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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 ★

CLE: "ANATOMY OF A MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASE: A PRIMER".

Presented by plaintiff's attorneys Jonathan C. Reiter and Carol Garafalo Stone, with a unique judicial perspective by the Honorable Douglas E. McKeon, Presiding Justice, Appellate Term, First Department.

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

The Columbus Citizens Foundation – 8 East 69th Street, NY, NY

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

Members/Friends*: Dinner & Credits: \$100.00

Non-Members: \$150.00

* 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

Attendees of this exiting CLE program will receive practical guidance from two experienced medical malpractice attorneys and a distinguished jurist who has presided over thousands of medical malpractice cases. The curriculum will touch upon critical topics such as how to assess, try and settle a medical malpractice case.

ABOUT OUR PANEL:

Hon. Douglas E. McKeon: In addition to being the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term, First Department, Justice McKeon presides over a part in Supreme Court, Bronx County, that exclusively hears medical malpractice cases. His expertise in such cases, and his unique approach to them, has been the topic of several news articles, and has earned him praise from both the Plaintiff's and Defense Bar. Justice McKeon is also the co-author of *Personal Injury in New York*, a two volume treatise published by West Publications.

Jonathan C. Reiter, Esq.: Mr. Reiter is the principle of The Law Firm of Jonathan C. Reiter, which was established in 1986. Since that time, he and the members of his firm, have both tried and settled several medical malpractice claims, often winning verdicts and settlements for their clients well in excess of one million dollars.

Carol Garafalo Stone, Esq.: Ms. Stone is Senior Associate to the Law Firm of Jonathan Reiter, where she focuses on serious medical malpractice cases. Ms. Stone graduated from Lehigh University Magna Cum Laude, with a BA in Biochemistry. While attending New York Law School, from which she graduated Cum Laude, Ms. Stone was a member of the Law Review, and served as Research Editor. She is a long standing member of the Columbian Lawyers Association, First Judicial Department.

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 . 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

As we celebrated Columbus Day, and Italian Cultural Month during October, I had cause to reflect upon how our organization can be relevant to new generations of Italian-American law students and young attorneys who find themselves in such a difficult economic climate. The simple answer is that both as a group and individually, we must do more to be responsive to the needs of law students and young attorneys. What are those needs? Foremost among them is the need to establish a network of fellow professionals who can provide leads to employment opportunities and referrals among our colleagues. While our monthly CLE meetings and other events may often lead to such networking opportunities for younger members, I believe that more is needed in this area. This belief is buttressed by discussions that I have recently had with the two new Co-Chairs of our New Members Committee - Jonharold Cicero and Lauren Friend - who will be planning some events aimed at enhancing networking opportunities for our younger members and local area law students. For these events to have their intended effect, we will need the participation of our more established members. So, when you learn of these events, I appeal to each of you to attend and find a way to help our younger members. Further, Jonharold and Lauren would love to hear suggestions from our members, so please e-mail them at jjcicero@equiventurecapital.com and laurenfriend80@yahoo.com.

The benefits to the Columbian Lawyers of focusing on new and younger members is obvious. We will continue to attract new members and continue to be a vital and respected part of the New York City legal community. In this regard, I must applaud our Past President Richard Biaggi, whose example in reaching out to Italian American law students must be followed. On September 25th, Richard participated with several members of New York Law Schools Italian Lawyer Student Association in New York City's 16th Annual Bocce Tournament. The bonds that he made with these students proved fruitful on Columbus Day, when six NYLS students joined our Association in marching in the Parade, and then for lunch. By reaching out to law students and new attorneys we guarantee the future of our organization.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph R. DeMatteo

President

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

KINGS COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS ARBITRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO BOARD MEMBER DONNA MARINACCI: We are pleased to announce that our Board Member, Donna Marinacci, will be honored by the Small Claims Court Arbitrators Association, as the Arbitrator of the year for Kings County!

CLE RE-CERTIFICATION: We are also pleased to announce that through the efforts of our CLE Committee chaired by Richard Biaggi, we have been re-certified as a CLE provider for the next three years.

Upcoming Cultural Events:

Exhibit, *Sicilia Bedda!*

A celebration of the Sicilian people and culture, including videos, photographs, paintings, costumes, ceramics, and life-size marionettes

Westchester Italian Cultural Center

One Generoso Pope Place, Tuckahoe, NY

Now through November 9th

Suggested donation: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children and Seniors

914-771-8700 or www.wicny.org

Lectures

Titian's Early Mythologies, by Prof. David Rosand

November 8th, 3:10 PM

The Architecture of Michelangelo, by Prof. Francesco Benelli

November 23rd, 2:10 PM

Columbia University Italian Academy

1161 Amsterdam Avenue between 116th and 118th Streets

Free Admission; www.italianacademy.columbia.edu

Olive Oil Tasting and Seminar

Epicurean Center

22 East 38th Street between Park and Madison Avenues

November 17th, 6:30-10:00 PM

Sponsored by Monini Olive Oil

Cost: \$60

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

Concert, *Christmas in Italy*

Soprano Cristina Fontanelli

A vocal journey through Italian and Christmas classics

Merkin Concert Hall, The Kaufman Center

129 West 67th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam

November 28th, 3:00 PM

Tickets: \$30-55, 212-501-3330 or boxoffice@kaufman-center.org

Visit www.cristinafontanelli.com

Cultural Corner

By Matthew Grieco

Italians, and Italian-Americans, are justly renowned for their contributions to the arts. Two highly influential debuts of Italians occurred in November in the United States.

On November 23, 1903, Enrico Caruso sang his first performance at the Metropolitan Opera – Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Caruso was born in Naples in 1873 and baptized Errico, the Neapolitan version of Enrico. His father thought singing was an unremunerative occupation and trained him as a mechanic. Nevertheless, the young Caruso had some voice training and earned modest fees as a church singer, supplemented by tips for performing in cafes. At the age of 18, he was able to interest Maestro Guglielmo Vergine in taking him on as a voice student. Caruso was unable to afford the lessons, and signed a contract, promising Vergine 25% of his earnings for "five years of actual singing." After Caruso's career took off, Vergine decided to milk his cash cow, and interpreted the contractual five-year period as consisting of only performance time, which would thus last Caruso's entire life. However, Caruso prevailed in the Courts.

Caruso sang at various opera houses around the world, but he became a true international star following his New York Metropolitan debut in 1903, his first of 607 performances there. The following year, he began recording with the Victor Talking Machine Company, thereby reaching millions of listeners. His voice thus enshrined, Caruso's reign as the King of Tenors continues to this day.

The world of cinematography was forever changed on November 20, 1921, with the release of *The Sheik*, starring Rudolph Valentino. He was born with the unwieldy name of Rodolfo Alfonzo Raffaello Pierre Filibert Guglielmi di Valentina d'Antonguola in the town of Castellaneta, near Taranto, in 1895, the same year the motion picture camera was invented. When he was 18 years old, he immigrated to New York and eked out a meager living as a dancer. His first movie appearances were as a dancer, and later he was cast as a villain; however, his matinee idol good looks destined him to become the paradigm leading man. Crowds flocked to see him in *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, *Blood and Sand*, *The Young Rajah*, *Cobra*, *The Eagle*, and others. *The Son of the Sheik*, the sequel to Valentino's most beloved film, was also his last. Shortly after that premiere, at the age of only 31, Valentino died from a post-operative infection. Among his pallbearers were the other stars of the cinema, Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks.

2010 COLUMBUS DAY PARADE

COLUMBIAN LAWYERS MARCHING IN THE PARADE!!

from left: President Joseph DeMatteo, member Matt Mancuso, Father Raymond Nobiletti, Treasurer Maria Assunta Guccione, Susan Antonicelli and Board Member Tom Laquercia, member Susanna Iafrate, Board Member Gerry Bilotto and member Daniel Sollecito.



COLUMBIAN LAWYERS FIRST JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT MARCH SIDE BY SIDE WITH CONFEDERATION OF COLUMBIANLAWYERS!!

from left, with the Confederation: parade coordinator Patricia Manzo, Confederation President Domenick Napoletano, Kings County President Carl Landicino, Confederation Vice President Concetta Minella