

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MAY 10, 2019****APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM****REAL PROPERTY, PROBATE AND TRUST LAW SECTION OF THE FLORIDA BAR**

|                                    |                                                                                               |                                          |                                                                          |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:                              | Antonio Romano                                                                                |                                          | Age:30                                                                   |
| Firm Name:                         | Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun                                                              |                                          | Position: Associate                                                      |
| Street Address:                    | 3801 PGA Boulevard, Suite 604                                                                 |                                          |                                                                          |
|                                    | City: Palm Beach Gardens                                                                      | State: FL                                | Zip Code: 33410                                                          |
| Telephone Number:                  | 561-626-2101                                                                                  | Email Address: aromano@comitersinger.com |                                                                          |
| Law School and Date of Graduation: | University of Miami School of Law, 2014                                                       |                                          | LLM: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Year admitted to the Florida Bar:  | 5                                                                                             |                                          | Years of Practice: 5                                                     |
| Board Certified:                   | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If so, what in what area? |                                          |                                                                          |
| Other State Bar Admissions:        | Washington, D.C.                                                                              |                                          |                                                                          |

Race or Ethnic Heritage or Disability<sup>1</sup>: Italian-AmericanPlease describe the area(s) of the law in which you focus your practice: Probate, Trust, and Guardianship Administration and LitigationPlease list your employment history for the past 5 years: Chepenik Trushin, LLP, Law Clerk (Feb 2014 - Sep 2014); Associate (Sep 2014 - Sep 2018);  
Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun (Sep 2018 - present)How long have you been a member of the RPPTL Section of the Florida Bar? Two years or soDo you have any prior experience with any RPPTL Section Committee? If so, please list: NoHave you ever been the subject of any disciplinary action by any Bar association? If yes, please describe in detail the nature of the disciplinary action and the outcome. Attach additional sheets if necessary. NoPlease state why you are interested in being chosen as a Fellow for the RPPTL Section. (Attached additional sheets if necessary)  
See attached.Have you previously applied for this fellowship, if so when? NoPlease describe your involvement in any local, state, voluntary and national level bar association, including any leadership positions you currently hold or have held in the past. Attach additional sheets if necessary. The Wm. Reese Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy, Class IV; Dade County Bar Association  
Director - Group I (2018-2018); Gay & Lesbian Lawyers Association Affiliate Board Member (2015-2016); Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2015-2016); Spellman-Hoover American Inns of Court;  
Palm Beach County Bar Association (2019).Please describe any funding or support (including allowing time to fulfill your obligations as described in the Fellowship Information Sheet) that you may receive from your firm or employer, or other organization(s) that would support your activities as a Fellow.  
Attach additional sheets if necessary. The firm fully stands behind my involvement in RPPTL, as a fellow and beyond, and my future intentions to segway my involvement  
into the probate rules committee forward.Please identify at least two substantive committees that you would be interested in joining as a Fellow: (1) Probate & Trust Litigation;  
(2) Probate Law Procedure; (3) Trust Law; (4) Guardianship & Advanced DirectivesAre you able to participate in a video interview? If so, with what program? Yes. Whatever program necessary. (exp. Skype, Face-Time)**PLEASE NOTE:** Fellows are required to attend a minimum of 3 RPPTL executive council meetings during the Fellowship year.

Please list the name, email address and phone number for two members of the Florida Bar (other than members of your own firm) who can provide information regarding your professional qualifications and experience:

| Name          | Email                 | Phone          |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Michael Simon | msimon@gunster.com    | (561) 650-0677 |
| Lee McElroy   | lmcelroy@downevpa.com | (561) 691-2043 |

<sup>1</sup> Information requested is optional

Romano, Antonio  
2019-2020 RPPTL Fellowship Application

Just over five years ago, I returned from the bar exam early, battered and exhausted, but excited to participate in a trial in a hotly contested probate litigation. The litigation involved defending documents distributing property both here and in the Virgin Islands, and was ultimately a win. It was then that I came to admire two former colleagues, and RPPTL Fellowship alumni, Daniel McDermott and Stacy Rubel. My current firm recruited me approximately eight months ago, and has since advocated active involvement in RPPTL. I voluntarily attended the last meeting, but both Mr. McDermott and Ms. Rubel, and a score of other individuals, have recommended, without hesitation, that the best way to become active in RPPTL is to apply for the coveted fellowship position, and so here we are.

A little about me to humanize the experience. I am a first generation Italian-American. My family emigrated from Italy before I was born, and I am the product of an arranged marriage that did not include unicorns and rainbows. I accomplished a series of firsts in my family that involved obtaining a B.S. in Finance from Florida State University (I left NYU when the markets started tanking in 2007), a J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law, and, as an added bonus, "coming out." So perhaps the arranged marriage did technically end in rainbows of sorts. My partner works in pilot training and scheduling for Spirit Airlines (insert all jokes here, I will happily debate you on how it has become quite the airline), and we travel every chance we get (bribery is probably frowned upon, so I will not be one to offer you, the lucky reader of this attachment, some buddy passes).

In all seriousness, I have never been one to take the slow route toward something beneficial or interesting. I much prefer the dive-in approach. As I sat in on the meetings during the Amelia Island conference, I could not believe that my prior firm was not more of an advocate of involvement in the committees and meetings. To hear the debate about revisions to laws I argue regularly, to speak with the brilliant minds that helped create those laws, and to be able to sit and have cocktails with attorneys who I have since texted to ask their opinions on positions is beyond crucial to going from good to great, and to be a respected member of a small, close-knit section of the bar. I want to take all of the preceding a step further, and actively contribute to the future of estates and probate in Florida. I spent the bulk of my time in school in judicial internships, clinics, and clerking for firms because I have always learned best by doing and taking a hands-on approach. Being a fellow, with all of the responsibilities and guidance that it entails, and being an active member of committees that substantively contributes to those committees, will help push me from good to great, and hopefully leave a trail of good outcomes and changes in the process.

My firm fully stands behind my involvement in RPPTL as a fellow, and I look forward to taking what I can from the fellowship position and involvement in the committees, and applying that toward my eventual involvement in the Probate Rules Committee, and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions. My email is [aromano@comitersinger.com](mailto:aromano@comitersinger.com), and my cell is (239) 470-1123.

Yes, the tickets may still be on the table as well. That depends on you.

Regards,



Antonio Romano