

COLUMN  
**Inadmissible**

822 words  
28 June 2004  
New Jersey Law Journal  
NJLJ  
English  
Copyright 2004 ALM Properties, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
No Small Consulting Roles

- He won't be giving up his day job, but Princeton patent lawyer Ted Naccarella is thrilled about the role he played - however small - in Killer Smile, one of Lisa Scottoline's newest novels.

Naccarella was at Synnestvedt Lechner & Woodbridge's Philadelphia office last July when Scottoline sought his advice for the novel. The main character, Philadelphia lawyer Mary DiNunzio, represents the estate of an Italian-American who died in a World War II detention camp. A bizarre plot twist involves patents, and Scottoline picked Naccarella's brain about how patent lawyers work. "It's a great book - all action and very funny - and would be perfect for a movie." Naccarella says.

But don't look for his character. Naccarella says Scottoline considered including a patent-lawyer character modeled after him, but when she asked him if an average lawyer could obtain information on her own without consulting his character, Naccarella admitted the information was readily available online.

Scottoline herself was a trial lawyer with Dechert, Price & Rhoads in Philadelphia before starting a writing career; her 10 other novels include New York Times bestseller Dead Ringer.

He's a Digger - Bankruptcy lawyers usually find buried assets reading financial statements. Brian Zinn uses a shovel.

Zinn, of Saddle Brook's Cohn Lifland Pearlman Herrmann & Knopf, has been fascinated by puzzles and games since childhood and is a fan of The Secret, a 1982 book of visual and poetical clues to 12 keys buried in North America, each redeemable for a jewel worth an average of \$1,000 on presentation to the publisher. In 22 years, only one key had been found.

Along came Zinn. Aided by a Google search of Greek names in Verse 4 of the book, "Appelles, Socrates and Pindar," Zinn drove on May 8 to a Cleveland park that has a Greek cultural monument with those names on it. After five hours of digging - watched by friend Andrew Abrams of Jersey City's Abrams & Wofsy - good fortune struck. He found a key in a box embedded in muck.

Zinn says publisher Byron Preiss, of Byron Preiss Visual Productions Inc. of New York, told him the reward was an aquamarine and Zinn will get it when he finds the key to the safe deposit box that holds the gems.

The story also gives Zinn a platform for marketing himself as tenacious. "I'm prepared, I'm persistent and I do my research," he says. And he's not afraid of dirty work.

Gideon's Promise - A former Newark police officer and a former Third Circuit judge are part of a committee formed to assess how the American criminal justice system can better provide legal representation to defendants who cannot afford lawyers.

The 16-person National Committee on the Right to Counsel formed last week includes Hubert Williams, a Rutgers Law School graduate who headed Newark's police from 1974 to 1985 and served as special adviser to the Los Angeles Police Commission in the wake of the unrest sparked by the Rodney King trial. He is now president of the Police Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Also serving is former judge Timothy Lewis and several lawyers involved in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963), where the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the right to counsel.

The committee, chaired by former Vice President Walter Mondale, was established by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and Georgetown University's Constitution Project. The group will look at problems like underfunding, excessive caseloads, lack of enforceable standards of quality, and lack of independence. New Jersey is one of only 22 states that administer and fund indigent criminal defense at the state level.

Rolling the Dice - Construction-accident specialist Robert Mongeluzzi is about to find out if jurors in a one-industry town can impartially decide cases involving the trade that puts a roof over their heads.

Last fall, Mongeluzzi filed suit in Philadelphia on behalf of two of four men killed in the October collapse of a parking garage under construction at the Tropicana casino in Atlantic City. Philadelphia was an appropriate venue, being home to general contractor Keating Construction (not to mention Mongeluzzi's firm). Plus, Atlantic County didn't seem to him a friendly forum, since many prospective jurors were likely to be employees of casinos or related industries.

Last Thursday, however, Mongeluzzi pulled his case out of Philadelphia and filed a complaint in Atlantic County with 22 other plaintiffs' lawyers. The reason: the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a report in April that laid heavy blame for the accident on subcontractor Fabi Construction of Egg Harbor Township, over whom the Pennsylvania court has no jurisdiction.

Mongeluzzi will therefore take his chances in Atlantic City. "[W]ith adequate voir dire, it can be done," he said on Friday.

- By John Covalleski, Henry Gottlieb,

Mary P. Gallagher and Charles Toutant

Document NJLJ000020040628e06s0000e

### Search Summary

Text	
Date	06/28/2004 to 06/28/2004
Source	The New Jersey law journal.
Author	All Authors
Company	All Companies
Subject	All Subjects
Industry	All Industries
Region	All Regions
Language	All Languages
News Filters	Date: 1 January 2004 - 31 December 2004
Results Found	65
Timestamp	8 September 2018 13:31