



## PA JUDGES STRIKE A BLOW ON BEHALF OF COLUMBUS

The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court has overturned the dismissal of a lawsuit aimed at blocking the planned removal of Pittsburgh’s Christopher Columbus statue. Writing in a 24-page opinion that a lower court “erred” in its dismissal of the case in 2022, the seven-judge panel voted unanimously to send the case back for reexamination, stating that City Hall does not have “...free rein to act as it pleases in defiance of the law.” Philadelphia litigator George Bochetto filed the lawsuit, and subsequent appeal, on behalf of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America. The reinstated case will now go back before Judge John T. McVay Jr. of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas “for further fact-finding and decision,” per the opinion.

## RUSSO BROTHERS FORUM NAMES GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Russo Brothers Italian American Filmmaker Forum has named its 2024 grant recipients. Five filmmaking teams were each awarded a \$10,000 production grant through the forum to make a short film based on a submitted concept that depicts and explores aspects of the Italian-American experience. The forum operates in collaboration with AGBO, the production studio run by renowned directors Joe and Anthony Russo, and the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. A winning film will be selected from the group to receive an additional \$10,000 grant plus admittance into the AGBO Storytellers Collective, a network of emerging filmmakers who have been presented with AGBO fellowships or honored at its competitions. ([orderisda.org/resources/film-forum](http://orderisda.org/resources/film-forum))



Fedriga and Allegrini

## NIAF FORGES ALLIANCE WITH ITALIAN REGIONS

The National Italian American Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding with Italy’s regions at the Selecting Italy conference in Trieste in April. Signed by NIAF President Robert Allegrini and Massimiliano Fedriga, president of both the Friuli Venezia Giulia region and the Conference of Italian Regions and Autonomous Provinces, the memorandum aims to promote greater coordination among Italy’s regions and the Italian communities of the United States. Allegrini spoke at the conference, which is organized annually to foster greater cooperation between the regional and national governments of Italy as well as other nations. The focus of this year’s conference was America.

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