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First Judicial Department

An Association Of Attorneys Of Italian American Descent

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★ JANUARY 4, 2012 LEGAL WRITING CLE ★

“WRITING FOR LITIGATORS:2012” PRESENTED BY: Hon. Gerald Lebovits

Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

COLUMBUS CITIZENS' FOUNDATION – 8 East 69th
Street(btw. Madison & Fifth Ave), NY, NY

Attendees receive 2 CLE Credits. RSVP (212) 661-1661, ext.
106 or e-mail 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 Program. Please take this
opportunity to pay your 2012 dues!

rate for attendance at the CLE Dinner Program.

★ Don't Miss This Informative CLE Program! ★

***PLEASE RSVP**

For our first program of 2012, we are privileged to present Judge Gerald Lebovits, who by all accounts provides an entertaining and dynamic lecture using a Power Point presentation, which is guaranteed to make your writing more persuasive.

ABOUT JUDGE LEBOVITS: Gerald Lebovits has been a judge of the New York City Criminal Court in Manhattan since 2011. Before that, he was a judge of the New York City Civil Court, Housing Part, from 2001-2010 and served as the president of the Association of Housing Court Judges. A Lecturer-in-Law at Columbia Law School and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law, he also teaches at St. John's University School of Law, where he won the Dean's Teaching Award for 2007–2008 and was elected Adjunct Professor of the Year for 2009-2010. For 18 years he was an adjunct professor at New York Law School, where he also earned Adjunct Professor of the Year honors. A faculty member of the New York State Judicial Institute, he has taught opinion writing to judges and law clerks since 1993. He has authored the New York State Bar Association Journal's Legal Writer column since 2001 and has written *Advanced Judicial Opinion Writing* (7th ed. 2004) for the New York State Unified Court System. Judge Lebovits has given CLEs for dozens of bar associations and government organizations. Among other honors for his CLEs, Judge Lebovits received the New York State Bar Association's award for "Exceptional Contributions to Continuing Legal Education." He graduated from the Ottawa (LL.L.), Tulane (M.C.L.), and New York University (LL.M.) law schools.

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 non-transitional unless otherwise indicated.

SAVE THESE DATES:

**February 1, 2012: 2 Credit CLE at the Columbus Club:
Topic to be Announced**

**March 7, 2012: 2 Credit CLE at Fiorini Restaurant, 209
East 56th Street**

**“Law Firm Marketing and Advertising Ethics”,
presented by Andrea Bonina, Esq. and Pery Krinsky, Esq.**

**April 24th, 2012: Rapallo Award Luncheon Honoring
Judge Patricia DiMango!!!**

Outgoing President’s Message

Dear Members & Friends,

It has been a great privilege over the past two years to serve as President of this Bar Association, and to address you periodically in this Newsletter. I thank each of you for your continued loyalty to the Columbian Lawyers and for your friendship. As 2012 approaches, the importance of the Columbian Lawyers could not be greater. The challenge we face is to ensure that young Italian Americans who wish to attend law school can afford to do so, and can obtain employment once they graduate. During my tenure, the economy has been far less than favorable, and as a result, many young Italian Americans have turned toward our group for help. While we might not be able to offer large scholarships or lucrative employment, we must each do what we can to help, whether in the form of making a scholarship contribution commensurate with our earnings, or simply giving advice and guidance to a young student or attorney when asked. As Christmas approaches, this can and should be the gift that we give back to our Italian American legal community.

I wish all of you the happiest and healthiest Christmas, with warm wishes of health and success in the New Year!

Sincerely yours,
Joseph R. DeMatteo
Outgoing President

Upcoming Events of Interest

January 6, 2012: National Organization of Italian American Women Epiphany Celebration. Columbus Citizens Foundation, 6:30-9:30 PM. For more information, go to www.noiaaw.com.

December 21, 2011 - March 8, 2012: The Renaissance Portrait from Donatello to Bellini. Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more information go to www.metmuseum.org.

November 11, 2011 - January 8, 2012: Annual Christmas Tree and Neopolitan Baroque Creche. Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more information go to www.metmuseum.org.

Cultural Corner

By Matthew Grieco

January is upon us, and with a new year beginning, let us explore another beginning, the foundation of Rome. Everyone is familiar with the story of Romulus and Remus, at least the basic elements; but we are getting slightly ahead of ourselves. The Romans themselves traced the origin of their city to the Trojan War (1182 B.C.). Different versions of the story were told as early as the 5th century B.C., but the definitive account was related by the poet Virgil in his epic, the *Aeneid*.

Virgil (full name, Publius Vergilius Maro), was born in the town of Andes, near Mantua, in 70 B.C. Rome's greatest poet labored for years on the story of Rome's greatness, his destiny portended by her heroic origins. In 19 B.C., as he lay dying, Virgil ordered the destruction of his manuscript, which he considered to be unfinished. Fortunately, the Emperor Augustus overruled those instructions, and saved a work that would influence every ensuing generation.

The *Aeneid* takes its name from its main character, Aeneas, a Trojan warrior who was the son of Venus, goddess of love; according to Homer's *Illiad*, he was the equal of Hector and fought Achilles. At the conclusion of the Trojan War, the Greeks gain entry to the city by means of the artifice of the wooden horse. As the Greeks rampage and slaughter, Aeneas, dutifully bearing his aged father Anchises on his shoulders and piously carrying the images of his household gods, manages to lead a band of survivors to escape by ship.

They wander the Mediterranean for years, undergoing countless tribulations, including divine storms, hostile tribes, the savage Harpies, the giant Cyclopes, the perilous Scylla and Charybdis, and even a descent into the underworld. They stop off in Carthage, where Aeneas has a romantic encounter with Queen Dido which does not end on good terms, and thus sows the seeds for the future Punic Wars and Hannibal's enmity.

Eventually, Aeneas lands on the coast of Latium (modern Lazio). More battles await, but he does forge alliances, marry a local princess (Lavinia, daughter of Latinus), and found a city (Lavinium). His son (Ascanius) later establishes the city of Alba Longa, ruled by a line of twelve kings, the last of whom is Numitor. Numitor's daughter, Rhea Silvia, was a Vestal Virgin, but is ravished by Mars, god of war, as a result of which she gives birth to Romulus and Remus. Numitor is deposed by a jealous brother (Amulius), who tosses the twins into the Tiber River in an effort to eliminate them as rival claimants to the throne. However, a she-wolf (sacred to Mars) rescues the infants and suckles them, until they are adopted by a kindly shepherd (Faustulus) and his wife (Acca Larentia).

When the boys grow up, they gather a group of exiles and other outcasts, avenge their grandfather, and then found the city of Rome (753 B.C.). Romulus established a settlement on the Palatine hill, the subsequent site of the aristocracy (the patricians or optimates) and later the emperors. Remus set up camp on the Aventine hill, where the lower class (the plebeians) would reside. Remus unwisely mocked Romulus, who killed him in a rage; Rome would earn many monikers, most famously the Eternal City, but alas, it would never be known as the City of Brotherly Love.

Romulus had another problem on his hands; his colony consisted almost entirely of men, and thus faced poor prospects for expansion, or even survival. He invited the Sabines, a tribe living on the nearby Quirinal hill, to a feast. When the besotted male guests fell asleep, the Romans abducted the Sabine women, who, it turned out, preferred Roman men to Sabine ones. And so, they bequeathed to us the tradition whereby the groom carries the bride over the portal on the nuptial night.