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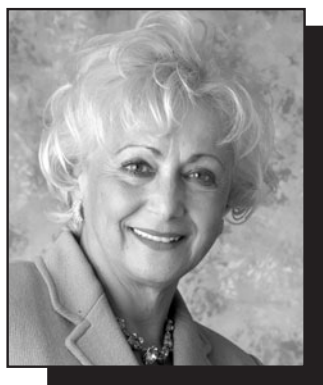
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## Antonio Romanucci: excellent role model, perfect chairperson

*by Jo Ann Serpico, President*

The Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans glistens with successful men and women. What gives that extra sparkle to these accomplished individuals is their willingness to step up to the call for community, giving unselfishly of themselves from their families, businesses or practices to ensure the stability of the infrastructure of the JCCIA.

This year's recipient of our Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian of the Year Award — Robert Mariano — is one such person, as I detailed a couple of columns ago. The chairman of this year's event — Antonio Romanucci — is another perfect example of achievement and effective performance and with desirable outcome. He's someone I think you should know.

He is a role model for the youth of our community. His accomplishments are numerous for his years. His acceptance without reluctance to my call to chair this event proves his eagerness to offer the JCCIA his proficiency. We are excited about his chairmanship and I now will enlighten our readers to this masterful young man.

Antonio M. Romanucci is a partner at the Chicago law firm of Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, focusing his practice on personal injury claims involving catastrophic loss, workers' compensation and aviation matters.

A past president of the prestigious Justinian Society of Lawyers, Antonio has been selected as a Top 100 Lawyer in the State of Illinois by his peers and has also been selected as a Leading Lawyer for six consecutive years. In October 2007, Romanucci & Blandin was named among the top 12 personal injury firms with the largest settlements for the fiscal year 2006-07, according to Chicago Lawyer magazine's 13th annual survey of settlements in Illinois.

Antonio traces his roots to Udine and Ascoli Piceno, where his parents, Dino and Anna, were born. Many of you I'm sure are familiar with Dino and Anna, who have been fixtures in the Chicago-area food industry for decades.

A Dean's List graduate of both Fenwick High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Antonio graduated from John Marshall Law School in 1985. While in law school, he clerked in the Cook County Public Defender's Office, where he remained after graduation before beginning his work as a civil trial attorney.

Antonio, who has tried more than 30 jury cases to verdict, is a member of the Board of Managers of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. His firm has achieved million-dollar-plus results in more than three dozen cases since its inception less than 10 years ago.

Over the past decade, he has dedicated his legal services and volunteer time to helping individuals who have suffered from traumatic brain injuries. As part of this commitment, he co-founded the Midwest Brain Injury Clubhouse.

Most recently, Antonio's dedication to promoting public awareness of traumatic brain injuries was evidenced by his proposal of Illinois House Bill 4140 to ban the use of metal bats in little leagues throughout the state of Illinois.

A frequent lecturer, Antonio has published handbook chapters for the National Business Institute, Illinois Trial Lawyers' Association and the Chicago Bar Association.

Antonio has served on the Illinois State Bar Association Task Force on Lawyer's Certification, the board of governors of the National Italian-American Bar Association. He was a chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Lawyers' Association annual medical seminar and the American Trial Lawyers' Association Student Trial Advocacy Competition.

He has also served as a president of the Knapp Burn Foundation, Barrington Area Arts Council and Greater Barrington Area Lawyer's Guild; a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation; a counselor for Wisconsin Alumni Association Career Connections, and a constitutional rights instructor for middle-school students.

Among his many honors are the 1986 Citizens Bravery Award by the Chicago Police Department, the 1989 Constitution Rights Foundation Lawyer of the Year Award, the 1995 Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Service from the Workers' Compensation Lawyers' Association, and the 1998 David Award for excellence in law from the IANU Foundation.

By any measure, Antonio Romanucci is a person of great integrity and accomplishment, and we are proud to have him chairing our 2008 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian of the Year Gala.

