

IL BOLLETTINO

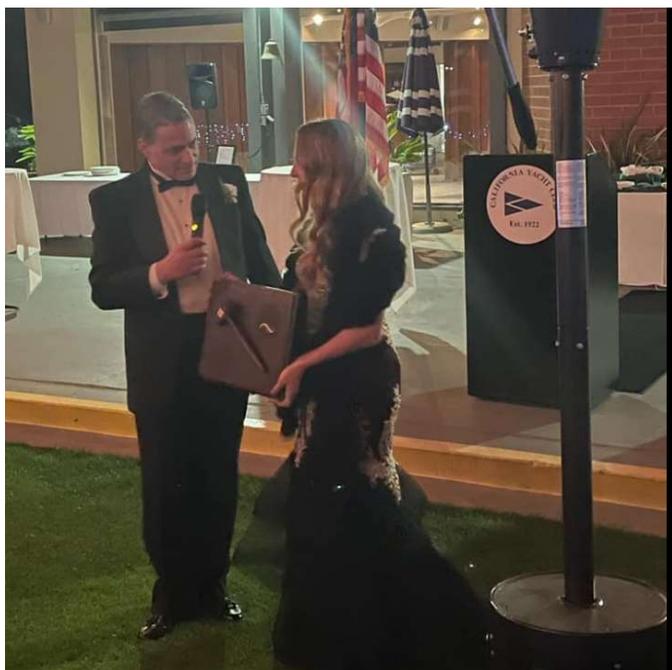
THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES (IALA)

Meet Vito Costanzo, if You Haven't

Interviewed By Mariana Noli

M: I am very excited to learn more about your career, your family and your involvement with IALA, and share with our membership. Nice talking to you Vito, thank you for making the time. Do you remember when was your first IALA Meeting?

Vito: Well, I started going to



Vito Costanzo with 2021 President Mariana Noli at Installation of Officers and Board of Governors Ceremony at the California Yacht Club on January 29, 2022

IALA Meetings a long time ago, I would say about 15 years ago. I went more frequently when several members of my firm became

more involved with the organization, Jim Michalski who was president in 2016, and John Canale, one of the associates at my firm, who became part of the board of governors. When my brother Tony became more involved

with the group, I started attending IALA events as much as I could. A few years ago, our past president, Tom

President's Messaggio

As your incoming president of the Italian American Lawyers Association: First and foremost, I would like to thank my mentor and outgoing president, Marianna Noli for guiding our bar association through the pandemic. It has been a difficult time for bar associations across the county and thanks to Marianna's leadership, we as a group are stronger than ever.



2022 IALA President Tony Costanzo and wife Theresa

Next, I would like to thank our current board for their devotion and dedication to the Italian American Lawyers Association. Their willingness to volunteer their precious time motivates me to give you my best as your president this year. I would also like to thank the past presidents of our esteemed bar association for their support, guidance and advice...

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Cacciatore, told us that he knew my father from IALA. In fact, he remembered meeting him at one of the IALA meetings. My father, also a lawyer, since then passed away, about 15 years ago. Tom recalls very distinctively going to our parents' house for the Sunday afternoon traditional Italian dinner that my mother used to make for the family every Sunday. She always made pasta on Sunday, and Tom came over once when we were in high school. Unfortunately, I was not there on that occasion because I was working. My mother would make the pasta and a meat dish every Sunday. Right after church. We try to do that now once in a while but it is rare.



Tony and Vito Costanzo and wives Theresa and Gabriella at the California Yacht Club for the 2022 Installation

M: So, you and Tony are attorneys? What about your other siblings?

Vito: There are six of us total. But Tony and I are the two lawyers. One brother is an artist and the rest are in the educational field.

M: No professional chefs, but I remember you sharing a squash ravioli recipe at the holiday party?



Vito and Tony together with Matias Masucci at the Casa last December

Vito: Yes, ha, I make butter squash ravioli. My wife gave me a cook book from Puglia, which is my mother's region. Our mother moved to this country when she was a teenager. She gave us a lot of the traditions from Puglia, including the food. I make a lot of those things including the home-made pasta. About a week ago, I made the ravioli with the meat filling. I make lasagna with the home-made pasta. My mother taught me how to cook the pasta al dente, how to make meatballs and bracciole. She used to make zucchini flowers when I get them at the farmer market.

M: Do you ever throw the spaghetti onto the wall to know when it is cooked?

Vito: Well, no, I do it the way my mother taught me - you bring the water to boil, you put the salt in, you add the spaghetti, then you bring it back to a boil, and then you turn the flame off, and you let it sit for eight minutes ... and then it is perfect al dente!

M: Thanks for the tip, I will definitely have to try this one! If you have the recipe of the butter squash ravioli, and it is not a family secret, you will have to share that one with us too! So, going back to our discussion of your early involvement with IALA, do you have any anecdote or particular story or meeting that you would like to share with everyone reading this Bollettino?



Vito and his family at the IALA event last October in Little Italy

Vito: There are a couple of meetings I remember well. When we had the California Supreme Court Night a couple of years ago, I sat next to the chief justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye. It was very nice sitting next to her; she was very pleasant. It was nice

to socialize with her beyond discussing legal matters. I also remember when Jack Denove did the boxing match. That was interesting! I also liked the one we did with the Chinese lawyers when they acted parts of the movie Crazy Rich Asians

M: yes, and we did My Cousin Vinny!



Vito and Tony arguing against each other at the Covid-19 Mock Trial Court IALA hosted last July

Vito: Yes, it is always fun to join the other bar associations. You get a flavor of the different legal groups. You get to know the people, the food It is a big bonus when we do joint events with other bar associations!

M: I couldn't agree more Vito, I think one of the most wonderful aspects of our group's gatherings is that they go beyond the interaction in connection with legal matters.

I guess one last question regarding the group since you have been involved at least for the past 15 years, do you see many changes in our group? Or in the practice of law?

Vito: The change in the group I have noticed is that we have more younger members, which I think is great! It brings more creativity and it makes the group more vibrant.

As far as the practice of law in our area, I do notice that Los Angeles has become the center of many litigations (intellectual property and other areas of national scope) more frequently despite the fact that we lack the main offices of several corporations. As a result, many firms have grown their Los Angeles offices. For example, my firm grew from 25 lawyers to 80 lawyers. And one of these days I believe it will be one of our largest offices. We have offices in many cities. Currently, our biggest offices are in New York, Washington DC, Chicago. Outside the U.S., we have offices in Bogota, Mexico City, even in Algeria.



Tony and Vito at Vito's wedding at the Casa

M: Now I remember that when we were in Chicago during the National Italian American

Bar Association (NIABA) Meeting, your firm hosted us. Beautiful offices! So, before we close, I would like to ask you what you love the most about being part of IALA? What is special about IALA to you?



Vito and Gabriella on their wedding

V: What I like about IALA the most is that it reminds me of family! Since I grew up with Italian parents, I feel at home. I even got married at St. Peters Church and had the reception at Casa Italiana. So, every time I am there for an IALA event, of course I think of my wedding! We used to take Italian lessons as children there... it certainly feels like home to me!

M: I had no idea that you and Gabriela were married there!

Very nice! You have a strong connection with Casa Italiana and certainly our group is lucky to have you as a leader and now

acting as our treasurer. On behalf of IALA, thank you for your service to our group. Ci vediamo Vito! Grazie Mille!

As Covid rates continue to go down we look forward to meeting again in person. We anticipate returning to our historic and traditional "Casa" at St. Peter's in downtown L.A. where our group first met in 1977 and my dad was an original member. At St. Peter's we can once again enjoy delicious Italian food and congregate with other local bar associations while engaging with interesting and dynamic speakers.



Vito and Tony Costanzo at the 2022 Installation

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Networking Night, sponsored by Holland & Knight. The event will be at the Holland & Knight outdoor patio at 400 So. Hope St., in downtown L.A. on Wednesday, February 23rd at 6:00pm. More information on this event and other colorful events hosted by our bar association can be found on the Italian American Lawyers Association website.

Our goal is two-fold: to celebrate our shared cultural background as lawyers and to promote diversity by inviting and meeting with other multi-faceted bar associations that proliferate our legal community. Ci Vediamo Preso!

*Tony Costanzo
President - Italian American Lawyers Association*



ITALIAN AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES

**SAVE THE DATE: IALA NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR
FEBRUARY 23, 2022 TACO STAND OPEN BAR**



Sponsored by

Holland & Knight

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Registration includes Taco Truck and Open Bar

RSVP at our Event Page: <http://www.iala.info/event-4575320>

Event is outside. Please dress accordingly.



Join the Italian American Bar Association for

SUNDAY BRUNCH

at the beautiful new

ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES

March 13, 2022 @ 11:45 a.m.

6067 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, 90036

REGISTER NOW! SPACE IS LIMITED!

Ticket includes brunch and a museum group tour.

Proof of vaccination required.

