

The American Immigration Law Foundation

Thirteenth Annual

Washington Immigrant Achievement Awards

Friday, April 4, 2008

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC



PROGRAM

OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF HONOREES

Michelle L. Lazerow
Chairman, Immigrant Achievement Awards

2008 HONOREES

IMMIGRANT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Mr. Leopoldo Alonso
Mr. George McPhee
Dr. Elias Zerhouni

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Norman Dreyfuss

MICHAEL MAGGIO YOUTH IMMIGRANT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ms. Spruha Magodia

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MICHAEL MAGGIO

(1947–2008)

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wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation
for the tremendous outpouring of support and comfort
during this time of transition for our firm.

We are most grateful.

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- Jim Alexander
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- Dree Collopy
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MICHAEL MAGGIO (1947–2008)

Michael Maggio, the founder and chairman of Maggio & Kattar, P.C., died on February 10, 2008, at the age of 60 after a courageous 10-month battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Michael was a beloved colleague, mentor, teacher, and friend.

Justice, the rule of law, and human rights – these core principles were the foundation of Michael's legal philosophy. Michael fought for fairness and equal protection under the law. He profoundly affected the legal landscape of immigration law and beyond, and did so with tremendous wit, skill, and bravado. "He was a brilliant legal mind who not only interpreted the law without peer, but he recognized also that justice could only be served by changing it. His life embodied that commitment to change," said friend and colleague José Perterra. Moreover, Michael loved what he did, enjoyed the challenge, and made it fun, even after thirty years.

Michael founded what is now Maggio & Kattar, P.C. in 1978 in the Adams Morgan neighborhood, located in the heart of Washington, D.C.'s Latino community. A fluent Spanish speaker who was active in the opposition to U.S. intervention in Latin America, Michael's legal career jump started just months after he graduated from law school.

Michael took on what arguably is the most significant human rights case in American history and his most influential, *Filartiga v. Peña-Irala*. The case is seminal not only for what it held -- that torture by a government official anywhere in the world violates universal human rights and that a foreign official may be held accountable in U.S. court – but also for what it triggered – the fusing of international legal rights with domestic judicial remedies.

While Michael was at the heart of many high-profile cases during his 30-year legal career, he equally loved representing everyday people who just needed a good immigration lawyer. It was from representing these people that he sustained his drive and commitment to furthering justice for those seeking a better life. "Immigrants are the best thing about this country" he often said, "they are the risk takers, the essence of capitalism and free enterprise."

Those who knew Michael recognized how he served his clients with finely honed legal skill and reassuring confidence. By mastering the twists and turns of immigration law, he not only solved foreign nationals' immigration problems, but also profoundly touched their lives. And, he became their friends for life.

Throughout his career, Michael received countless professional awards and was honored for his extraordinary legal representation, astute strategizing, unwavering commitment to the highest ethical standards, and his deep passion for justice and upholding the rule of law. Most recently, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild honored Michael "for his courageous and visionary work in defending immigrant rights and, in so doing, strengthening the constitutional rights of all U.S. residents and citizens." The Tahirih Justice Center, which focuses on gender-based violence, and the National Coalition to Protect Political Freedom, also honored his work.

Integrity, respect, legal excellence – these are the characteristics that embodied Michael Maggio's legal practice and his life.



MR. LEOPOLDO ALONSO

Leopoldo Alonso was born in Havana, Cuba on July 6, 1951. At the age of 10 he left Cuba with his mother and younger brother on a freedom flight with literally only the shirt on his back. Settling in Northern Virginia, Leo grew up in an environment and culture that quickly enabled him to appreciate the value of America. In 1972, he married his wife Betty, also a Cuban immigrant. He was naturalized as a United States Citizen in 1978. He has two daughters, Marisa, age 26 and Vivian, age 23.

Leo's career in the grocery business started when he was just 19. He quickly worked his way up to be a store manager for MEMCO Stores. In 1983 he left MEMCO and founded FRESH VALUE MARKETS. As President and CEO, he owned and operated six independent full service supermarkets in Virginia and Maryland employing 250 workers and with annual sales of \$45 million.

In 1995, noting that many Latinos were unable to obtain mortgages to own homes and that those who were able to were frequently taken advantage of in the mortgage loan market, Leo established a mortgage business to serve the needs of the Latino community. Over the years, he has provided mortgage loans to over 7,000 Latino families. He was designated the number one lender of Community Reinvestment Act loans in the United States for Bank of America for 3 years. Currently, he employs 15 Latino loan officers from various South and Central American countries who have been trained to educate the community and to provide fair and equitable mortgages to serve the housing needs of Latino families in the Washington, D.C. metro area.

In a further effort to educate the Latino community on finances and mortgages, he became the first in the Washington area to have a weekly half-hour live radio call-in program. The program continues to help the Latino community by raising their awareness of the economy in general, as well as of the very difficult process of home buying and financing. Leo currently is the Vice President of Metropolitan Mortgage Bankers.

Leo also devotes an enormous amount of his time to the education and the quality of life of learning disabled and intellectually challenged people. "Coach" Leo has been a mainstay in the Virginia Special Olympic Program for almost 25 years. He began to volunteer in the Special Olympics program through the Reston Optimist Club two years before his own daughter, who has Down Syndrome, was born. He has been a Special Olympics coach for teams at Vienna Elementary School, Thoreau Middle School, Paul VI Catholic High School and now at George Mason University.

Leo's visionary leadership skills, coupled with his highly contagious passion and enthusiasm while he coached the Paul VI High School Special Olympics teams, earned Paul VI the title of Virginia Outstanding School of the Year in 2002, in recognition of its outstanding school wide support for Special Olympics.

Leo earned many accolades for his Special Olympics work including the Paul VI Community Service award in 2000 and Special Olympics Coach of the Year in 2005.

Currently at George Mason University, he is the Head Coach of both the men's and women's Special Olympics teams in soccer, basketball, and track and field. Through Leo's guidance and assistance these athletes, and the others he has mentored and coached, have learned to cope and compete, have enhanced their social and interpersonal skills and, most importantly, have learned to love life to the fullest.



MR. GEORGE MCPHEE

George McPhee began his playing career in his hometown of Guelph, Ontario, with the Ontario Junior Hockey League's Guelph Platers, leading them to the 1978 Centennial Cup, Canada's Tier II championship. Following his stint with the Platers, McPhee attended Bowling Green State University of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, where he became one of college hockey's most decorated players. A four-year letterwinner from 1978-82, he was the recipient of the 1982 Hobey Baker Memorial Award, given to the top player in college hockey. Earning a degree in business, he became the first player to be

named to the CCHA All-Academic Team in three consecutive seasons.

Upon the completion of his college career, McPhee signed as a free agent with the New York Rangers and started his NHL career during the 1982 Stanley Cup playoffs. Following his seven-year playing career with the Rangers and New Jersey Devils, McPhee earned his law degree from Rutgers University in 1992.

Prior to joining the Capitals, McPhee spent five seasons as the vice president and director of hockey operations as well as alternate governor for the Vancouver Canucks, assisting then general manager Pat Quinn with all hockey-related matters. In his time with the Canucks, the team enjoyed four trips to the playoffs, a division championship and a trip to the 1994 Stanley Cup Finals.

Named the fifth general manager of the Washington Capitals on June 9, 1997, McPhee found immediate success with the Capitals while engineering the club's first trip to the Stanley Cup Finals in his first season (1997-98). Under his leadership the team has also claimed two Southeast Division championships (1999-00 and 2000-01), three 40-or-more win seasons (1997-98, 1999-00 and 2000-01) and a 102-point season (1999-00) – the team's first campaign of at least 100 points since 1985-86 and only the fourth in franchise history.

In ten years as vice president and general manager of the Washington Capitals, George McPhee has overseen the club's development with an emphasis on scouting, drafting, coaching and building from within. McPhee has provided solid direction for the Capitals franchise by instituting a team-first philosophy that has extended from his hockey operations staff to the players on the ice. McPhee has assembled a Capitals organization that is considered to have one of the deepest prospect pools in the NHL and a bright future ahead.



DR. ELIAS ZERHOUNI

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., is the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the nation's medical research agency. Transforming medicine and health through discovery, this federal agency is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. NIH supports peer-reviewed basic, clinical and translational scientific research at more than 3,000 universities, medical schools, hospitals, and research institutions in all 50 states, the territories, and in more than 90 countries around the world. Approximately 83% of the budget supports the work of some 300,000 extramural scientists and research

staff at those sites. Additionally, NIH supports 6,000 intramural scientists in its own laboratories. The agency trains research investigators and develops and disseminates credible health information based on scientific discovery to scientists, medical and health professionals, patients, families, industry, and the public. NIH has 27 Institutes and Centers and a fiscal year 2007 budget of \$29 billion.

At NIH, Dr. Zerhouni has initiated the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, led the effort to transform the medical research enterprise, supported trans-NIH initiatives in obesity and neuroscience research, launched the NIH Pathway to Independence Awards designed to bridge new scientists from mentored support to independent research careers, established and supported initiatives to reduce health disparities, and ensured public access to NIH-funded research results.

Dr. Zerhouni has spent his career providing clinical, scientific, and administrative leadership. Prior to joining the NIH, Dr. Zerhouni served as executive vice-dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Zerhouni earned his medical degree at the University of Algiers School of Medicine, completing his residency in diagnostic radiology at Johns Hopkins in 1978 as chief resident. He has won a Gold Medal from the American Roentgen Ray Society and two Paul Lauterbur Awards. Earlier this year, Dr. Zerhouni received the Special Presidential Award of the European Congress of Radiology. His research in imaging led to advances in computerized axial tomography (CAT scanning) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). He is the author of 212 publications and holds 8 patents.

Dr. Zerhouni served on the National Cancer Institute's Board of Scientific Advisors from 1998-2002. In 1988, he was a consultant to the World Health Organization, and in 1985 he was a consultant to the White House under President Ronald Reagan. He has been a member of the Institute of Medicine since 2000.



MR. NORMAN DREYFUSS

Distinguished Public Service Award

Norman M. Dreyfuss, executive vice president and chief operating officer of The IDI Group Companies of Arlington, Virginia, is currently completing the development of Leisure World of Maryland in Silver Spring, the region's largest age-restricted community with some 8000 residents. Mr. Dreyfuss also oversees the development of Leisure World of Virginia, the largest active adult community in Virginia.

Mr. Dreyfuss is a graduate of Rutgers University with engineering and fine arts degrees, as well as a graduate of the Washington College of Law at American University.

In addition to his career as a developer, Mr. Dreyfuss has produced three successful movies, serving as executive producer for *Brick* in 2005 and *Under the Same Moon* in 2007 and as producer for *Red* in 2008. It was during the filming of *Under the Same Moon* that the challenges faced by immigrants to the United States were brought home for Mr. Dreyfuss in a striking way. The Spanish language feature film *La Misma Luna*, to be released by Fox Searchlight in March, 2008, details the plight of a Mexican mother and son who are separated by her relocation to Los Angeles but seek to find each other across the miles. Mr. Dreyfuss, himself a child of immigrants who arrived here with little, has become a major benefactor of the CASA of Maryland's Center for Employment and Training in Shady Grove. Mr. Dreyfuss is contributing \$50,000 to provide employment, job development, legal and educational services to low-income immigrant workers.

Mr. Dreyfuss has made a major commitment to supporting affordable housing in Montgomery County, Md., where he lives and works. Mr. Dreyfuss first became involved in affordable housing in 1992, when he oversaw the redevelopment of The Ambassador Apartments from a former non-performing hotel into decent single room occupancy housing. In 2007, he arranged for IDI to donate a retail building and garage adjacent to The Ambassador Apartments to be used by CASA as an employment and training center for four years, and then redeveloped into affordable housing.

Since 1998, he has served as co-chair of the Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County; his personal contribution of \$25,000 to the conference's closing cost award contest made it possible for five families to buy first homes. In 2005, Mr. Dreyfuss was appointed to the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, then elected chair pro tempore two years later.

In 2003, Mr. Dreyfuss received the Milton E. Kettler Award from the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association to honor his long history of civic contributions. Mr. Dreyfuss was the president of the Suburban Maryland Building Industry Association in 1996 and is a former member of the Montgomery County Task Force for Moderate Priced Rentals; the Child Care Task Force; the Accessory Apartment Task Force; the Maryland Governor's Commission of Condominiums; the Aspen Hill Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee Cooperative and Homeowners Association; and the Montgomery County Committee for More Efficient Use of Existing Housing Stock.



MS. SPRUHA MAGODIA

Michael Maggio Youth Immigrant Achievement Award

Spruha Magodia followed her parents to the United States from India as a sixth grader in 2001, little knowing that her flair for reading and writing would catapult her into the spotlight as a published novelist in 2004 when she was only 13 years old.

Her widely successful first novel titled “Entwining Worlds: From the Other Side” currently appears on the book shelves under “Teen Releases” at many Barnes & Noble stores across the United States.

Spruha has already achieved much success for her young age, including winning a global competition for penning an alternate ending to the fifth novel in the Harry Potter series; winning the Editor’s Choice Award for her poetry “A Breath of Originality” at age 13; and being spotlighted as the “Author of the Month” by Barnes & Noble at age 14.

She is the recipient of a congratulatory letter from then Governor Richard J. Codey of New Jersey and received an official Proclamation by the Mayor of Edison, New Jersey.

She has also been the featured guest on the live radio talk show “Spot Light,” which caters to Asian communities in north eastern states and has been featured in many local, regional and international newspapers.

Now at sixteen years old and a high school senior, she is penning the last chapters of her second novel, which is a sequel to the first.

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as we honor**

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Deepa Mehta, writer, director
and producer**

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**At our Annual Benefit to celebrate outstanding
immigrants and their achievements.**

**Friday, June 27, 2008
6:00pm Reception • 7:30pm Dinner
Awards Presentation to Follow
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada**

Limited Tickets Available! Join Us for this Special Event!

Contact Elizabeth Stinebaugh at AILF for more information,
including sponsorships and program mentions,
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About the Foundation ...

The American Immigration Law Foundation is an IRS designated 501(c)(3) non profit, educational, charitable organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the value of immigration to American society and to advancing fundamental fairness and due process under the law for immigrants.



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