

A Background Guide for the  
*New York Mafia*



Dalton Model United Nations III

*Saturday, April 25, 2015*

# Table of Contents

Letter from the Chairs: .....	3
Introduction: .....	4
A Brief History: .....	4
History of the Issue: .....	6
The New Order: .....	7
Family and Trusted Companions: .....	7
Allies and Others: .....	9
Committee Agenda: .....	11
Prohibition: .....	11
Rival Gangs: .....	11
Media and Law Enforcement .....	11
The Powerful Luciano Family: .....	12
Luciano Family: List of Members: .....	14
The Notorious Mangano Family: .....	20
Mangano Family: List of Members .....	21
Portfolio Powers and Resources: .....	30
Possible Portfolio Tools: .....	30
Committee Resources: .....	31
Suggestions for Further Research: .....	33

# Dalton Model United Nations

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## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Delegates,

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the New York Mafia JCC of DMUN III. We are all very excited to share with you what we believe to be the most engaging and unique JCC topic yet! We are all experienced in the Model UN High School circuit and will strive to make this committee as interesting as possible. However, for each and every one of you to have the best experience possible requires not only our passion and dedication, but also your hard work and involvement.

The committees that comprise this JCC will be run just as any other crisis committees should be. We expect diligent and thought-out actions in response to crisis updates to which we will expose you when we see fit, and the proper and advantageous use of portfolio powers through notes to the dais. One caveat which distinguishes JCC's from other crisis committee, is that any action and decision one committee (or one member of one committee) makes will directly affect the other committee and vice-versa. The committees will also be guided through crisis updates pertaining to outside events and/or inner turmoil and delegates are also expected to respond to those updates as they would in a real-life setting with great attention to their personal "policy" or beliefs. Disregard for a delegate's position on a certain matter may either be deemed void by the dais or have extreme effects on both committees.

We all believe that Model UN is not simply a competitive arena, but also a place for learning and personal growth as a delegate and person. Therefore, we promise to be as supportive as possible during committee sessions to construct debate that fosters an environment for the development of your skills and the exchange of your knowledge, along with the occasional exchange of bullets!

We encourage reaching out to all of us on the dais as we are committed to making this JCC an amazing experience for delegates and we believe we can act as a great resource to all of you – whether it is for further research guidance or techniques in Model UN in general. We can be contacted at the email listed below and will respond as soon as we can! Good luck with your research and preparations and get excited for DMUN 2014! We look forward to seeing you all soon!

All our best,  
Wolf Hertzberg, Chair, Luciano Family  
Devin Plumb, Chair, Mangano Family  
[jcc@daltonmun.org](mailto:jcc@daltonmun.org)

## Introduction

### A Brief History

The New York Mafia system has its origins in the powerful Italian and Sicilian Mafias which have dominated Italian crime during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the early years of the unified Italy, political instability reigned. Compounded by widespread poverty and unemployment, conditions were ideal for the rampant crime and lawless rule which characterized the “old country” mafia.

By the turn of the century, however, the mafiosos of the land of art, food and debt began to branch out. Whether driven by the desire for new stomping grounds, new business opportunities, the allure of American destiny or fear of Benito Mussolini’s crackdown on gang activities, the mafia began emigrating to the United States. There, two distinct “outfits” of mafia families developed: the

Chicago Outfit and, our focus in the JCC, the famed New York Outfit<sup>1</sup>.

The Mafia of New York has been organized along family divides from the beginning; however, from the 1870’s through the 1920’s, family allegiances were subservient to factions—groups of families and unaligned mobsters, united under one boss. By the end of the late 1920’s, the New York outfit was divided into two factions: one led by Giuseppe “Joe” Masseria and the other led by Salvatore Maranzano<sup>2</sup>. Hostilities between the two families eventually erupted into the Castellammarese War, a bloody conflict which lasted more than two years and resulted in the deaths of many top soldiers on both sides. Earlier this year, the tide of the war began to turn sharply against Masseria’s faction. In light of the grim situation, several of Masseria’s top allies began secretly communicating with Maranzano. These included Charles “Lucky” Luciano and Vito Genovese of the Luciano family. They agreed to betray Masseria in return for Maranzano ending the war and providing them with positions of

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<sup>1</sup> "Italian Organized Crime." FBI. August 27, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

power in whatever arrangement came after. On April 15th, Joe Masseria was murdered by four of his own gunman, thus ending the Castellammarese War<sup>3</sup>.

While the Castellammarese War was a conflict between two mobsters, it was undercut by a more symbolic conflict: that between old and new. For all their differences, Sal Maranzano and Joe Masseria both belonged to the old guard of Sicilian mafia known as the “Mustache Petes,” so called because they favor the fashion of handlebar mustaches. The Mustache Petes are attached to the restrictive, ritualistic conventions of the Sicilian and Italian Mafias<sup>4</sup>. For them, the mob is an elite organization that does not interact with non-Italians, let alone the public. This attitude is intolerable to the younger generation—the “Young Turks”—represented by Lucky Luciano and his allies. They are a leaner, more ruthless breed: open to association with whomever will advance their aims and not tied down by old-fashioned customs.<sup>5</sup>

That brings us to the present: September, 1931. Now in power are Salvatore Maranzano and his traditional Sicilian faction. With Masseria safely out of the way, Maranzano has set about the business of establishing a new order. In New York, he has reorganized the patchwork of gangs from before the war into the “Five Families.” These are the largest families which survived the war. They are the Maranzano Family (headed by Maranzano), the Luciano Family (headed by Lucky Luciano), the Mangano Family (headed by Vincent Mangano), the Profaci Family (headed by Joseph Profaci), and the Gagliano family (headed by Tommy Gagliano). In an unprecedented move which surprised many of the men who had helped him to power, Maranzano declared himself “Capo di Tutti Capi”—the boss of all bosses.<sup>6</sup> Under the new arrangement, Maranzano has proven to be a paranoid and arrogant boss, obsessed with comparing his operation to the Roman Empire and himself to Julius

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<sup>3</sup> “Castellammarese War.” *La Cosa Nostra*.

<sup>4</sup> “Five Families of New York City.” : The Commission.

<sup>5</sup> “Five Families of New York City,” : History.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, FBI.

Caesar. However, if only because the different factions were tired from of bloodshed of the war, Maranzano's takeover has produced a period characterized by peace and stability —thus far.

## The Current State

We begin in a hypothetical meeting of Salvatore Maranzano, the boss of all bosses, with representatives of two of his most powerful families: the Luciano and the Mangano. While Maranzano has solidified his rule, unrest grows quietly in all five families. The *Capo di tutti Capi* is harsh and dictatorial, and the other bosses have started to consider him to be just as bad as his predecessor, Joe Masseria. Prior to taking over, Maranzano had stated he would like to abolish single rule and implement a democratic commission of family bosses. This option is popular amongst the families, and would appear to be in everyones interest: for the less powerful families because it would give them equal standing, and for the more powerful families because it has the potential to stop the families from fighting with one another. However, the formidable bosses of the Luciano and Mangano families have a chance to replace

Maranzano as supreme *Capo*. Doing so would place them in control of the entire New York outfit, at the risk of perpetuating the instability that results from having a single, dominant authority.

With Manzano lording over a generation of younger mobsters hoping to replace him, the conflict between old and new ways will define the upcoming meeting. Will the Mustache Petes retain dominance? Or will the Young Turks sweep them away and institute their progressive new agenda? Simultaneously, external threats are mounting. There are rumors of a major police crackdown on the horizon. Why the crackdown would be coming now is as yet unknown, although it is suspected that it may have to do with one or more moles within the Mafia organization. Additionally, rival Jewish and Irish gangs are aware of the turmoil amongst the mafia and are hovering, ready to make allies or to strike decisively.

It is up to you to decide what comes next.

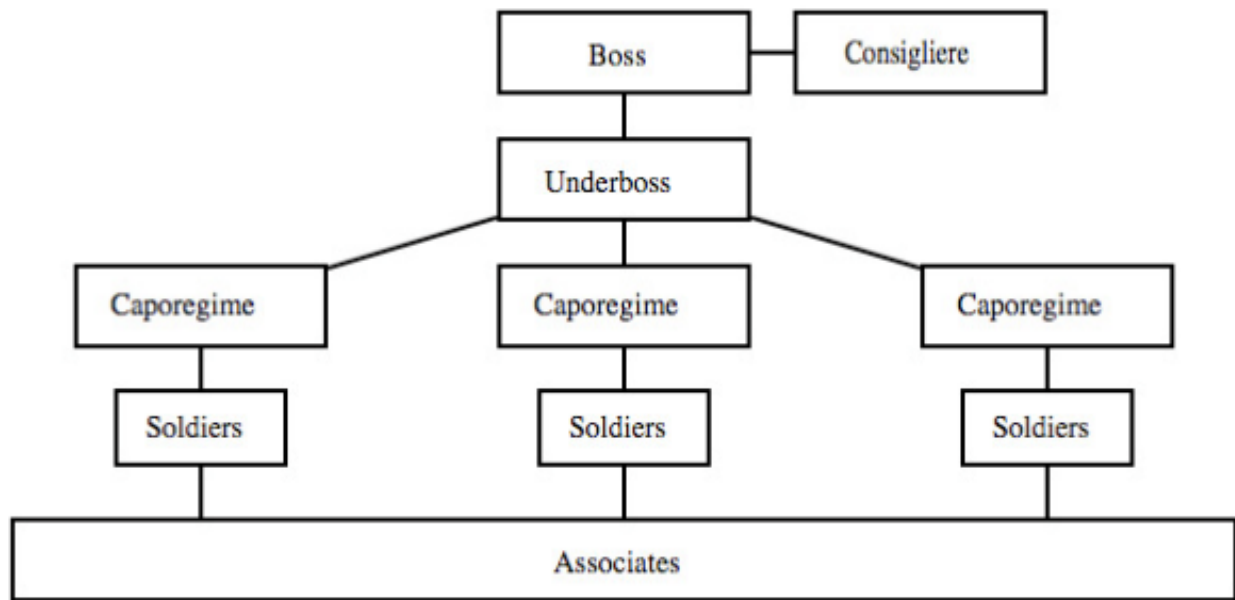
## The New Order

Under the new order established by Giuseppe Masseria, each family of the New York Mafia falls into a preordained intra-familial structure.

## Family and Trusted Companions

### Capofamiglia (boss)

Each crime family has its own boss, known as the *capofamiglia*. The



*Structure of an Italian Crime Family*

For both the Luciano and Mangano families, maintenance of this social structure will be cardinal to their respective endeavors. In addition, an understanding of this order and the terminology ingrained in it will be necessary for any committee member that hopes to participate actively.

*capofamiglia* is elected by vote by the *caporegimes* (see below), and is responsible for making crucial decisions regarding the future of the family's business affairs, in addition to maintaining order and taking punitive action against those that cross him. For this joint crisis, the *capofamiglia* for each committee will be represented by the director of that

committee (Charles Luciano and Vincent Mangano).

### **Capo Bastone (underboss)**

Under each *capofamiglia* is the *capo bastone*, known by English-speaking Americans as the “underboss.” Whereas the *capofamiglia* oversees the entire crime syndicate and deals with overarching strategy, the *capo bastone* is responsible for running day-to-day operations of the family and managing the most important rackets. Typically the successor to the *capofamiglia*, the *capo bastone* is also tasked with running the family until a permanent successor is found should the *capofamiglia* die or be imprisoned. Many *capo bastones* are well connected in and out of the family, and some use apprentices to carry out their biddings.

### **Consigliere (right-hand man)**

As the third-in-command, the *consigliere* plays a unique role in the family. Unlike other high-ranking advisors (as well as all other members of the “Family and Trusted Companions” section), the *consigliere* is typically not a blood relative of the *capofamiglia*. Instead, he is chosen from a list of close associates to act as an advisor, a

level-headed mediator, and a strategist. The real power of the *consigliere* within the family is limited, but his connections outside of the family and close relationship with the *capofamiglia* guarantee his safety. A good *consigliere* should communicate frequently with the *capofamiglia* and the other high ranking family members in an attempt to influence their decisions, and may on occasion reach out to other families or branches of the family to negotiate alliances or trading deals.

### **Caporegimi (captains)**

Each *caporegime* is in charge of 10-30 *soldati* who report directly to him. Capos lead many criminal operations and carry out the orders of the *capofamiglia* or *capo bastone*, but can under some circumstances wield considerable power and occasionally eclipse their titular superiors. A successful *caporegime* will send orders consistently to his *soldati* and keep them in check, maintaining order while simultaneously executing essential activities for the family either under order or proactively.

### **Soldati (soldiers)**



*Soldatos* make up the backbone of the typical New York City crime family. Without them, no hit jobs, rackets, or illicit substance trades would ever find success. They are the low men on the totem pole, but they are also privy to a great deal of information without being given an undue amount of responsibility, giving them incredible mobility and free reign to do as they will (while still completing their work). With the incredible mobility of the family hierarchy given the sudden shifts in power, a *soldato* can climb the ranks in a matter of months or years.

## Allies and Others

### Uomini d'onore (made men)

*Uomo d'Onore*, or “man of honor” is a blanket term for anyone who has been inducted as a full member of a Mafia family. Thus everyone listed above is “made”, while those below (the “associates”) are not. All *uomini* are full blooded Italians; foreigners can become powerful in the mob, but only as associates. Additionally, being in the police force or even attending police academy automatically disqualifies one from ever being accepted. Becoming a made man requires one first be

sponsored by a current made man. Then, a prospect must carry out a contract killing: a murder of someone with whom they have no connection, carried out only in the name of the family’s business. The contract killing is referred to as “making your bones.” Finally, a new made man is inducted in a ceremony which usually consists of pricking the inductee’s trigger finger, dripping blood onto a card with an image of the Virgin Mary, which is then lit on fire in the inductee’s own hand as he recites the oath: “As burns this saint, so will burn my soul if I betray the oath of Omertà. I enter alive and I will have to get out dead.”

### Guardie del corpo (bodyguards)

The *guardie del corpo* are, like the *soldatos*, mere servants of the high-ranking family members. Unlike the *soldatos*, the *guardie del corpo* are tasked with personally protecting the *capo* with their lives, and therefore take on something of an advisor’s role. No one is physically closer to the *capofamiglia* than the best of the *guardie del corpo*, and this serves as an unequivocal blessing. The *guardie* are expected to bring to the table more than sheer brawn; their job requires them to be skilled assassins as well as bodyguards and demands a

level of vigilance and intellect that allows them to foresee possible attempts on the life of their *capo*.

### **Giovani d'onore (associates)**

The *giovani d'onore*, or associates, are crucial members of the model crime family. The connections and services that they provide for the family give them the insider information or resources that they need to function effectively, and in return they ask for nothing more than moderate remuneration. In order to have value to the crime family, they must continue to keep up their connections and maintain their usefulness in the eyes of the *caporegimes*. These men include police officers, politicians, corporate employees, hitmen, and various other insiders, as well as Italians who have not yet been inducted into the organization. Thus a *giovani d'onore* may be anything from the lowliest of teenagers to the most respected and powerful non-Mafia allies.

negotiating different disputes between families and facilitating trade talks, the *messaggero* serves as a connecting piece between two factions attempting to remain at peace. Though the *messaggero* should come across as somewhat impartial, he can have a strong relationship with one particular family.

### **Messaggero (messenger)**

A *messaggero* is a messenger of sorts, though characterized by Mafia peculiarities. He is a spokesperson who has a connection to multiple different families. By mediating or

## Committee Agenda

Although each of the two committees will have its own topics and crises that will drive debate, certain themes will overlap. In particular, the concerns of the National Crime Syndicate as a whole will be present in both sides. Many of these concerns were illuminated in the Atlantic City Conference of 1929, but some were not. For your sake, we have outlined the most important themes below.

### Prohibition

This one seems obvious, and it is. On January 16, 1920, the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution suddenly made an age-old American pastime far more difficult: drinking alcoholic beverages. Although the act of consuming liquor itself was not made illegal, the importation, exportation, transportation, and distribution of it was outlawed. This, coupled with the Volstead Act (the Prohibition Act), forced the creation of a black market for liquor, which exponentially increased crime nationwide. This is highly troublesome for law enforcement but auspicious for the mafia. Therefore,

should the Prohibition suddenly come to an end, the demand for your products would decrease drastically. One of the focuses of the committees should be to consider that possibility, either by reducing its likelihood (bribing lawmakers or reducing mass shootings) or by merely planning for it as an eventuality (finding other markets to exploit).

### Rival Gangs

Another major concern of each committee is the threat of other families or crime organizations. Aside from the other half of the JCC, there exist three other New York Italian families (Maranzano, Gagliano, and Profaci), multiple Irish gangs, and a few Jewish ones. Forming tactical alliances, waging war, and undercutting those gangs around your own is how your family can get as big of a piece of the pie as possible. Keep in mind, however, that no action should be taken against or with another gang unless it is in the best interest of your family; if you are subverting another faction, do it so that you may take their business, not out of spite or malice.

### Media and Law Enforcement

Unfortunately for the mafia, the benefits of the Prohibition come attached to the downsides, namely the fuzz. After the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre of 1929, cops nationwide have upped their efforts to bring down gang warfare as part of a larger plan to take down gangs. With the police constantly on your back, it is difficult to get business done, especially when that business is not to their liking. Moreover, countless media outlets have been in an uproar over the recent cases of violence and are calling for the end of the Prohibition as a way of ending mafia violence. Of course, this issue pertains to the first item on the agenda, but has its own separate significance as well: inter-gang warfare is useful to nobody and jeopardizes the mafia's hold on the city. Either dump the blame on someone and send them off to jail or stop attracting so much attention.

## The Powerful Luciano Family

The broad organization of Mobsters that became the Luciano family traces its origin to the Morello family in East Harlem. The Morello family came from Sicily and began arriving in New York during the 1880's. They were led by Giuseppe "Clutch Hand" Morello, so called because his right hand was deformed and resembled a claw. Joining him in the organization were his brothers Nicholas, Vincenzo and Ciro. His underboss was the infamous Ignazio "The Wolf" Lupo. During the next two decades, the Morello family gained influence in the New York crime scene. Between 1914 and 1918 they clashed with their greatest rivals, the Camorra organization of Naples.<sup>7</sup> With the help of a well-timed police crackdown on the Camorra, the Morello emerged triumphant from the Mafia-Camorra War (at that time "Mafia" was synonymous with "Morello"); however, it proved a pyrrhic victory. When a former Morello gang member, Salvatore D'Aquila (eventual founder of the Mangano clan) presented himself as

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<sup>7</sup> The American Mafia," accessed February 8, 2015, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Mafia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Mafia).

a powerful rival, the Morello were unable to protect themselves. When D'Aquila issued a death warrant on Morello and Lupo, the old family turned to their ally, the gangster Joe Masseria. Masseria agreed to help them kill D'Aquilio, but in return much of the command of the Morello family was turned over to him. Using the Morello's resources, Masseria built a crime empire in New York that was rivalled by none. Morello and his associates became underlings in Masseria's organization, who became the boss of all bosses in all but name.

Masseria's only rival was the Sicilian Castellammarese family, of Brooklyn. Masseria put a bounty on the head of Nikola "Cola" Schiro, the boss of the family. In response, Cola paid Masseria \$10,000 and went into hiding, leaving him poised to take control of the Castellammarese. However, the Sicilian Mafia had other ideas, and chose as the new boss a recent immigrant named Sal Maranzano. The Castellammarese War that broke out between the two mobsters initially went in favor of the more established Masseria. However, the deaths of several of Masseria's

top soldiers, including Giuseppe Morello, caused the tide to swing back against him. Foreseeing the ultimate direction of the conflict, Charles Luciano, Vito Genovese, Albert Anastasia and other lieutenants in Masseria's organization began communicating with Maranzano to end the war. They cut a deal under which Maranzano would end the war and furnish Luciano with his own family in return for murdering Masseria. Masseria found out about the plot but was too slow; by the time he hired a hitman to take out Luciano, his death was already sealed. Masseria was murdered by four gunmen at a dinner with Luciano while the latter had excused himself to go to the bathroom.

Sal Maranzano took over as the new *Capo di Tutti Capi*.<sup>8</sup> Luciano was given control of Masseria's faction. Charles "Lucky" Luciano was an archetypal "Young Turk" mafioso: young, ambitious, innovative and ruthless. At an early age he had formed a racketeering partnership with the Jewish gangster Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky. Luciano renamed the family after himself and made Vito Genovese his

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<sup>8</sup> Critchley, David (2008). *The Origin of Organized Crime in America*. New York: Routledge. p. 165.

underboss and Frank Costello his *consigliere*.<sup>9</sup>

The Luciano family is very powerful in labor unions, controlling large sections of the garbage hauling, construction, and garment center businesses industries. Its criminal activities include bootlegging, racketeering, prostitution, loan sharking, and extortion. The Luciano has ties with mafia families in Florida, Buffalo, Philadelphia and New England. Along with the Mangano family, it is the largest and most powerful family in the country.<sup>10</sup>

## Luciano Family: List of Members

### Charles “Lucky” Luciano (*capofamiglia*)

Lucky Luciano is the head of the Luciano family and one of the most powerful mobsters in New York. Born in Sicily in 1897, Lucky is an Italian immigrant who rose to power from being paid seven dollars a week

as a hat boy. He is in total control of all decisions made by the Luciano family. Lucky is ruthless in his killing, but extremely loyal and always keeps his word.<sup>11</sup>

### Vito Genovese (*capo bastone*)

Vito “Don Vito” Genovese is the underboss of the Luciano family. Lucky Luciano was one of Genovese’s earliest friends in the New York mob scene and played a key part in the Castellammarese War, conspiring with Luciano and Maranzano to murder Masseria and instate Maranzano as the head boss of the five families. Genovese’s main value for most of the gangs he’s been in, is his propensity for violence, visible in his ruthless murder of Gaetano Reina, the leader of another Brooklyn gang. He works closely with Luciano on all major decisions and trusts Luciano greatly.<sup>12</sup> The repercussions of rash and consequential actions taken by the family without clearance by Genovese and Luciano will most likely conclude violently.

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<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p. 172

<sup>10</sup> "Genovese Crime Family-One of the “Five Families”." American Mafia History.

<sup>11</sup> "Lucky Luciano, Organized Crime (1897–1962)." [bio.com](https://www.bio.com).

<sup>12</sup> "Vito Genovese, Organized Crime (1897–1962)." [bio.com](https://www.bio.com).



### **Frank Costello (*consigliere*)**

The Italian born gangster, Frank (later to be known as “The Prime Minister of the Underworld”) Costello, spent his early mob years carrying concealed weapons, committing petty crimes, and serving jail time months at a time. After he married Laretta Geigerman and served 10 months in jail for carrying a concealed weapon, he vowed to never make his money with violence as a criminal again and rely solely on his brain. From that moment on, he claimed he never held a gun again and developed an interest in gambling and political influence, which he uses as his primary means to make money.<sup>13</sup> In the early years of the Morello gang, Costello developed a strong relationship with Lucky Luciano and has sustained that friendship and alliance until this day acting as a paramount advisor second to Genovese in the Luciano family.

### **Joe “Joey A” Adonis (*caporegime*)**

Joe Adonis, born in Naples, Italy in 1902 is most notable for his contributions in the Castellammarese war where he stated his allegiance with Luciano and warned him of the possible murder threat of Masseria. Adonis was vehemently opposed to Maranzano during the war and still remains a large rival today. Adonis dealt mainly with large scale criminal empires such as car dealerships, of which he owned many, illegal cigarette distribution by the hundreds, and also participated in many jewelry robberies, looking back to his early criminal street career.<sup>14</sup> Adonis remains a loyal participant of the Luciano family.

### **Anthony Strollo (*caporegime*)**

Unlike the majority of the Luciano family, Strollo was born in New York City and was the son of Calabrian immigrants. Strollo’s reputation gained notice during Prohibition, where he acted as a bootlegger and hitman. Originally, Strollo worked for Masseria, but after the Castellammarese war and the murder of his boss, he transferred his

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<sup>13</sup> "Frank "the Prime Minister" Costello," The Biography.com website,

<sup>14</sup> Chiocca, Olindo Romeo (2000). *Mobsters and thugs : quotes from the underworld*. Toronto: Guernica. p. 59.

allegiance to Maranzano where he became a made member (*caporegime*) of the Luciano family.<sup>15</sup>

### **Willie Moretti (*caporegime*)**

Willie Moretti's early crime career began after his immigration to New Jersey in 1894 from Puglia, Italy. He ran gambling dens that were based out of his homes in Hasbrouck Heights and Deal in Jersey while working with the Luciano crime family. In his gambling circuits that circulated through New Jersey and upstate New York, he had Joe Adonis and Abner Zwillman working with him. In the mid 1930s Moretti befriends unknown singer, Frank Sinatra, and helps book gigs and seal record deals in return for a percentage of Sinatra's earnings.

### **Michael "Trigger Mike" Coppola (*caporegime*)**

Mike Coppola was a New York born mobster who occupied a place of authority in the Luciano family from its founding. Born in 1904, Coppola was a hired hitman during the prohibition years, where he gained a reputation as a violent and sadistic

killer. Following the Castellammarese War, Coppola swore his allegiance to Luciano and Genovese. As *caporegime* he controls several of the Luciano criminal operations, including a monopoly on New York's artichoke supply and part of the Harem "Numbers Racket," worth over \$1,000,000 a year.

### **Angelo DeCarlo (*caporegime*)**

Born in Sicily in 1902, Angelo DeCarlo is a New Jersey based *capo* with ties to a variety of local loansharking operations. Among his associates are Abner Zwillman, the "Al Capone of New Jersey." He thus represents a bridge between the Luciano family and Zwillman's criminal operations, which include bootlegging, gambling and labor racketeering. DeCarlo is currently fighting for control of the "Juice Racket" or loansharking racket. He also possesses connections to certain corrupt New Jersey public officials.

### **Michele Miranda (*soldato*)**

Michele Miranda is one of Lucky Luciano's cohort: born in 1896 in Sicily, and with a ruthless effectiveness in his actions. In the

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<sup>15</sup> Sifkakis. *The Mafia Encyclopedia*. p. 38.



years before the rise of Joe Masseria, Miranda worked with Gaetano Reina and Gaetano Gagliano, later founders of the Lucchese family. During the Castellammarese War, however, he began to associate increasingly with Luciano, who made him made man in his family after Masseria's death. Though he is young, he has proved his worth in numerous operations with the family and is projected to move up the ranks quickly. The only *soldato* from the Luciano invited to Sal Maranzano's meeting of families, Miranda presents the perspective—and the abilities and resources—of a fighting man on the ground.

### **Thomas Eboli (*guardia del corpo*)**

Thomas Eboli, a young, Sicilian immigrant, spent his early American years as a boxer. When prohibition began, he worked as a bootlegger for a young Luciano, staying in the organization through to its current position of power. He eventually became a made man and a soldier. Now he holds the role of bodyguard to the boss and underboss (the *guardia del corpo*), the most coveted role a simple soldier can attain. In

that capacity, he frequently works as enforcer and hitman in addition to providing personal protection, assistance and reconnaissance for Luciano and Vito Genovese. It is estimated that he has carried out as many as 20 murders for the Luciano family.<sup>16</sup> He will be tasked with intercepting and breaking up all plots against Luciano by vigilantly watching those around him.

### **Samuel "Red" Levine (*giovane d'onore* – head of the Jewish hit squad)**

Born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1903, Samuel Levine gained his nickname through a combination of his red hair, his fiery temperament and his Jewish heritage. After an abortive naval career, Levine joined up with the infamous Murder, Inc. hit squad. He was one of the four gunmen who carried out the assassination of Joe Masseria in April of 1931.<sup>17</sup> Now working for Luciano, Levine is in charge of a special group of Jewish hitmen who carry out large numbers of targeted, contracted killings of family enemies. He thus is technically bound on pain of death to

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<sup>16</sup> "Rick Porrello's - AmericanMafia.com - Allan May, Organized Crime Historian and Journalist." Rick Porrello's - AmericanMafia.com - Allan May, Organized Crime Historian and Journalist.

<sup>17</sup> Fried, Albert (1980). *The rise and fall of the Jewish gangster in America*. Columbia University Press.

Luciano's command, but nonetheless possesses a great deal of firepower which reports to him personally.

**Anthony “Little Augie Pisano” Carfano (*giovane d'onore* – Florida lieutenant)**

Anthony Carfano began his career as a gunman under Frankie Yale, a powerful Brooklyn mobster who was killed in 1928. After Yale's death he joined up with the Luciano family and became a made man. Under Vito Genovese's instructions, Carfano was sent to Miami Beach, which was considered a “free city” for mob activities. His goal was to expand the Luciano's criminal empire beyond the reach of New York law enforcement. In Miami, Carfano heads several highly successful businesses, both illegal gambling rackets and legitimate spas and hotels. He represents a different perspective to the *capos* of New York, as well as a significant stream of revenue over which he has extensive control.

**Meyer Lansky (*giovane d'onore* – Jewish associate of Luciano)**

Meyer Lansky—the “accountant” of the mob— was born in 1902 in present day Belarus. He immigrated

to the United States along with his Polish-Jewish family in 1911 and settled in New York City's Lower East Side. Lansky befriended Bugsy Siegel in their early teens and became life-long friends as well as future partners in the bootlegging business. Later, both Siegel and Lansky formed a lasting partnership with Luciano and in 1931, Lansky was essential in the murder of Masseria. In 1920, Lansky and Siegel founded the Bugs and Meyer Mob, which grew a reputation as one of the most violent Prohibition gangs. Initially a supporter of Masseria during the Castellammarese War, Lansky was instrumental in the “humane” betrayal of himself, Luciano and others. In his partnership with Bugsy Siegel, he is known as the brains while Siegel is the brawn. As Jews, he and Siegel frequently rub up against Maranzano and his opposition to crossing ethnic boundaries in the mob.

**Bugsy Siegel (*giovane d'onore* – Jewish associate of Luciano)**

Bugsy Siegel was born in 1906 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn to a Polish-Jewish family from modern day Ukraine. He became friends with Meyer Lansky in their early boyhood years and formed the Jewish mob,

Bugs and Meyer Mob. By the late 1920's, Siegel was tied with Lucky Luciano and was one of the four gunman who shot Joe Masseria to death in 1931 under Luciano's orders. Siegel is widely known for his charismatic demeanor, good looks and blue eyes, as well as his violent temperament.<sup>18</sup> Bugsy and Meyer Lansky hold a strong relationship up to this day and remain involved in the Jewish mob activity outside the five families. Siegel was a founder of Murder Inc., though he no longer works with them. He possesses a small fortune, self-made if unstable.

worth millions, and was a long time associate of Al Capone. Extended gang wars with the rival Northside Gang eventually drove him out of Chicago, first to New York and then back to Italy. Fleeing, Mussolini, he returned to New York in 1928 and is now an advisor to many top mobsters, particularly Lucky Luciano. Now more concerned with legal businesses in bail-bond distribution, he is a strong supporter of introducing a national organization of bosses to replace the unstable *capo di tutti capi* arrangement and end the bloodshed that too often results.<sup>19</sup>

### **Johnny Torrio (*giovane d'onore* – former Chicago Boss)**

John Torrio, the “Elder Statesman” of the mafia, was born in southern Italy in 1882. By the time prohibition began in 1919, Torrio had already had a successful career in the New York Numbers Racket which the Luciano would come to control years later. That year he moved to Chicago at the behest of Chicago prostitution boss James Colosimo. In Chicago he cracked down on rival extortion, expanded his outfit's business to be

### **Ellsworth “Bumpy” Johnson (*giovane d'onore* – Harlem associate)**

Originally from Charleston, SC, Ellsworth Johnson fled lynch mobs when he was a child and settled in Harlem. From an early age he had a short temper and an aggression towards whites. Johnson spent nearly 15 of his first 30 years in jail for one crime or another. While working in part of the Harlem Numbers Racket, the Gangster Dutch Schultz attempted to take over the entire

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<sup>18</sup> "Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel – Flamingo Hotel and Casino." American Mafia History

<sup>19</sup> "Johnny Torrio | USA Mafia, Al Capone, Lucky Luciano, & More Gangsters Of Early America." USA Mafia Al Capone Lucky Luciano More Gangsters Of Early America Johnny Torrio Comment

operation and force operators like Johnson to pay him tribute. When Lucky Luciano had Schultz murdered, Johnson cut a deal with Luciano to pay tribute to him but keep control of the racket himself. The deal made him a hero in Harlem, the leader of Harlem crime, and, most importantly, the undisputed Harlem associate for the Luciano family. He was a friend of many black celebrities, including Billy Holiday and Sugar Ray Robinson. His nickname “Bumpy” came from an unusual bump on the back of his head.

## The Notorious Mangano Family

The Mangano Crime Family dates back to the late 19th century, with its original founder [Salvatore “Totò” D’Aquila](#). D’Aquila joined the Morello gang, arguably the first Italian gang in America. The D’Aquila family was joined with the Morello gang for roughly twenty years until the matriarch of the Morello gang, Giuseppe Morello was sent to prison, resulting in D’Aquila breaking off and forming his own gang in East Harlem. The D’Aquila quickly gained power as Toto had many connections in the underground world of New York City.<sup>20</sup> Toto continued to take over smaller gangs in New York, until in 1917, D’Aquila became the largest Italian gang in New York. In the 1920s, many other gangs spun off of the D’Aquila, including the previously mentioned Gagliano crime family as well as the Profaci crime family. Power was very sparsely dispersed amongst gangs, and the two main controllers in the

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<sup>20</sup> David Critchley, *The Origin of Organized Crime in America*. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2008. p. 43

1920s were Giuseppe “Joe the Boss” Masseria and D’Aquila.

In 1928, Salvatore D’Aquila was gunned down by the Masseria family, and D’Aquila’s second-in-command, Alfred Mineo became the head of the family.<sup>21</sup> This arrangement was quickly changed again, as Masseria murderers killed Mineo and the next-in-line Steve Ferrigno in 1930. As mentioned previously, Maranzano eventually won the Castellammarese War, declaring himself “Boss of Bosses.” Under the Five Families agreement, what was once the D’Aquila crime family soon became the Mangano family.<sup>22</sup>

Mangano has begun to turn his crime family into an iconic, recognizable, and well-feared group, emphasizing important important ideals like honor, tradition, and respect. All members of the Mangano family on this committee should display these aspects at all times to Mangano; those who do not will be punished severely. Mangano is also credited with starting the most feared group of hired killers ever in the mafia scene,

known as Murder Incorporated. This, in addition to the International Longshoremen’s Association, is one of the Mangano family’s main resources. However, the lack of centralized control over these outside agencies could prove problematic for the family as a whole should infighting increase dramatically in the coming months or years. Although each member of the Mangano family should act out of self-interest, undermining the family for the sake of undermining it will do no good for anyone.

The Mangano family controls almost all of the Manhattan waterfront and large sections of the trucking industry. Its criminal activities include bootlegging, racketeering, gambling, bookmaking, and narcotics. Along with the Luciano family, it is the largest and most powerful family in the country.

## **Mangano Family: List of Members**

### **Vincent Mangano (*capofamiglia*)**

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<sup>21</sup> Mike Dash, *The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder, and the Birth of the American Mafia*. Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2009. p. 79

<sup>22</sup> John H Davis, *Mafia Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the Gambino Crime Family*. New York: HarperCollins, 1993. pp. 108-109

Born in Palermo, Sicily, Mangano is an Italian immigrant who quickly found his path in America in the underground world of New York City.<sup>23</sup> He is known as “The Executioner” for his unforgiving tactics and frequent hobby of killing those who dare to disrespect him. As head of the Mangano family, Vincent has a strong focus on the old-world principles of honor, tradition, and respect. He, with the help of another Italian mobster, formed the City Democratic Club of New York, which promoted American values in the front room but was notoriously known for dealing illegally in the back. The Club has become a regular meeting place for the members of Murder Inc., and thus Mangano has come to know the corporation well. His continued appearance and influence at Brooklyn’s shipyards has allowed his gang to maintain a strong economic control of the city, with full access to all imports, while also granting him alliances in the International Longshoremen’s Association. Mangano is very possibly the most powerful criminal in New York, and has absolute authority to execute those who stand in his path towards supremacy. All

those serving Mangano hold themselves to the highest standard of etiquette, lest they should cross the Executioner. Any naval shipments, drug trading, or general criminal activity in New York is subject to the jurisdiction of Mangano, which he frequently enforces.

### **Albert Anastasia (*capo bastone*)**

Albert Anastasia is one of the most ruthless killers in New York, and a leading figure of the rising mercenary group Murder Inc. Anastasia illegally entered the United States with his three brothers in 1919, and started working as longshoremen on the Brooklyn waterfront. His cunning and ingenuity has won him many battles: after he was sentenced to death, all of the witnesses accusing him mysteriously vanished, so in an eventual retrial he was found innocent. In his day job as a longshoreman, Anastasia rose to a position of power in the International Longshoremen’s Association, a key role in helping mafia families smuggle illegal goods into and out of the country. Anastasia usually allies himself with the highest bidder; he murdered all those ahead of Lucky Luciano to ensure Lucky a leadership

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<sup>23</sup> Selwyn Raab, *Five Families: The Rise, Decline, and Resurgence of America's Most Powerful Mafia Empires*. New York: St. Martin Press, 2005. p. 60



position, and himself a “piece of the action.” On April 15th, 1931, he allegedly participated in the murder of Masseria, along with Vito Genovese, Joe Adonis, and Bugsy Siegel.<sup>24</sup> Anastasia is not trusted by Mangano and his brother Philip, and as Anastasia continues to grow more powerful within Murder Incorporated, Mangano and Philip trust him less and less. Anastasia’s control of naval trade as well as Murder Inc. awards him invaluable resources for the Mangano family, which he will likely use over the course of committee.

### **Philip Mangano (*consigliere*)**

Philip Mangano, the brother of Vincent, plays a central leadership role in the Mangano family, as well as the International Longshoremen’s Association.<sup>25</sup> Philip will have a large impact on the decisions made by Vincent due to his personal connection as well as his professional one. As the *consigliere* of the Mangano family, he plays a significant advisory role, aiding

Vincent’s decision-making. He also frequently involves himself in the exportation and importation of illicit goods, and is in control of a large source of the Mangano family’s revenue. Mangano is likely to communicate frequently with Vincent directly, allowing him to subtly influence the direction of committee without taking hard action himself or even having to persuade his peers.

### **Carlo Gambino (*caporegime*)**

Carlo Gambino’s roots trace back to the Honored Society of Europe, a disorganized branch of the Black Hand.<sup>26</sup> Gambino was involved in the executions of many high level Italian mobsters, until in 1921 he was introduced to the American mafia and became a “made man.” Gambino’s sheer grit and determination is exemplified by his journey to America: he lived solely off of anchovies and wine for the entire trip.<sup>27</sup> His rise to power continued throughout 1926, under Masseria. Siding with Lucky Luciano in the Castellammarese war, he played a

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<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> Helen Delich, Ganging Up on the Water Front. Baltimore Sun, 1954.

<sup>26</sup> Davis, p. 56

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, p. 19

key role in taking down Masseria after siding with Vangano. Gambino married Catherine Castellano, his first cousin, in 1926, and had four children with her. Gambino's most profitable ventures are loansharking, illegal gambling, and protection rackets, and have brought a large profit to the Mangano family. He is likely to utilize his profits for leverage throughout committee.

### **Frank “Wacky” Scalice (caporegime)**

Frank Scalice, a resident of the Bronx and originally from Sicily, was capo under D'Aquila and Masseria prior the Castellammarese war. Some refer to Scalice simply as “Wacky” for his constant humor and uplifting attitude, although Scalice is frequently gory and ruthless in his executions of rivals. Scalice took advantage of the disorganization of the New York mafia during the war, and took over the family lead by Alfred “Al Mineo” Manfredi, the successor to D'Aquila.<sup>28</sup> During his brief period as boss, Scalice forged a strong bond with Maranzano,<sup>29</sup> and supported him throughout the war.

Scalice was given a seat on the Commission after the Castellammarese war, and held his seat from May until September of 1931, when Lucky forced him to resign after the death of Scalice's ally, Maranzano. The current boss, Vincent Mangano, took his place, and it is probable that Scalice continues to harbor resentment toward Mangano over this. It is for Scalice to decide his attitude towards Mangano during our committee, and whether or not Scalice will offer the new boss guidance and forge an alliance or whether he will continue the cycle of betrayal by turning on him. Scalice runs a casino business which consistently earns money for the Mangano family, which he is likely to use for the benefit of both the family and himself.

### **Joseph “JB” Biondo (caporegime)**

Joseph Biondo, frequently known as JB, is an active criminal entrepreneur whose businesses span from real estate and automotive sales to shipping. Biondo is famous for his stout height and more-than-healthy weight, but most importantly his

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<sup>28</sup> Federico Varese, *Mafias on the Move: How Organized Crime Conquers New Territories*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (1 February 2013): pp. 118-119

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid*, p. 49



ruthless attitude.<sup>30</sup> He is also notoriously uncaring in his criminal proceedings: Biondo has been arrested several times, although mostly on small and unsubstantial charges such as narcotics possession. JB contains an impressive criminal record, including homicides, extortion, and possession of illegal firearms. He is also an opportunist, and took great advantage of Prohibition to make a substantial profit off of bootlegging.<sup>31</sup> Biondo's use of racketeering has earned him many friends, and his alliances will be invaluable to our family's proceedings in committee. JB's community influence also earns him a substantial say in the family's proceedings, with his numerous and loved community business ventures. Biondo will have the unilateral power to communicate with criminals throughout the city, and can utilize his "friends" in New York's finest to help maintain peace in the family.

### **Stephen "14th Street Steve" Armone (*caporegime*)**

Stephen Armone, nicknamed "14th Street Steve," is a leader of the illegal gambling community in downtown Manhattan and a major player in the New York drug distribution market. A Sicilian immigrant, Steve's life is a colorful collection of illegal activities like armed battery and assault.<sup>32</sup> His influence in the community of the Lower East Side mainly stems from his involvement in the narcotics community, and has become well known to all druggies of the part of the city. Steve's signature limp notifies all those around of his presence, a useful tool in his drug smuggling ventures. His drug trade brings many desperate people to his front door, and thus Armone has many people severely indebted to him. Those who owe 14th Street Steve money frequently pay it off in methods other than monetary ones: he has escaped arrests and indictments many times.<sup>33</sup> In our committee, in addition to his

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<sup>30</sup> Raab, p. 75

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*, p. 81

<sup>32</sup> Bureau of Narcotics, U.S. Treasury Department, "Mafia: the Government's Secret File on Organized Crime, HarperCollins Publishers 2007.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*.

gambling community, Armone will control a large part of the New York drug trade, and can act unilaterally on the supply and demand of certain narcotics. Most of Armone's operations happen on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, where he spends large periods of time throughout the week.

### **Carmine “Charley Wagons” Fatico (*soldato*)**

Carmine “Charley Wagons” Fatico is a cunning mobster in New York who runs an influential ground transportation industry in the Mangano family, thus earning the nickname “Charley Wagons.”<sup>34</sup> Carmine and his brother, Daniel Fatico, work hard together to hijack transport trucks in New York and undermine legal establishments throughout New York. Other hobbies of Charley include bookmaking and felonious assault.<sup>35</sup> During our committee, Charley will have some access to the transportation of major criminals, and frequently aids in the assassinations of mob members.

### **Carmine “The Doctor” Lombardozzi (*soldato*)**

Carmine Lombardozzi is an extremely wealthy broker on Wall St. and has a deep understanding of the inner workings of the stock market. Just 18 years of age at the time of our committee, Lombardozzi is one of the youngest members of the family. From his early childhood, he has been a prodigy with numbers, and thus has made enormous gains through trading in the stock market.<sup>36</sup> Because of this, Lombardozzi has unrivalled access to the financial capabilities of the Mangano family, but almost always uses this access to continue to expand the wealth of the family.

### **Aniello “The Tall Guy” Dellacroce (*soldato*)**

Aniello “The Tall Guy” Dellacroce is a first generation Italian immigrant who keeps a low profile in his criminal activities, often using disguises and body doubles. He has

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<sup>34</sup> Davis, p. 142

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> Gary Weiss, *Born to steal: when the Mafia hit Wall Street*. New York (2003): Warner Books, pp. 8-24.

even been known to dress as a priest and walk around Manhattan calling himself “Father O’Neil.”<sup>37</sup> Dellacroce is a cold-blooded mobster, described as the “archangel of death.” He can be found running the scene at various social clubs from behind the curtain, working all around the city but especially in Little Italy, his home neighborhood. Dellacroce has taken a strong anti-drug stance throughout his career, strongly discouraging the use of drug trade for money, and must take a stance in committee to face off with names like 14th Street Steve and Scalice. He must decide whether to uphold his own morals in the face of hard times, or work together with other members of the family for all of our economic benefit. Anastasia and Aniello have a longstanding relationship, and Aniello would benefit enormously under an Anastasian rule.

### **Gioacchino “Trigger Man” Parisi (*guardia del corpo*)**

Gioacchino Parisi is a henchman for the Mangano family in every sense of the word; Parisi works hard as a bodyguard and executioner under

Murder Inc.<sup>38</sup> Parisi is known for his muscle and brute, but mainly focuses on carrying out the wishes of those he devotes himself to. Under Anastasia, Parisi has grown from a standard workman in the shipping force of Brooklyn to a notorious executioner. Parisi was known as the “trigger man” because of his role in executions carried out by Murder Inc. Parisi is a master of strangling and shooting those who betray him, but has recently used more finesse through methods like poison, and is extremely experienced in assassinating those he (or his superiors) need taken out. Parisi is in charge of protecting Mangano by obstructing all plots against him despite his allegiance to Anastasia.

### **Louis “Lepke” Buchalter (*giovane d’onore* – co-head of Murder Inc.)**

Louis Buchalter, often times known as “Lepke” after “Little Louis” in Yiddish, is the head of Murder Inc., and has recently risen to power along with his friend and partner in crime Jacob Shapiro. Lepke, unlike many others in the Mangano family, is an American-born mobster, with a father

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<sup>37</sup> Arnold H. Lubasch, “Reputed Crime Leader Indicted for Tax Evasion.” *New York Times*, (May 3, 1972).

<sup>38</sup> Alan Block, *East Side, West Side: Organizing Crime in New York, 1930-1950*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers (1983), p. 183

from Russia.<sup>39</sup> His unorthodox experiences have lead to his eventual control of the garment industry's labor unions, which he has been exploiting for personal gain. Lepke's recent marriage of August 1931 has made him more willing to work together with others, as seen through his continuous optimization of contract killings in Murder Inc. Buchalter's influence extends beyond just the criminal world, though: his previous experience with labor unions and labor racketeering allow him to make a significant impact on the public opinion of the mafia and specifically the Mangano family. Lepke will have to decide the fate of Murder Inc. and attempt to continue the growth of an already seemingly omniscient organization.

**Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro (*giovane d'onore* – co-head of Murder Inc.)**

Jacob Shapiro, a first generation Russian immigrant Jew, controls New York labour racketeering along with his partner Louis Buchalter. Shapiro and Buchalter agreed to a partnership early on, when they

encountered each other while trying to rob the same pushcart. Commonly known as "Gurrah" for his immense strength and muscle, Shapiro focuses on the implementation part of Murder Inc., providing a key role in executions.<sup>40</sup> Shapiro and Lepke work together to expand the scope of Murder Inc. while continuing allegiance to the Mangano family as well as maintaining a healthy relationship with the labor markets of New York. Shapiro and Lepke will share many unilateral powers, but should focus on working in conjunction to parallel their infamous partnership.

**Anthony Anastasio (*giovane d'onore* – President of the International Longshoremen's Association)**

Anthony Anastasio, a brother of Albert Anastasia's, is a controller and president of the International Longshoremen's Association and pivotal ally to the Mangano family. Anastasio came to America with his family illegally sometime between 1917 and 1924, to find jobs as

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<sup>39</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, "Louis Lepke Buchalter." FBI Records: The Vault.

<sup>40</sup> Block, p. 68

deckhands in Brooklyn.<sup>41</sup> Anastasio is key in expanding the influence of Murder Inc., Anastasia, and Vincent Mangano throughout low-class neighborhoods in the city. Anastasio will have access to all shipping records and supplies, for the facilitation of the Mangano family's goals.

**Emil Camarda (*giovane d'onore* – Vice President of the International Longshoremen's Association)**

Emil Camarda, the Vice President of the ILA, is an important regulator of naval trade in the New York Area. Many speculate that nothing gets in or out of the New York harbour without Camarda knowing of it. He often also engages in lower-level criminal activity, like extortion, assault, and robbery, although much of this is for his own entertainment. Emil Camarda granted the Mangano family a large part of the control of New York's harbor system, and together with Vincent Mangano, Camarda established the City Democratic Club to gain both public influence and criminals' trust.<sup>42</sup> As a

leading member of both organizations, Camarda's influence in the general population and the criminal community will be invaluable in our committee. Depending on the execution of his skills and connections, Camarda's influence over New York's naval trading could transform the economic capabilities of the Mangano family.

**Nicola Gentile (*messaggero*)**

Nicola Gentile is a generally low-level mafioso who frequently involves in doing the bidding of higher-level mafia members. After Gentile arrived in the United States in 1903, he quickly became involved in the Black Hand.<sup>43</sup> He is known for his adeptness in negotiations and troubleshooting, and is frequently brought in as a third-party mediator for inter- and intra-family conflicts. Gentile has been working diligently lately detailing the every move of mafia members, for reasons that all are curious as to. Many suspect him of giving away the information of our family, but none are sure as to the real reasons for his prolific writing.

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<sup>41</sup> *Ibid*, p. 130

<sup>42</sup> Davis, p. 84

<sup>43</sup> John Dickie, *Cosa Nostra. A history of the Sicilian Mafia*, London: Coronet (2004). p. 102

## Portfolio Powers and Further Resources

Like any other crisis committee, each of the two sections of this JCC will depend heavily on both the debate and the written actions of that committee. Below, we will outline what portfolio powers may be used by individuals or committees as a whole, keeping in mind both the structure of the mob family as well as the resources at its disposal.

### Possible Portfolio Tools

#### Committee Actions: Directives/Communiqués

Though directives and communiqués are two distinct portfolio tools, we have grouped them together because of what they have in common: they are written and approved by the committee as a whole, with full transparency internally. Directives consist of actions that the committee wishes to take or plans it wishes to enact while communiqués are messages that the committee wishes to send to any outside party (including the counterpart committee or a member of that committee).

Directive actions must realistically lie within the ability of the committee given its resources, and both directives and communiqués require the approval of the majority of members. However, the *capofamiglia* reserves the right to veto any action or message that the committee wishes to take or send should it go against his will. Directives/communiqués should be labeled as such at the top; legibly written with clear and precise instructions, demands, or information; and sent to the director with a list of sponsors at the top. Vague or implausible directives/communiqués will be automatically vetoed. If passed, a directive or communiqué represents a real time action taken by the committee, and will be reflected in subsequent crisis updates.

#### Personal Actions: Private Orders/Messages

As an individual, you are also able to change the direction of committee either to the benefit of all or for personal gain by writing personal action orders. You may disclose these actions to your committee if you so choose, but are also welcome to keep them private. Keep in mind, however, that while you may wish to



keep your private actions secret from the other committee members, everything you do has a real-world consequence and thus risks being exposed publicly and that any personal action you take that the committee or the *capofamiglia* deems treacherous or unhelpful could endanger your position in the family. Just like directives/communiqués, any personal action order should be labeled as either a “private order” or a “private message” with a clear indication of who is sending and who is receiving. A private order can only be sent to someone who your character outranks or has control over. In the case of family members (*consiglieri* excluded, as they are mere advisors), anyone below you in the hierarchy is fair game; in the case of anyone not in the family, the personal connections you have as specified above should guide your understanding of who or what you control. Here are a few examples of unilateral actions that can be taken: arrange a covert meeting with someone outside of committee, leak true or false information, order surveillance operations or hit jobs, impersonate rivals, or use personal connections to bribe.

### **Special Personal Action: Retirement**

In the mafia it was relatively common practice to “retire” from criminal activity in order to avoid being killed off. Similarly, rivals would often force one another to retire when they wanted to be rid of someone without murdering them. Should you find yourself cornered, you will face the same choice as so many mafiosos before you. Should you choose to retire, you will be allowed to return to committee in a different role which we assign you, one that is preferable to that which you would be assigned if you were killed. While we may wonder as to why you got yourself into a situation where you were on the verge of being killed, we will not think less of you for choosing to save your own skin if you think there is truly nothing you can do to avert your fate. For those that are attempting to take down an opponent, feel free to use this option to your advantage by creating a sense of false danger for those around you.

## **Committee Resources**

### **Family Connections**

All members of the committee hold some family connections, but those closest to being blood relatives of the

*capofamiglia* hold the most. Anyone below you in the familial hierarchy who is not in committee is fair game to boss around, and you may communicate with anyone in the family who you know well. If you are a *caporegime*, it is necessary to send orders to your *soldati*. Particularly for *soldati*, *caporegimi*, and the *capo bastone*, family connections will be the main source of action and information.

### Private Connections

In addition to the connections that some may have through the family, all allies and a few high-ranking family members will have connections to outside organizations. For the Manganos, these consist primarily of Murder Incorporated and the International Longshoremen's Association. Especially if you are a *giovane d'onore*, private connections are crucial to you.

### Other Crime Families

Of course, interaction between the Luciano and Mangano families is not only tolerated but encouraged. However, there exist many crime factions in America, including the three other New York families (the Maranzano, Gagliano, and Profaci),

the Chicago Outfit, and various minor families across the nation. The Luciano family in particular has connections to the Buffalo, Philadelphia, and Patriarca (New England) families. Whether the purpose is friendly (an alliance) or oppositional (waging war), reaching out to other families is likely to make committee more dynamic and complex. Especially if you are a *messaggero* or *consigliere*, other crime families are worth negotiating with.

### Politicians, Media Outlets, and Law Enforcement Agencies

The NYPD and FBI will likely be involved in your committee experience whether or not you contact them, so why not act preemptively? Leaking false information, framing other people, and bribing officers are all excellent ways to get yourself or your family ahead in this dog-eat-dog world. Paying off officers in the Bureau of Prohibition (part of the Department of Justice) may be necessary in order to sell liquor. The committee as a whole (through communiqués) can contact media outlets as a means of creating press releases. Especially if you are a *capo bastone* or *caporegime*, controlling law



enforcement agencies and politicians is essential to surviving.

## Suggestions for Further Research

Our simulation begins in September of 1931, several months after the death of Joe Masseria. This means that while every event that took place before that date is completely valid for the purposes of the committee, every event that took place after that date *is not*. As delegates on these wondrous committees, you will have the opportunity to rewrite the timeline according to your own wills. However, this freedom brings about a few important notes for research.

As the simplest of google searches will reveal, Salvatore Maranzano's rule as *capo di tutti capi* lasted only six months. He was assassinated on order of Lucky Luciano, who then proceeded to set up the commission, a loosely democratic body of the bosses from all the major American families. Whether or not you seek to follow the real life events is up to you; you should weigh the benefits of this and any other course of action you may take according to your *interest*, and decide from there which you will promote at different times

during the committee. Will you indeed create the commission? Will you set up a new rule with your boss or even yourself as *capo di tutti capi*? Or will you invent some creative third approach, which combines elements of each? Or even something no one has seen or considered before?

As you consider these options, though we will diverge from the course of history, it will prove useful to research the major developments in the mafia during the 80 years since the start of the committee. This includes Lucky Luciano's establishment of the Commission and the National Crime Syndicate, the Havana and Apalachin Conferences, and Joseph Bonnano's failed attempt to take over the Five Families during the 1960's.

Finally, while watching the Godfather and Godfather Part II is not *required* research, it is highly recommended (and highly enjoyable). Let us just say that without the Godfather films, this committee would not exist. You would do well not to miss the occasional reference which we may insert into the flow of committee.