

A few words from Il Presidente

As 2008 comes to a close, it has been my pleasure to end my term as President in style and send the year out with two of our favorite events. Wine Tasting Night on November 19 again provided us with an occasion to celebrate our professional and personal accomplishments this year in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. And Supreme Court Night on December 2 reminded us of our collective mission as attorneys to continue to fight for justice in all of our respective fields as we turn the page and head into 2009. I again encourage everyone to visit the revamped IALA website for more information about upcoming events.

See you at the Casa! Buon Natale e Nuovo Anno Felice!

--Anthony V. Salerno

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>

Serie A Standings (Top Ten, as of Dec. 9, 2008)

Internazionale (11-3-1, 36)
 Juventus (9-3-3, 30)
 AC Milan (9-3-3, 30)
 Napoli (8-3-4, 27)
 Fiorentina (8-2-5, 26)
 Genoa (7-4-4, 25)
 Atalanta (7-2-6, 23)
 Lazio (7-2-6, 23)
 Catania (6-4-5, 22)
 Udinese (6-3-6, 21)

IALA SPOTLIGHT: ANDREA C. POTT



Andrea Pott is a Deputy District Attorney who seeks new challenges in her professional life and adventure in her personal life. At work, she enjoys trying tough cases that test her abilities. On weekends and holidays, Andrea heads outdoors. She enjoys scuba diving, cycling, rock climbing and international trekking. Vacations often find her traveling to exotic places to explore new cultures and the outdoors. For example, the picture above finds Andrea (yellow shirt) visiting a temple in Burma.

A graduate of UC Berkeley and USC Law School, Andrea has been practicing law since 1996. She has been assigned to the Hardcore Gang Division of the District Attorney's Office for the last three years. In that assignment, Andrea is a member of the Community Law Enforcement and Recovery Program (C.L.E.A.R.), a multi-agency task force formed to

explore new and more effective ways of combating gang violence. This program brings prosecutors together with members of the Mayor's Office, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Together, these agencies seek to provide safe non-gang alternatives to at-risk youth, minimize gang recruitment, and aggressively prosecute gang crimes.

As a member of this taskforce, Andrea also meets regularly with members of the affected communities in an attempt to monitor gang activity and control gang violence in their neighborhoods.

The taskforce concentrates its efforts on crimes committed by members of the Avenues, Highland Park, Cypress Park, Dogtown, and Mara Salvatrucha (M.S.) criminal street gangs. In addition to prosecuting crimes committed by these gang members, Andrea also handles cases involving other street gangs, such as Los Paranderos and Armenian Power.

To further her anti-gang efforts, Andrea has spoken to high school students about gang violence and other issues in their areas. She participated in the District Attorney's Project L.E.A.D. Program, mentoring fourth grade students on issues of peer pressure, self esteem, crime, and the criminal justice system. She now meets and speaks with

students from the Constitutional Rights Foundation about gang issues and gang prosecutions several times a year.

In addition to her anti-gang work, Andrea participates in a voluntary program sponsored by the District Attorney's Office in which senior deputies are selected to advise law enforcement officers on matters of search and seizure, review search warrants for sufficiency prior to presentation to judges, and answer other legal questions outside of office hours.

With the District Attorney's Office, Andrea has tried approximately ninety jury trials. Thirteen of those defendants were charged with murder. In some of those murder cases, special circumstances were also alleged, making the defendants eligible for the death penalty. Andrea has also received a favorable published appellate decision after one of her trials.

At a young age, Andrea developed an interest in foreign travel. As an exchange student to Venezuela, she lived with a family and became fluent in Spanish. Andrea still uses her Spanish both at work and during her travels.

In college, Andrea participated in an ecological research expedition in a closed area of Yunnan, China. During her months there, she lived on a remote compound on the edge of the forest with a group of researchers from both China and the United States. Each day, the team would brave mud, leeches, and very cold weather to enter the forest to study the effects of tree-cutting on the vegetational

structure and diversity of bird species in an old growth forest.

Andrea continues to travel while on vacation from work. Many of her recent trips have taken her to Asia, particularly to lesser traveled areas such as Bhutan, Cambodia and Myanmar (Burma), her most recent destination.

Throughout her life, Andrea has also enjoyed hiking. She took twenty-nine days to hike the length of the John Muir trail (211 miles) and climb some nearby peaks. She has summited Mt. Whitney and climbed Half Dome on several occasions.

Andrea's interest in foreign travel intersected with her interest in hiking to send her on international trekking expeditions. She has trekked through the Pyrenees, Himalayas, and Alps and hiked the Inca Trail in Peru.

She has also trained in winter survival and has built and slept in snow caves. She cross-country skied across the Continental Divide in Wyoming and snowshoed in the Canadian Rockies. She has also attended lectures on animal tracking in those areas.

Scuba diving is another of Andrea's passions. She has dived through caves and lava tubes in Hawaii, gone to a depth of 144 feet in the Blue Hole in Belize, and participated in night dives in the Bahamas. During one night dive, a manta ray with a twelve-foot wingspan flew directly over Andrea's head. As the manta ray approached, Andrea could see into its mouth and out its gills at the other end.

Earlier this year while diving at Blue Cavern off of Catalina Island, an eight-foot long juvenile great white shark swam by Andrea during one of her dives. After watching the shark for approximately a minute and a half, the shark faded back into the blue depths of the ocean – and Andrea returned to the boat.

Undeterred, Andrea anticipates her next diving trip will be to Palau to swim with large fish and sharks from the deep open ocean waters. She also hopes to try skydiving soon.

The IALA Spotlight congratulates Andrea and looks forward to hearing more about her impressive professional and personal developments!

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.

Upcoming Events!!

IALA Installation Ball
January 24, 2009

Hall of Fame Night
February 18, 2009

State Bar President
March 18, 2009