bicycle in the designated bike path at the intersection of Cortland and Marcey Streets in Chicago, Illinois, when his front bicycle tire hit and locked in a uneven depression in the road surface. The depression was created on June 25, 2007 when the second of two grinding crews had worked on the intersection with a small grinder to prepare for repaving. The first crew had removed the top layer of asphalt on June 20, 2007, leaving Commonwealth Edison vaults exposed. The top layer of asphalt was not replaced until July 10, 2007. The jury deliberated for 1.5 hours and awarded six of the nine line items to the penny of what plaintiff's attorney had requested, for a verdict of \$1,917,119.67. The jury signed Verdict Form A and found that the plaintiff was not comparatively negligent and further confirmed by Special Interrogatory that the area in question was not reasonably safe. The defendant had offered \$100,000 to settle the matter. This offer was rejected. Regina Etherton had demanded \$500,000 to settle the matter and in response the defendant withdrew its \$100,000 offer. Thereafter, the defendant made no further attempts to settle the matter. In January 2011, the matter had originally been on trial when a mistrial was granted and the matter rescheduled for trial.



The defense argued that the Tort Immunity Act applied, the defect was open and obvious, the plaintiff was comparatively negligent for riding his bike at an unsafe speed, failing to keep a proper lookout, riding a bike with narrow tires, and failing to get off and walk his bike instead of entering an area he knew was under construction.

The City of Chicago filed an appeal and exhausted the appellate process and is liable for more than 300,000.00 in interest since the day that the verdict was entered on July 20, 2011.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph R. Marconi** and **Victor J. Pioli** who successfully defended a real estate law firm being sued for malpractice. The lawsuit stemmed from a real estate deal to buy the Tuckaway Golf Course in Crete, Illinois for \$4 million. Their client represented the buyer of the property. On the day before the deal was

to close, the acquirer of the golf course told the client that, as part of the transaction, they had negotiated an additional \$250,000 note which was to be secured by a mortgage on a separate vacant lot in Frankfort, Illinois. It soon became apparent that the signatures necessary for the mortgage on the \$250,000 note and mortgage could not be procured in time for the closing. The client proceeded with the closing of the transaction after being given assurances by the seller that proper signatures on the \$250,000 mortgage would be provided soon after the closing.

The client followed up after the closing, but was unable to procure the necessary signatures and record the \$250,000 mortgage. The property that was subject to the \$250,000 mortgage was eventually sold pursuant to a tax sale and the buyer of the golf course was unable to collect on the \$250,000 note and mortgage. The buyer then sued Johnson & Bell's client, seeking \$1 million relating to lost profits associated with the property and other damages. The jury in the malpractice case returned a verdict awarding damages to the plaintiff of less than \$1,200.

➤ Congratulations to **Anthony J. Monaco** of Swanson, Martin & Bell on a not guilty verdict. Plaintiff's sustained over \$400,000.00 in property damage when a pipe burst due to water freezing in a dry portion of the building's fire protection system. Defense denied negligence, and insisted that the water was present in the fire protection system because Plaintiff had failed to properly maintain it.

➤ Congratulations to **Joseph R. Marconi** and **Victor J. Pioli** on a not guilty verdict. Plaintiff filed her claim for legal malpractice against Defendants on July 23, 2010. Plaintiff claimed a host of alleged failures by Defendants, including Defendants' alleged failure to properly counsel Defendants regarding child support, maintenance, and issues related to educational expenses for her children. Plaintiffs main complaint- and the ones she ultimately pursued at trial- were that: (1) Defendants advised her to enter into a Marital Settlement Agreement (MSA) in which her share of the marital estate was less than what she was entitled to; and (2) Defendants failed to timely secure the transfer of stock as required by the MSA resulting in significant losses to Plaintiff. Plaintiff claimed that from the time the MSA was executed until she actually obtained her stock, it lost 40% of its value.

Plaintiff claimed total losses of \$2,677,000. Plaintiff claimed that her diminished share of the marital assets resulted in damages of \$1,695,000 to her. Plaintiff additionally claimed damages of \$982,000 related to the delay in the transfer of stock.

Defendants contended that Plaintiffs share of the true value of the marital assets exceeded 50% because Plaintiffs ex-husband's deferred compensation was ultimately valueless as it was completely unfunded. Defendants also contended that Plaintiffs expert's calculation of the value of marital assets failed to account for certain liabilities of the marital estate. Defendants also contended that Plaintiff put forth no

evidence that she ever intended to sell her stock between the time the MSA was executed and the time that she received the stock and that in fact, she was content to receive her dividends from the stock and directed Defendants not to pursue a petition for rule to show cause to secure the transfer.

➤ Congratulations to **Patrick A. Salvi** and **Jennifer L. Ashley** of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard on a \$2,500,000 personal injury settlement. Plaintiff suffered a closed hear injury, multiple fractures, and was rendered paraplegic when an elderly motorist pulled out from her stop sign on Argyle at Western in Chicago, intending to left-turn and collided with Plaintiff's motorcycle. Defense argued that Plaintiff was speeding. Settlement represents Defendant's policy limits (primary and umbrella).

➤ Congratulations to **Patrick A. Salvi** and **Jeffrey K. Kroll** of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard on a \$1.125 million settlement on behalf of a 17-year-old boy who was attacked by a dog. In 2011, Jordyn Bankston was riding his bike in Zion with a group of friends when a 120-pound bull-mastiff, owned by Eddie Diaz, attacked the teen. The dog pulled Bankston off his bike and onto the street. The dog remained on top of Bankston for about 10 to 15 minutes until a neighbor scared the dog away by burning a cigarette on the dog's nose. The dog escaped through a hole in a fenced-in yard a few houses away from Bankston's home.

Bankston spent a week in a Waukegan hospital to treat lacerations and puncture wounds on his legs, thigh, buttocks, arms, shoulder and head. The most severe wound on his right arm was roughly 5 inches deep. Bankston underwent plastic surgery and counseling for posttraumatic stress disorder.

Bankston and his legal guardian sued Diaz for failure to prevent and maintain the dog from running at large in the city; maintain an adequate fence; keep and maintain the dog under restraint; keep the dog from leaving his property; restrain the dog from attacking, biting and jumping on Bankston without consent; and exercise ordinary care in the control and maintenance of the dog.

The amount is the highest reported settlement or verdict for a dog bite in Illinois. The previous record was an \$835,000 settlement reached in 1990.

➤ Congratulations to Justinian Past-President **James J. Morici, Jr.** on a recently settled above-the-knee amputation case with West Bend Mutual Insurance for a Chicago man crushed between bumpers of two SUVs. The insurance company has agreed to pay \$5.0 million on behalf of Badger State Auto Auction.

Benjamin Romero, 41, a Chicago resident and tradesman, was attending an auto auction at the Badger State Auto Auction facility in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin on August 25, 2011. While walking among cars lining up to enter the auction building, a practice allowed by Badger State so customers could get a closer look at

Continued on page 29

vehicles, he was crushed between the bumpers of two SUVs.

Morici, who is also licensed in Wisconsin and Arizona, stated that the case will continue against Ford Motor Company and Fairview Auto, the vehicle's owner.

Romero suffered near-fatal injuries and fractures to each leg with his right leg being unsalvageable and succumbing to an above-the-knee amputation during his hospitalization at the Theda Clarke Medical Center to which he was airlifted in Neenah, Wisconsin. His recovery continued with multiple surgeries at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and an extensive period of inpatient and outpatient physical therapy at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Romero continues to suffer extreme pain and mental anguish as a result of his many fractures, multiple surgeries and difficulty in being fitted with a properly fitting prosthesis to his right lower extremity.

Trial is scheduled for October 14, 2014 in the Circuit Court of Fond du Lac County against Ford and Fairview.

The suit alleged that Badger State Auto Auction failed to properly enforce safe crowd control procedures by allowing its customers to come along with moving vehicles.

The settling Defendants were covered by only \$6 million in insurance with two other pedestrians injured as a result of the vehicles striking them after the collision. One man was knocked to the ground and has undergone multiple back and neck surgeries as a result and the other suffered a crush and fracture injury to his foot when one of the vehicles rolled over it.

➤ **James J. Morici, Jr. and Mitchell B. Friedman** of Morici, Figlioli & Associates recently obtained a \$1.5 million settlement for a tuck-pointer who was injured when a group of 600 lb limestone capstones fell from atop a deteriorated and improperly supported parapet wall. When the capstones fell, they collapsed a swing stage scaffold supporting the Plaintiff, leaving him and another worker dangling six stories above street level. One of the several stones struck the Plaintiff's body causing a severely comminuted tibia/fibia fracture on his right leg for which he required multiple hospitalizations. Surgery included open reduction and internal fixation. Hardware remains in the Plaintiff's leg. The injuries led to disruption of his left hip which required total replacement.

➤ Congratulations to **Stephen D. Phillips** of Phillips Law Offices on a \$4,000,000 settlement on behalf of a 53 year-old healthy husband and father of 3 children entered the hospital for an elective knee replacement and died two days later from blood clots in his lungs. Tragically, this occurred despite the fact that blood clots should be watched for very carefully and he had symptoms of blood clots in the two days preceding his death.

➤ Congratulations to **Stephen D. Phillips** of Phillips Law Offices of a \$4,000,000 settlement on behalf of a 34 year-old wife and mother of

one who was tragically killed in a boating accident when one boat ran into another.

➤ Congratulations to **Stephen D. Phillips** of Phillips Law Offices on a \$2,000,000 settlement on behalf of a 23 year-old woman who died during a gynecological procedure.

➤ Congratulations to **Louis C. Cairo** of Gold-berg, Weisman & Cairo on a 5.3 million settlement on behalf of a motorcyclist who suffered ankle, wrist and back injuries after his bike hit a boxed-up urinal lying on an expressway. Irwin Morris, 64, a Highland Park resident and a compliance officer for Therapeutic Proteins, International, LLC, was riding his motorcycle on his way to work in Chicago on Sept. 12, 2011. While switching lanes on the Edens Expressway just north of Lake-Cook Road, Morris' motorcycle hit a 90-pound steel urinal in a box that had fallen off a delivery truck.

The collision caused Morris' Harley-Davidson to somersault into the air with him still on it and the motorcycle hit the roadway and slid about 200 feet.

Since the accident, Morris underwent nine different surgeries and has been unable to work due to his injuries. Medical bills exceeded \$400,000.

The truck carrying the urinal and other plumbing supplies was owned by Ernie Peterson Plumbing Inc. in Waukegan. The truck driver, Glenn Peterson, a part-owner of the company, was headed to a job site at a school in Niles. The truck's driver has since died of causes unrelated to the accident.

The lawsuit filed in Cook County Circuit Court in 2011 alleged the plumbing company violated state law by carelessly and negligently failed to prevent the urinal from falling off the truck. The company admitted it did not follow its own safety rules.

Morris, wife, Karen, will receive \$100,000.00 of the settlement money for her loss of consortium claim.

At the time of the accident, Morris was making a \$120,000.00 annual salary. Cairo contended that his client sustained more than \$500,000.00 in lost wages.

The plumbing company had a \$6 million insurance policy.

Passing of Relatives and Friends

✠ **Nello Gamberdino, Sr.**

Rest in Peace Dear Friend:

Civility is now a part of our legal training. To any lawyer appearing in the courtrooms presided by the honorable Nello Gamberdino in the 1970's through the 1990's, civility was expected and properly attended to.

I remember more than one occasion when, as a defense lawyer, I felt anger that a discovery request had gone ignored or that some aspect of the State's case was being disclosed on the day of trial. Because I had received guidance from

Judge Gamberdino on how best to approach such matters, with respect for the decorum of the court, addressing these common vignettes (in most courtrooms) became a matter of professional courtesy. This is so because civility was expected when appearing before Nello Gamberdino, Sr. From the pledge of allegiance to our flag that commenced proceedings, to the firm but courteous cross examination of witnesses, civility was practiced before the good judge long before it became a requisite.

He was a simple man, most proud of his Sicilian heritage, and he was an accomplished cook who used his homegrown vegetables judiciously in the preparation of his favorite recipes. Nello also loved to talk of things Italian: our rich history and culture, delicious food well prepared, and, above all, cherished friendships.

In 2010, I had the pleasure of attending a CLE program at the Illinois State Bar Association Headquarters in Chicago. It was one of those all day affairs that are not my favorite. Yet, when I saw that Nello was in attendance my eye lit, we embraced, and we shared a wonderful day of reminiscing, recipes, civility, and friendship.

I am blessed to have known Nello Gamberdino, Sr., a true gentleman of the law.

- **Richard Caifano**

✠ **Jean Frances Clancy**

We send our thoughts and prayers to ISBA past President Tom Clancy on the loss of his mother, Jean Frances Clancy, who passed away in August 2013.

✠ **Paul Stepan**

Paul Stepan, prominent attorney and society supporter and friend, passed away in early August 2013 after battling cancer. We give our sympathies and prayers to his family.

✠ **Clara Silvestri**

Mother of Commissioner Peter Silvestri, Clara Silvestri, passed away in September 2013. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

✠ **Charles A. Alfano**

Judge Charles A. Alfano passed away at the end of August 2013. We give our deepest sympathies to his family.

✠ **Frank A. Reda**

Owner and entrepreneur of the wonderful Topo Gigio restaurant, Frank Reda, passed away in early Fall 2013. We send our thoughts and prayers to his family.

✠ **Paul D. Cale**

Father of Justinian Natalie Cale, Paul Cale, passed away in early August 2013. We give our sympathies to his entire family.

✠ **Lucille Ryan**

Lucille Ryan, grandmother of Daniel Lynch (of Amari & Locallo) passed away in early August 2013. We give our thoughts and prayers to her family.

ISBA Mutual was formed twenty-three years ago through the efforts of Illinois lawyers banding together to help one another by establishing our own insurance company. Our company has grown to be one of the most significant providers of lawyer's malpractice insurance in Illinois.

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Obits, continued from page 29

† **Richard J. Belmonte, Esq.**

Career Justinian and well liked member, U.S. Army Veteran, Richard J. Belmonte, passed away in early fall of 2013. We give our condolences to his family.

† **Carmella Vercillo**

Mother of Justinian Alex Vercillo, passed away in early November 2013. We send our deepest sympathies to Alex and his entire family during this time.

† **John M. Reboletti**

Our deepest sympathies go to the family of John M. Reboletti upon his passing in November 2013. John was the loving father of Justinian Representative Dennis Reboletti.

† **Gerri Giglio**

"Gerri" Giglio, aunt of member Judge Joseph Cataldo and sister of community leaders "Bud" Cataldo and his brother Bob Cataldo, passed away in the late fall of 2013. We give our deepest sympathies to her family.

† **Anthony G. Catullo**

Condolences to the family of Anthony Catullo, who passed away in March. Tony graduated from John Marshall Law School in 1970 and actively practiced law in the south suburbs for over 39 years.

† **Salvatore Incandela**

Condolences on the passing of Salvatore Incandela of Alta Ville Milicia, Sicily. He is the uncle of various members of the Chicago Incandela/Gemmellaro family and proprietor of probably the finest restaurant in the world, Trattoria del mare on the cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean in Alta Ville Milicia.

† **William R. Power**

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of William R. Power, brother of prominent attorney and society member Joseph A. Power Jr. of Power Rogers & Smith.

† **Marilyn Ferrara**

We give our condolences to the family of Marilyn Ferrara, who passed away in early January of 2014. She was the grandmother of member William Davy.

† **Fred Spitzzeri**

Sympathies to Fred Spitzzeri on the passing of his father, Fred, in late December 2013 at the age of 86.

† **Victor Cacciatore**

Victor Cacciatore, past president and a true legend in the Justinian society and the legal and real estate community, passed away in December 2013. Our condolences go out to his family.

† **Mary Cannizzaro**

Mary Cannizzaro, mother of Justinian Sam Cannizzaro, passed away in late February 2014. We send our deepest condolences to Sam, and the rest of their family.

† **John Gaughan**

Brother of our good friend Judge Vincent Gaughan, John Gaughan, passed away February 25th, after battling a long illness. Our sympathies go out to his family at this time.

† **Issa Grace O'Brien**

We keep Issa Grace O'Brien in our prayers. She was the granddaughter of our friends, John and Karen O'Brien. She passed away in the loving arms of her family on March 24.

† **Otto Cesario**

Otto Cesario, age 97, loving father of Justinian, the Honorable Cheryl D. Cesario. Our sympathies to Cheryl, and the rest of the family.

† **RoxAnne Rochester**

Women's Bar Association of Illinois director, RoxAnne Rochester, lost her battle with cancer in April. Please keep her family in your prayers.

† **John Joseph Champagne**

Condolences go to the family of John Joseph Champagne on his passing in April 2014.

Justinian Society of Lawyers

Golf Outing

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Bloomingtondale Golf Club

(181 Glen Ellyn Rd., Bloomingtondale)

2014 President Anita M. DeCarlo

Committee Co-Chairs:

Sam Tornatore • Vince Vidmer

Richard Caldarazzo • Franco Coladipietro

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

Dinner Only — \$ 50 Per Person

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

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

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____)_____ E-Mail _____

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

Names of players (if available):

① _____ ② _____

③ _____ ④ _____

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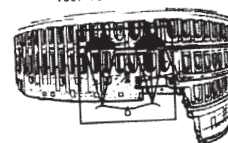
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