

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 2010

By John F. Denove

London has the Inns of Court, where lawyers and judges come together at some ancient building to discuss law and dine on overcooked beef, brussel sprouts and a glass of claret.

Los Angeles has the Italian American Lawyers Association, where lawyers and judges come together at Casa Italiana to enjoy entertaining programs and feast on salsiccia e pepperoni, mostaccioli and Chianti. All I can say is that I'm glad I'm a trial lawyer and not a barrister.

More than thirty years ago, I appeared before the Honorable Mario Clinco. When I told him my name, he replied, "Denove. Denove. Are you Italian?" I responded that I was half Italian and he told me that I should join the Italian American Lawyers Association. Coming from Judge Clinco, it was an offer I couldn't refuse.

Over that last thirty years, my practice has seen many changes. We have gone from typewriters to computers, from blue backs to e-filing, from master calendar to direct calendar. Fortunately there has been one constant . . . the Italian American Lawyers Association. Every month I know I can see old friends and meet new acquaintances who attend the dinner meeting because of the program, the food or the comradery.

In honor of three of our founders who have passed away, August Carloni, Paul Caruso, Hon. Mario Clinco, and also Monsignor Moretti, chaplain of the IALA from its founding until his passing last year, I have dedicated 2010 as the year we increase our membership and attendance at the meetings. IALA offers the opportunity to connect with our Italian heritage, whether you are full Italian, half Italian, married to an Italian or just like Italian food.

I'm looking forward to a year of good programs, seeing good friends and eating the never ending plates of mostaccioli.

Mille Grazie & ci vediamo presto.

Sincerely,
John F. Denove