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COLUMBIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

First Judicial Department

An Association Of Attorneys Of Italian American Descent

8 East 69th Street, New York, NY 10021 • Tel: (212) 661-1661 • Fax: 212) 557-9610 • www.columbianlawyers.com

★ MONTHLY CLE MEETING ★

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT: RECENT UPDATES AND CASE STUDIES
FROM THE PLAINTIFF AND DEFENSE PERSPECTIVES**

Presented by:

Alfred DeMaria, Esq. of Clifton, Budd and DeMaria, LLP

Anthony Mango, of Mango & Iacoviello, LLP

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 6:00 PM

The Columbus Club, 8 East 69th Street, NY, NY

Attendees receive 2 CLE Credits (non transitional)

RSVP: 212-661-1661 (ext. 106)

Members/Friends: \$100.00

Non-Members: \$150.00

**If your dues are not current, you will be charged the non-member rate.
RSVP IS REQUIRED FOR THIS EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAM**

Please join us and our expert employment attorneys for the first CLE of the Fall season. As many of you know, Al DeMaria is a senior partner at Clifton, Budd & DeMaria, where he supervises a team of litigators in the defense of a wide variety of employment related claims. Similarly, many of you know Anthony Mango, whose firm, Mango & Iacoviello, has won several large settlements for a variety of employees against their former employers.

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.

SAVE THESE DATES:

OCTOBER 10, 2010: COLUMBUS DAY PARADE AND LUNCHEON

Meet by the big Clock on the corner of 44th and 5th Avenue, at around 10:00 AM.
Luncheon details to follow..

NOVEMBER 3, 2010: MEDICAL-MAL CLE AT THE COLUMBUS CLUB

Details to follow.

APRIL 30, 2011: 46TH ANNUAL RAPALLO AWARD LUNCHEON

Details to follow. (Please note that our last newsletter mistakenly reported that the Rapallo Luncheon would occur on September 16, 2011)

President's Message

Our Fall season got off to a resounding start with a spectacular Judge's Night on September 15th. Over 40 Italian-American jurists from our state and federal appellate and trial courts enjoyed an evening of camaraderie with each other and with nearly 90 of our members in the warm and elegant environment of the Columbus Club. Several members and Judges have complimented the event, and the kudos belong to the event Co-Chairs - Thomas Laquercia and Stephen Savva, and to the Committee, comprised of Clara Flebus, Donna Marinacci and Michael Scotto. Additionally, thanks are due to members Paolo Strino, Heather Flanigan, and Donna Angotti and to the New York Law School Tilden Chapter of the Alpha Phi Delta Law Fraternity Int'l, and its President Anibal Luque, for all of their hard work.

As was underscored during Judge's Night, one of the main functions of both our Association, and the Confederation of Columbian Lawyers, is to work toward elevating more Italian-Americans to the State and Federal bench. In this mission, after years of hard work, the Judicial Screening Panel of the Confederation of Columbian Lawyers, headed by Gregory La Spina, has again met with great success. After screening former Assistant United States Attorney and fellow Westchester Columbian Lawyer Vincent Bricetti, and finding him highly qualified for appointment to the federal bench, the Screening Panel met with Senator Schumer and members of his staff to urge Mr. Bricetti's nomination. Thereafter, this past June, Mr. Bricetti was formally nominated for a seat in the Southern District, where there are presently no Italian-American judge's sitting. At the same time, Senator Schumer nominated Mae D'Agostino for a seat in the Northern District of New York . If appointed, she will be the first Italian-American woman to ascend to the federal bench in the Northern District. Notably, her parents were born in Italy.

Before signing off, I would also like to take this opportunity to share an experience with our members. Recently, Past President Richard Biaggi and I attended a forum at New York Law School where representatives of several bar associations addressed the students, many of whom will be entering professional life soon. Our mission in attending such events is to encourage students and recent graduates to get involved in our group - these could be our future Italian-American judges! From the question and answer session, it became very clear that we offer something that the other bar associations do not - a place to develop long lasting relationships that will be enriching both personally and professionally. After the program we received a telling compliment in an e-mail from the Director of Career Services that I think speaks to our strength as a bar association:

Like I said during the program, I think everyone in the room wishes they were of Italian ancestry after hearing such warmth and accessibility from both of you.

As we move forward this year, please help spread the message to fellow Italian-American attorneys and friends of our warmth and accessibility, so that our organization can continue to flourish with new members. Lastly, whether you have done it in past years or not, please come out on Columbus Day to show your support for this important holiday, for our heritage, and for our place in the history of this great Nation. Bring your friends - bring your kids, and please bring your appetite which will no doubt be whet by the long march!

Ciao!

Sincerely yours,

Joseph R. DeMatteo

President

Upcoming Events of Interest:

Autumn in New York

Italian Welfare League Annual Luncheon

October 16, 2011, 11:00 AM, St. Regis Hotel

Honoring Buddy Valastro (Star of TLC's Hit Program, The Cake Boss) and Mary Valstro

Go to www.italianwelfareleague.org to download invitation

Festival of Short Films and Videos

Sponsored by the Guild of Italian American Actors

Anthology Film Archives

32 2nd Avenue at 2nd Street

October 1st-3rd

Admission: \$10 per day

212-505-5181 or MaraLesemann@yahoo.com

The Last Lafayette, featuring Antoinette Gallo with original music and lyrics by Peter W. Dizozza

Presented by the Entertainment Committee of the City Bar

October 6, 2010, 7:00 PM:: Lamb's Club, 3 West 51st Street, NY, NY

October 10, 2010: 1:30 PM: Cold Spring Harbor Library

For more information, contact Martha Cohen Stine, Chair, Entertainment Committee

(212) 512-0810

Maria Montessori: The Positive Power of Italian American Women in Education

Italian Consulate

690 Park Avenue between 68th and 69th Streets

October 5th, 6:00 PM

Free Admission but RSVP to noiaw@noiaw.org

Sponsored by the National Organization of Italian American Women

Concert of Italian Harpsicord Music

Columbia University Italian Academy

1161 Amsterdam Avenue between 116th and 118th Streets

October 6th, 8:00 PM

Free Admission; 212-854-1623 or Rw2115@columbia.edu

Concerts, Italian Jazz Days

19 Italian jazz musicians

Jazz at Lincoln Center, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola

60th Street at Broadway, 5th Floor

October 11th-16th, November 2nd-7th

Tickets and show times: 212-258-9595 or www.jalc.org

Cooking Class and Dinner

Mediterranean Flavors

Alta Cucina Epicurean Center

22 East 38th Street between Park and Madison Avenues

October 13th, 6:30-10:00 PM

Reservations: 646-415-9031 or www.altacucinasociety.com

Pinocchio the Italian Musical

Musical of different genres based on the fairytale

The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College

695 Park Avenue at 68th Street

October 19th-23rd

Tickets and show times: 212-772-4448 or kayeinfor@hunter.cuny.edu

Dramatic Presentations

New Italian Plays in Italian and English

Theater for the New City

155 First Avenue between 9th and 10th Streets

October 11th-13th, 18th-20th, 7:30 PM

Free Admission; 212-582-6697 or mariofratti@aol.com

Cultural Corner

By Matthew Grieco

October brings us the Columbus Day celebrations, honoring the man for whom our organization is named. The Genoese Cristoforo Colombo (1451-1506) set sail from Spain on August 3, 1492, in the ships Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria, and landed in the Bahamas on October 12th. Detractors argue that Columbus did not really “discover” America; there were indigenous peoples when Columbus arrived, and the Vikings touched North America (fanciful stories claim additional visitations ranging from Phoenicians to Extraterrestrials). The decisive issue, however, is that Columbus’s voyage led to permanent European settlement of the Americas, as well as global exploration, development and trade, or in the words of Oscar Wilde, “America had often been discovered before Columbus, but it had always been hushed up.”

Other critics of Columbus will pontificate that he was searching for and thought he found the Orient, rather than a new world; usually omitted is the shortsightedness of the rulers of England, France, and Portugal, who all declined Columbus’s proposals, and the six years it took Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain to finally agree to fund the project. Let us also not forget that the European scramble for an oceanic route to China was inspired by the incredible journey and account of the Venetian Marco Polo (1254-1324).

The Florentine Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512) made at least two exploratory voyages, and correctly identified the land mass as a new world, separate from the continent of Asia. A German cartographer, Martin Waldseemuller, produced a popular world map on which he labeled the new world “America,” the Latinized version of Amerigo’s name.

A review of Italian explorers would be incomplete without the Florentine Giovanni da Verrazzano, who discovered New York Bay in 1524, almost 100 years before Henry Hudson sailed.

While we are discussing the sea, mention should be made of the fact that the U.S. Navy dates its birth to an October 13, 1775 Act of the Continental Congress. Three of the first four commissioned ships of the new navy were named after Italians: Columbus, Cabot (for the Genoese Giovanni Caboto, 1450-1498, who explored Canada), and Andrea Doria (for the Genoese statesman and admiral, 1466-1560).

October is also the month of the birth and death of William Paca (1740-1799), a signer of the Declaration of Independence who was of Italian descent. He entered Philadelphia College at the age of 15, and studied law at Annapolis and the Inner Temple in England. He was instrumental in protesting the 1765 Stamp Act and forming the Sons of Liberty. He was elected governor of Maryland and appointed as a federal district judge.

NOTICE

ADDENDUM TO OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Pursuant to Article VII, Section A, of the By-Laws, candidates for any office may be nominated other than by the Nominating Committee, by petition in writing, signed by at least five (5) members of the Association in good standing. Said petition must be delivered to the Executive Secretary of the Association not later than ten (10) days following the general membership meeting in October.

The Board of Directors has proposed the following slate of Officers and Directors for election at the November General Meeting:

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President: Joseph R. DeMatteo
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Treasurer: Maria A. Guccione
Executive Secretary: Victoria Lombardi
Corresponding Secretary: Clara Flebus
Recording Secretary: Hon. Patricia LaFreniere
Financial Secretary: Maryanne Bertuna
Parliamentarian: Joseph Longo

DIRECTORS: Term January 2011 - December 2013

Thomas Laquercia
Antoinette Gallo
Honorable Nicholas Iacovetta