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COLUMBIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

First Judicial Department

An Association Of Attorneys Of Italian American Descent

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MONTHLY CLE MEETING



CLE: "AVOID AN ASTOR DISASTER!: HOW TO NAVIGATE NEW YORK'S NEW POWER OF ATTORNEY FORM"

Presented by Sylvia E. DiPietro, Esq.

Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

**Frankie & Johnny's Pine Restaurant – 1913 Bronxdale
Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10462 (718) 792-5956**

Attendees receive 2 CLE Credits - RSVP (212) 661-1661,
ext. 106 or to josephdematteo@hotmail.com

Members/Friends*: Dinner & Credits: \$60.00

Non-Members: \$80.00

* If your dues are not current, you will be charged the Non-Member
rate for attendance at the CLE Dinner Programs.

*** Don't Miss This Cutting Edge CLE Program! ***

***PLEASE RSVP ***

On September 1, 2009, a new statutory power of attorney form became effective in New York State, under the provisions of Title 15 of the General Obligations Law. It has been predicted that the new form, given its complexity, will generate a new wave of litigation in the areas of real estate, estate planning and elder law. For any attorney practicing in these areas, as well as several others, it is essential to be familiar with the requirements of the new form and potential pitfalls for practitioners.

Our own Sylvia DiPietro is an acknowledged expert in the areas of real estate, estate planning and elder law, in general, and on the new power of attorney statute in particular. In fact, her excellent and informative article on the topic was recently published in the January 2010 edition of *Verdict*, the newsletter published by the National Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals.

In addition to being a long standing and active member of our association, Sylvia presently serves on the Board of Directors of the New York County Lawyers' Association, and on its Foundation, Executive Communications and CLE Committees. She is also the Chair of the Estates and Trusts Section. Previously, between 2002-2008, she was Chair of the Section on Real Property and Co-Chair on the Committee on Coops and Condos. She is also a delegate to the New York State Bar Association, where she is presently a member of the Section on Trusts and Estates Litigation, Real Property and Commercial and Federal Litigation. Sylvia's other accomplishments are simply too numerous to mention, leaving us honored to have her deliver this cutting edge program.

SAVE THE DATES

★ ★ ★ MONTHLY MEETINGS, CLE & SPECIAL EVENTS ★ ★ ★

April 24, 2010 – THE 45th ANNUAL RAPALLO AWARD LUNCHEON: This year's Rapallo will once again be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient is the Honorable Philip Minardo, the first Administrative Judge for the newly formed 13th judicial district, covering Richmond County.

The Columbian Lawyers Association has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited Provider of Continuing Legal Education in the State of New York (Recertification application pending). Any participant in a CLE Program sponsored by the Columbian Lawyers Association, First Judicial Department, who has an authentic financial hardship may request, in writing, accompanied by proper documentation and a sworn statement under oath, a Hardship Tuition Reduction of 20%. All CLE Programs are nontransitional unless otherwise indicated.

President's Message

If our January and February CLE meetings are any measure, it appears that 2010 is going to be a great year for our bar association. At our February meeting Sara Jo Hamilton, Esq, and the Hon. Angela Mazzarelli, to whom we extend our warmest thanks, gave us a comprehensive overview of the new ethics rules that were enacted last year. The event was very well attended by over 50 guests and friends. As usual, the topic generated some spirited debate! We must also thank our member Carrie Cheskin, of US Legal Support/The Dine Group, for sponsoring our cocktail hour, and offering discounted court reporter services to our membership.

In addition to having had two great meetings, I am also very happy to welcome 5 new members to the Columbian Lawyers:

Anthony "AJ" Bosco: AJ is Senior Vice President in the compliance department of Deutsche Bank, where he focuses on compliance with the securities law, and assorted issues that arise with the SEC and FINRA.

Linda Carlozzi: Linda is a Partner at the firm of Jackson Lewis, LLP, where she specializes in employment and labor law, representing management.

Matthew Galluzzo: Matthew, a former Assistant DA in Manhattan, recently started his own firm, Galluzzo & Johnson, where he focuses on criminal trial and appellate work.

Vincent Pitta: Vincent is a partner in Pitta & Giblin, LLP, a firm representing several labor unions in the New York City area.

Michael Morici Jr.: Michael is a Partner in Morici & Morici, LLP, where he specializes in Real Estate and Corporate Law.

Since our last Newsletter, we also filled several Committee Chairs, but still urge our members to serve on our many Committees. The following Committee Chairs were filled:

Judiciary Committee:	Victoria Lombardi
Anti-Discrimination Committee:	Hon. Patricia LaFreniere
Newsletter Committee:	Matthew Grieco
CLE Committee:	Richard Biaggi
Pro Bono Committee:	William Apuzzo
Membership Committee:	Donna Marinacci
Rapallo Committee:	Tom Laquercia, Arthur Aidala Vincent Cuttita
Public Relations & Liaison:	Sylvia DiPietro

We encourage you to volunteer and are still seeking Chairs and members for the following Committees: Financial Affairs, Legislation, Judges' Night, Columbus Day, New Member Welcome, Installation and Christmas Party Dinner and Good & Welfare.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming events, and welcome any submissions you may have for inclusion in our newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph R. DeMatteo
President

Cultural Corner

By Matthew Grieco

Beware the Ides of March. As everyone recalls, Julius Caesar was murdered on March 15, 44 BC. “Et tu Brute?” The phrase was invented by Shakespeare. Caesar actually reproached his former friend, “you, too, my son,” in Greek.

But what exactly was the “Ides”? The Roman calendar was configured differently from our own. Rather than designating each day of the month a number from 1 to 31, the Roman month had three fixed points: the Kalends (the 1st of the month), the Ides (the 15th of March, May, July, and October, and the 13th of the remaining months; the mnemonic device MaMaJuliO will serve), and the Nones (the 9th day, counting inclusively, before the Ides, and thus the 7th of MaMaJuliO and the 5th of the remaining months). The Romans counted backwards from those fixed points. So, March 14th was “the day before the Ides of March.”

The original Roman calendar had 10 months, March through December. Vestiges of that calendar remain in the names of our months September, October, November, and December, which literally mean seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth months. Quintilis (fifth month) was renamed July during the dictatorship of Julius Caesar, who was born in that month, and Sextilis (sixth month) was subsequently renamed August to honor the Emperor Augustus. In around 700 B.C., Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome, reputedly added the months of January (for Janus, the two-faced god of portals) and February (in which was performed the Februa, a rite of expiation and purification). Just to round out the calendar, March was named for Mars, the god of war, April is derived from the Latin verb “to open” (the Earth opens in April), May was for Maia, the wife of the god Vulcan, and June was for Juno, the queen of the gods.

Even after the invention of January and February, the Roman lunar calendar only had 355 days. To bring that calendar into line with the seasons, an extra month, Mercedonius (for the god Mercury), of 22 or 23 days was intercalated in February. The system was clumsy and subject to political manipulation (an easy way to extend one’s term in office). It had fallen greatly out of whack with the solar calendar by 46-45 B.C., when Julius Caesar, with the assistance of some astronomers, reformed it to give us a calendar of 365 days, with an extra day added every 4 years (February 23rd was repeated).

Because the solar year is not exactly 365.25 days, but 365.242199 days, the Julian calendar slowly drifted out of solar alignment over the centuries. In 1582, the Italian Pope Gregory XIII slightly modified the calendar to reflect that century years not evenly divisible by 400 are not leap years. In addition, leap day was set at February 29th. And so, the calendar in use today is the product of Italian genius.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

The following are some events happening in and around the New York City area either presently or in the near future, which may be of special interest to Italian Americans. You are each encouraged to submit information about such events for inclusion in future newsletters.

Exhibition: The Drawings of Bronzino

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street

Now through April 18th

The first ever exhibition to feature nearly all of the 61 known drawings by Agnolo Bronzino (1503-1572), Florentine court artist of the Medici.

Concert by the Grand Tour Orchestra

Italian Academy for Advanced Studies

Columbia University

1161 Amsterdam Avenue between 116th and 118th Streets

March 10th at 8:00 PM

Works by Leonardo Leo, Pietro Locatelli, C.P.E. Bach, C.M. von Weber

Free Admission

Make reservations at rw2115@columbia.edu

Feast of San Giuseppe (St. Joseph, Mary's Husband)

March 19th

Visit your local Italian bakery for traditional sfingi and zeppole pastries.

Lecture by Prof. Salvatore Primeggia

Tracing Italian Immigrant History to the Italian American Present

Christ the King High School

6802 Metropolitan Ave.

Middle Village, New York

March 27th at 2:00 PM

Free Admission

For more information visit <http://freewebs.com/bellaitaliamia>

or Phone Diego A. Lodico 718-426-1240

Concert: "Italian Heartstrings" (the music of Scarlatti, Respighi & DeVittorio)

Chamber Orchestra of New York

Church of St. Jean Baptiste

Lexington Avenue @ 76th Street

May 22, 2010, 8:00 PM

For details visit www.chamberorchestraofnewyork.org