

### *A few words from Il Presidente*

2009 is drawing to a close, as is my term as President. I have been very pleased with the way our recent events have rounded out the year. Marco Polo night in October and Wine Tasting night in November were as lively as ever, and we closed our general meetings calendar with a bang on Supreme Court night earlier this month. Well over 150 attendees heard California's Supreme Court Chief Justice, Ronald M. George, speak on how the state courts are weathering the economic crisis. Justices Moreno, Chin, and Baxter also attended.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as IALA President and look forward to my continuing involvement with IALA. See you at the Casa!

-- Emilio Varanini

### **Web Sites of Interest**

#### **IALA:**

<http://www.iala.info>

#### **National Italian American Bar Association:**

<http://www.niaba.org>

#### **National Italian American Foundation, Inc.:**

<http://www.niaf.org>

### **2010 WORLD CUP**

Italy's beloved Azzurri, defending World Cup Champions and winners of four World Cup titles (1934, 1938, 1982, 2006) are seeded at the top of Group F as the soccer world counts down to the start of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. Italy's scheduled group matches are:

- June 14 vs. Paraguay in Cape Town
- June 20 vs. New Zealand in Nelspruit
- June 24 vs. Slovakia in Johannesburg

Assuming Italy advances to the knockout stage, Italy will likely first face either Denmark or the Netherlands in the first round. If all plays true to form, an Italian victory would then set up a monumental showdown against tournament favorite Spain in the quarterfinals.

### **IALA SPOTLIGHT: JAMES W. MICHALSKI**



The *Bollettino* is pleased to profile this month one of the newest and most enthusiastic members of IALA, Jim Michalski.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Jim is entering his fifteenth year of practice in labor and employment law. He typically represents management in business and employment matters for clientele ranging from mid-sized businesses to major national corporations. He has also represented management in a full range of traditional labor relations issues such as negotiating collective bargaining agreements.

Jim also maintains a busy calendar outside the office and in pro bono activities. For example, since September, 2000, he has been a professor at the University of Phoenix, instructing adult students on employment law, commercial law, and the American legal system. Since 2004 he has mentored paroled youth through the California VIPS Mentor Program, and since 2001 he has been actively involved in the Los Angeles County Bar Association Domestic Violence Program.

Jim also publishes frequently. His most recent article, "Health care providers and whistleblowers:

Basics on protections and investigations of misconduct," appeared in *Compliance Today*, in July, 2009.

Finally, Jim's enthusiastic and gregarious personality stem from his boundless energy, which last year he put into completing the Los Angeles marathon. "It was just such a great feeling to hear the people cheering me on as I finished," Jim said. "I'll never forget that." He is currently training for his next marathon in early 2010, and hopes to improve on his time from the last one.

Jim is glad to be involved in IALA and enjoys seeing everyone at the Casa. His mother's family members are still all in Italy near Naples and he enjoys visiting them with his own family – although he wishes he spoke more Italian.

Welcome to IALA, Jim – we're glad you're here!

*The IALA Board also seeks nominations for other IALA members whose accomplishments – professional or personal, current or lifetime – merit acknowledgement in the Bollettino Spotlight. Please send submissions to [dcapozzola@ebglaw.com](mailto:dcapozzola@ebglaw.com).*

### **Upcoming Event**

**January 30, 2010:  
Installation Ball**

**For further information  
go to the IALA website:**

[www.iala.info](http://www.iala.info)