

STATE HOUSE NEWS – OCTOBER 2009

Public and Government Affairs Review

IT'S ABOUT TIME

On October 11, 2009 Governor Jon Corzine signed into law Assembly Joint Resolution, No. 97 (*Scalera D-36/Chiusano R-24*), which designates the month of October each year as Italian-American Heritage Month. The Resolution duly recognizes that the history of America and the State of New Jersey have been significantly influenced by the rich heritage of Italy, which includes: the classical civilization of Rome; the fine arts of the Renaissance; the scientific and artistic genius of Leonardo Da Vinci; the literary works of Dante and Petrarch; the operas of Verdi and Puccini; and countless other contributions that have enriched civilization.

Over 5.4 million Italians emigrated to the United States between the years 1820 and 1991, and over 1.5 million New Jersey residents or 18 percent of the State's population are of Italian descent. The Resolution also encourages American history classes throughout the State to discuss and examine the contributions that Italian-Americans have made to the history of this country during the month of October.

SNOWED IN

Earlier this week, Governor Corzine signed into law Assembly, No. 1718 (*Munoz R-21/Prieto D-32*), which makes failure to remove accumulated ice or snow from a motor vehicle prior to operation a motor vehicle offense. Under the new law, each driver of a motor vehicle has an affirmative duty to make all reasonable efforts to remove accumulated ice or snow from exposed surfaces prior to operation. Anyone who violates this new law may be stopped by a law enforcement officer and is subject to a fine of up to \$75.00.

LIFELINE FOR UNDERAGE DRINKERS

Late last month, Governor Corzine also signed into law Assembly, No. 3160 (*Angelini R-11/Johnson D-37*), which establishes "9-1-1 Lifeline Legislation," and grants immunity to underage drinkers who unlawfully consume or possess alcoholic beverages if they call for medical assistance for another underage person who has consumed alcoholic beverages. The new law also provides immunity to an underage person who receives such medical assistance.

In a nutshell, an underage person and one or two other persons are immune from prosecution for certain disorderly persons offenses, if: an underage person calls 9-1-1; reports that another underage person is in need of medical assistance due to alcohol consumption; remains on the scene until assistance arrives; and cooperates with rescue and law enforcement officials.

STATE HOUSE TRIVIA

In the spirit of Italian-American Heritage Month, here are my top five favorite places to enjoy great Italian food.

5. Café Picasso in Somerville
4. Fiorino's in Summit
3. Carmine's in Atlantic City
2. Puccini's in Jersey City
1. My house on Sunday Afternoons

Congratulations to GluckWalrath attorney Andrew Bayer, who has been named Chairman of the New Jersey Supreme Court District VII Ethics Committee for Mercer County. Mr. Bayer concentrates his practice in land use and affordable housing litigation. He represents public entities in transactional and litigation matters, and private entities in general commercial litigation matters.