

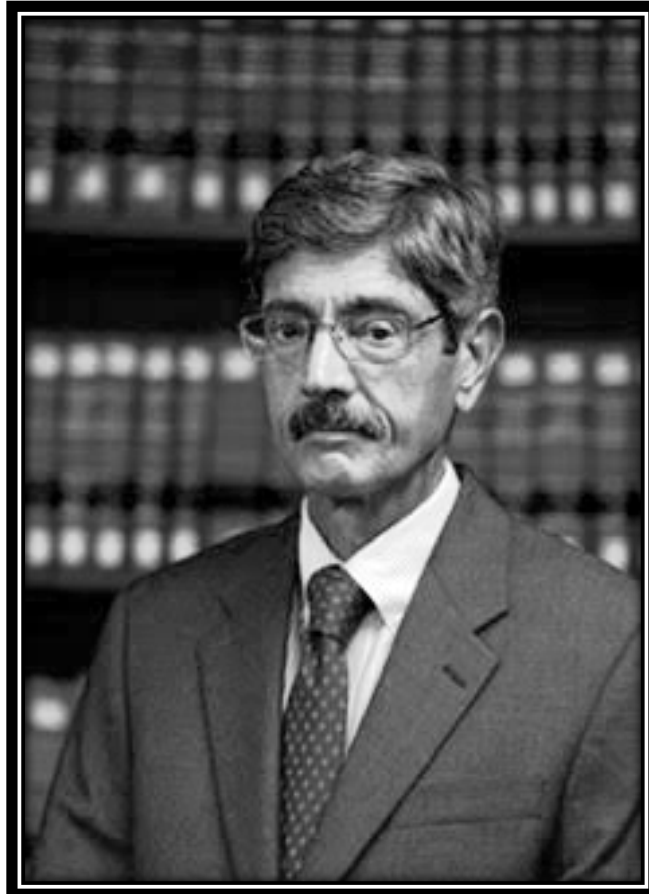
## In Memoriam: Professor Vincent M. DiLorenzo

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**IN MEMORIAM:  
PROFESSOR VINCENT M. DILORENZO**



**(1953–2019)**

*The editors of the St. John's Law Review respectfully dedicate this  
issue to Professor DiLorenzo.*

## BIOGRAPHY

Vincent M. DiLorenzo, affectionately known by his students as “DiLo,” touched the lives of thousands of St. John’s students during his nearly thirty-four years as a professor at the law school.

Professor DiLorenzo was born in 1953 in Alcamo, Sicily (Italy) and moved to Brooklyn with his parents, Salvatore and Marianna, in 1954. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History from Pace University in 1975, and in fall 1975, he enrolled at Columbia Law School. He excelled at Columbia, where he was named a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and served as an Associate Articles Editor of the Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems. He earned his Juris Doctor from Columbia in 1978 and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1979 and the Pennsylvania Bar in 1985.

After law school, Professor DiLorenzo worked at the New York firm Cadwalader, Wickersham, & Taft LLP as an associate in its real estate-banking department. He remained at Cadwalader until 1983, when he joined the faculty at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. A long-time Queens resident, he married his wife Linda in 1985, and they had two children, Nick and Christina.

In 1986, Professor DiLorenzo left Wharton to join the faculty at St. John’s University School of Law as an Associate Professor of Law. He became a Professor of Law shortly after, in 1989. During his time at St. John’s, he taught Property, Banking Law, Real Estate Transactions, Legislative Advocacy, and Condominiums, Cooperatives & Homeowner Associations. This breadth of courses allowed him to share his expansive knowledge, love for teaching, and infectious energy with first-year students and upperclassmen alike. His quietude and reserve engendered great respect among his faculty colleagues throughout his tenure at St. John’s.

Professor DiLorenzo was also a prolific academic. He wrote primarily in the areas of banking law and regulation, real estate law, and real estate finance. His research focused on behavioral decision theory and nonlinear dynamics or chaos theory. He applied those theories to issues of community reinvestment and development, consumer protection, and corporate ethics and social responsibility. He authored dozens of articles and several books, including *The Law of Condominiums and Cooperatives*, *Banks and the Securities Laws* (vol. 5, *Treatise on Banking Law*), *New York Condominium and Cooperative Law*, and *Basic Legal Transactions*.

In addition to his work as a professor and scholar, Professor DiLorenzo dedicated his time and talents to the legal community at large. He was an integral member of the New York State Bar Association's Real Property Law Section, serving on its Publications and Executive Committees since 2007. Additionally, he was as a coeditor of the Section's official publication, the *N.Y. Real Property Law Journal*, where he worked in conjunction with student editors at St. John's who benefitted from his extensive expertise. Professor DiLorenzo also served as a faculty advisor to the St. John's Real Property Law Society, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and a senior research fellow of the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John's University.

#### TRIBUTES

##### BOB PARELLA<sup>†</sup>

When Vincent joined the faculty, he and I immediately became colleagues with many shared interests—which proved very enjoyable and profitable for me. Vincent taught many courses and was a prolific writer of texts, articles, and reports of all sorts. He was a member and served as a chair of many important bar association committees. But despite these diverse activities, Vincent always believed he had one primary duty: preparing his students for the profession. That was his mission. And all his students knew it and appreciated it.

##### ROBERT J. SEIN '03<sup>††</sup>

When I arrived at St. John's in the fall of 2000, like many apprehensive 1Ls, I assumed that the professors would be dour, aloof characters, straight out of the movie *The Paper Chase*.

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<sup>†</sup> Bob Parella is professor Emeritus, St. John's School of Law. He was graduated with honors from Saint Peter's Prep, Saint Peter's College, and New York University Law School. At New York University he was a Law Review editor, Pomeroy Scholar, and member of the Order of the Coif. He has numerous publications, including property and trusts and estates memoranda that contributed to law reform.

<sup>††</sup> Robert J. Sein graduated St. John's Law, *magna cum laude*, in 2003. After graduation, he went on to practice commercial real estate at Shearman & Sterling LLP for nearly fourteen years. He is presently the Director of the Mattone Family Institute for Real Estate Law, Faculty Advisor to the *N.Y. Real Property Law Journal*, and an Adjunct Professor.

Thankfully fiction was stranger than truth, and a highlight of my first year was taking Property with “DiLo.” In the classroom, his gracious and gentle manner instantly put us all at ease. His animated, and sometimes comical, descriptions of scenarios, problems, and cases brought the subject matter to life. His course left me not just a solid understanding of property law, but also a burgeoning interest in the field. As a result, as a summer associate, I chose to rotate through my firm’s real estate group, and, after graduation, started my career as a real estate attorney.

I was fortunate to reconnect with Professor DiLorenzo fourteen years later, when I returned to St. John’s as director of the Mattone Family Institute for Real Estate Law. The “DiLo” I encountered was the same one I remembered: patient, gentlemanly, kind, and, of course, wryly funny. In the coming months, we met frequently to discuss real estate law programs, events, and curriculum. I once again came to rely on his knowledge and wisdom, now generously dispensed as a colleague rather than as a teacher. It was clear to me that his desire to collaborate with me in this way was borne out of his abiding concern for St. John’s Law and its students.

I am proud to count myself among the ranks of Professor DiLorenzo’s former colleagues and students in whom his influence lives on. I see this underscored regularly in conversations with alumni in the real estate industry, who continue to sing his praises as a teacher, a scholar, and a person, and cite his profound effect on their own career paths.

JACK PIONTKOWSKI ’19<sup>†††</sup>

As coeditor and Faculty Advisor of the *N.Y. Real Property Law Journal*, Professor DiLorenzo cared deeply about facilitating student publications on current real property law topics. As a professor, he relished teaching future generations of attorneys. Moreover, he recognized the value in connecting current students with former students that were practicing attorneys in the

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<sup>†††</sup> Jack Piontkowski graduated St. John’s Law in 2019. While at St. John’s, among other activities, he served as Managing Editor of the *N.Y. Real Property Law Journal*. He presently works in New York City as a Law Clerk (Attorney) in the Real Estate Group of DLA Piper.

workforce. In conjunction with the Alumni Office and the Mattone Institute, Professor DiLorenzo was instrumental in the creation of an updated database of *N.Y. Real Property Law Journal* alumni.

In 2019, at an alumni social event, the student editorial staff of the Journal had the privilege of honoring Professor DiLorenzo for his long-term dedication and support. For over a decade, Professor DiLorenzo was generous with his time to the Journal, and his work will have a lasting impact on both the Journal and the careers of his students. He will be greatly missed on campus.