



SONS OF ITALY COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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REPORT ON ITALIAN AMERICAN FEDERAL JUDGES

FINDINGS:

Less than three (3) percent of current U.S. federal judges are of Italian descent, according to a survey conducted by the Sons of Italy Commission for Social Justice.

The Federal Court System includes:

- The U.S. Supreme Court
- The U.S. Courts of Appeals
- The U.S. District Courts
- The U.S. Bankruptcy Courts
- Other Federal Courts
(including the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and the U.S. Tax Court)

Currently, the United States has **846 active federal judges** and **455 federal judges with senior status** for a total of **1,301 federal judgeships**.

Editor’s Note: “Senior status” means a judge has chosen to accept a reduced caseload and the U.S. president may nominate a successor. This option is extended to Supreme Court justices, who, upon meeting the criteria of age and tenure, can retire from regular active service but still exercise judicial duties in any of the judicial circuits as authorized by the Chief Justice.

- ❖ Among the 846 federal judges with active status, 23 (2.7%) are Italian American.
- ❖ Among the 455 federal judges with senior status, 12 (2.6%) are Italian American.
- ❖ **A total of 35 federal judges (2.7 percent) of the current 1,301 federal judges are of Italian descent.**

RELATED STATISTICS:

- ❖ Italian Americans are the nation’s fifth largest ethnic minority and their ranks are growing, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In the 2000 Census, 16 million people identified themselves as of Italian descent—up from 15 million reported in the 1990 Census.
- ❖ Italian Americans constitute six (6) percent of the total U.S. population.
- ❖ An estimated 512,000 lawyers are practicing in the United States today, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. If six (6) per cent were Italian American there would be about 30,700 Italian American lawyers-- a conservative estimate, according to the National Italian American Bar Association,
- ❖ In the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, which includes New York City, only two of the 106 key federal judgeships in the city and surrounding suburbs are Italian American (John Sprizzo, who is semi-retired, and Reena Raggi).
- ❖ New York City has more Italian Americans (700,000) than any other city in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- ❖ At 2,700,000 strong, Italian Americans constitute New York State’s largest ethnic group but have less representation on the federal bench than blacks and Latinos.

See Appendix for the names of current federal judges with Italian last names. The list does not include judges of Italian heritage whose last names have been changed or whose fathers were not Italian.

SITTING FEDERAL JUDGES WITH ITALIAN SURNAMES

** indicates Senior Status*

*Alaimo, Anthony A.	*Conti, Samuel	Padova, John R.
*Aldisert, Ruggiero	*Covello, Alfred V.	Polozola, Frank Joseph
Alito, Samuel A. Jr.		
Ambro, Thomas L.	Diclerico, Joseph A. Jr.	Raggi, Reena
Arcara, Richard Joseph		*Rea, William J.
	*Gadola, Paul V.	
Barbadoro, Paul J.	Gajarsa, Arthur J.	Scalia, Antonin
Barbier, Carl J.		Siragusa, Charles J.
Battani, Marianne O.	Lazzara, Richard A.	*Sprizzo, John Emilio
*Brunetti, Melvin T.	*Longobardi, Joseph J.	Squatrito, Dominic J.
Calabresi, Guido	Marra, Kenneth A.	Tauro, Joseph Louis
Caputo, A. Richard	Martini, William J.	*Telesca, Michael Anthony
*Cardamone, Richard J.	Martone, Frederick J.	
*Castagna, William John		Ungaro-Benages, Ursula
Cercone, David S.		Mancusi

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