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Paolo Strino 2012
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Matthew Grieco - 2014
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Thomas Laquercia - 2013 +
Antoinette Gallo, 2013
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Lorraine Corsa
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+ Life Member
*Deceased

COLUMBIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

First Judicial Department

An Association Of Attorneys Of Italian American Descent

8 East 69th Street, New York, NY 10021 • Tel: (914) 835-3404 • www.columbianlawyers.com

★ CLE GENERAL MEETING ★

ETHICS 2012: PROTECT OURSELVES FROM OUR OWN MISTAKES

Presented by:
Richard Grayson Esq.

2 CLE Ethics Credits

NOVEMBER 7, 2012

COLUMBUS CITIZENS FOUNDATION
8 East 69th St., New York, NY

Cocktails, Dinner & CLE: \$100.00

Cocktails 6 pm & Dinner 7 pm

RSVP REQUIRED

RSVP to President Andrew Maggio
914-835-3404 or to Andrew@MaggioLaw.com.

Members/Friends: Dinner & Credits: \$100.00

Non-Members: \$150.00

★ \$35.00 will be added to the above prices if
attendee does not RSVP ★

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.

From: Victoria Lombardi, Executive Secretary
Re: Report of Nominations for Officers and Board of Directors
Date: October 16, 2012

The below referenced members have been nominated by the Board of Directors pursuant to the Constitution & By-Laws for the following positions:

<u>CANDIDATE</u>	<u>OFFICE/BOARD SEAT</u>
ANDREW J. MAGGIO:.....	PRESIDENT
SIGISMONDO F. RENDA:.....	FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
MARIA GUCCIONE:	SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
SUZANNE ADAMS:	TREASURER
VICTORIA LOMBARDI:.....	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
CLARA FLEBUS:.....	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
MARIANNE E. BERTUNA:	FINANCIAL SECRETARY
ELIZABETH FILARDI:	RECORDING SECRETARY
JOSEPH LONGO:.....	PARLIAMENTARIAN
GERARD BILOTTO.....	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CHRISTOPHER QUARANTA:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PAOLO STRINO	BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SAVE THE DATE

CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Friday December 7, 2012
National Arts Club, NYC
\$100 per person**

**RSVP to Joseph DeMatteo, Esq.
by 5:00 pm on November 15, 2012
josephdematteo@bernfeld-dematteo.com**

President's Message

Dear Members & Friends:

Back by popular demand! – Richard Grayson will be lecturing on Ethics for our November CLE General Meeting. Richard will update us on scams aimed at attorneys, grievances procedures in the First and Second Departments, pitfalls of the false HUD-1 and much more. We look forward to this entertaining and informative CLE program.

We had a fun and interesting October cultural general meeting. We learned about the distinctions between Italian and Italian American Culture and how those distinctions came to be. We had a primer on the Italian language and pronunciation and a spirited discussion regarding Philip Mazzei.

Philip Mazzei, a friend of Thomas Jefferson, is credited with authoring the most powerful written statement in the Declaration of Independence, “one of the best-known sentences in the English language”, and “the most potent and consequential words in American History”:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal....”

In addition, we had two Tuscan winemakers discuss the winemaking process as we sampled their superb wine. Interestingly, Italy is on the forefront of scientifically advanced winemaking whereby sophisticated chemistry and biology are incorporated into the process in laboratory-like conditions.

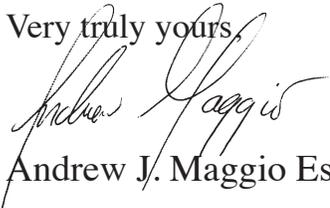
Our own Louis Aidala, an oenophile and winemaker himself, “talked shop” with the Tuscans. The discussion included the details of Cold Fermentation, French wine v. Italian wine and the intricacies of wine flavor development and balance. Gerry Bilotto also weighed in with his extensive knowledge of enology.

We would like to welcome our newest member, Oriana Carravetta, who was introduced to our organization by Dr. Sabbia Auriti at our October cultural event.

“In Vino Veritas, In Aqua Sanitas”

“Dio non ha creato che l’acqua. L’uomo ha fatto il vino....”

Very truly yours,



Andrew J. Maggio Esq.

Cultural Corner

By **Matthew V. Grieco**

This November, Americans go to the polls, but how many will realize that the word “candidate” comes from the Latin “candidatus,” which signified the white robe worn by Romans running for public office? How many are aware that, in writing our Constitution (from the Latin *constitutio*) the Founding Fathers modeled key features of the government (*gubernatio*) on the Roman Republic (from *res publica*, which literally means “the public matter”)?

The Romans believed in a system of checks and balances, a precaution derived from their prior experience with the tyranny of kings, and a desire to not vest too much power in one person’s hands. This was accomplished in several ways: the government leaders (magistrates) were elected by the people; to one-year terms; the positions had minimum age requirements; there was a mandatory progression of offices that had to be held before running for a higher one (the *cursus honorum*); a person could not run for reelection or even election to another office before a set waiting period; and each office was shared by two or more people, who held equal power, and thus could veto (literally, “I oppose”) each other.

If the system for magistrates seems a bit fractured, stability was provided by the Senate, which was composed of former magistrates who sat for life, unless expelled for misdeeds. The Senators (meaning “elders”) were responsible for finances and administration, but were consulted on legislation and all other important matters.

The magistrates were not elected directly by popular vote, but by blocs of voters organized into assemblies, somewhat akin to our Electoral College. All of the positions were unpaid.

The chief civil and military position was shared by two Consuls (the word may derive from *consulere*, “to deliberate,” or *cum-esse*, meaning, roughly, “colleague”).

The next most important position was that of Praetor (which means one who “precedes,” i.e., goes before others in importance). The number of Praetors was increased over the years to eight, as Rome expanded across the Mediterranean. Their most notable function was the administration of justice, although they also had military authority, could initiate legislation, and governed provinces.

Next in the hierarchy was the Aedile (the word comes from “*aedes*,” or “shrine,” indicating the original function of overseeing temples). At first two, eventually there were four Aediles, who were responsible for public buildings, streets, water and food supply, weights and measures, festivals, and games (i.e., chariot races and gladiatorial events). The position was not a requisite in the *cursus honorum*, but was a useful means of currying favor with the people with magnificent buildings or games (for those who could afford it).

The entry level office was the Quaestor (meaning “one who asks questions”). At first, the Quaestors were charged with prosecuting certain criminal cases, but eventually they were given treasury functions; by the time of Julius Caesar, their number was increased to forty.

Not technically a magistrate was the *Tribunus Plebis*, or Tribune of the People (*Tribunus* derives from “*tribus*” or “tribe”). The number of Tribunes became fixed at ten, and their purpose was to protect the common people, with their veto power and ability to summon the people to enact laws through a *plebiscita* (*plebiscite*).

The position of Censor (from *censere*, to “assess”) was not permanent; two Censors were elected every five years and held office for eighteen months to conduct a census and oversee morals.

In times of crisis, upon the recommendation of the Senate, a consul could nominate a Dictator (“one who declares” or “dictates”), confirmed by the people. The Dictatorship was the only office that could be held by one person, without a co-equal colleague, and could override all other magistrates, and thus the term was limited to six months.

Eventually, and for multiple reasons, the Republic was transformed into the Empire, ruled by an Emperor, who maintained at least the trappings of a republic and continued to rely on the Senate. However, the Roman Republic lasted 500 years (509-27 B.C.), far longer than all other republics except for Venice and San Marino, both, naturally, Italian.

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