

Musical Footsteps and Legal Ways

I. LAWYER & MUSICIAN



Any follower of a rock group can visibly attest to the tremendous mental and physical energy expended in a single performance, even a single song. Imagine the pressure on one person actually managing, performing, composing and arranging the music for a very popular and overachieving Midwest band while running a successful law practice at the

same time.

Such a person is Mike Roman, a charismatic musician and multi-talented entertainer whose insatiable ambition has contributed to his tremendous success, both as leader and founder of The Tellstars and as a civil and criminal lawyer on the Southeast side of Chicago. “Law is my profession and music is



my passion. Whether I am trying a case before a judge or jury or performing in front of



an audience, both are one and the same and both careers complement each other,” Roman stated during one of his many television and radio interviews.



In the 1970's, Mike's Latin style and melodic lead guitar caught the ear of Latin legend and Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame member, Jose "Chepito" Areas, at a college concert at Northern Illinois University. Soon after, "Chepito," best known as the original timbale player and composer for the internationally known band Santana, invited Mike to perform with the group in a New Year's Eve jam session in San Francisco.

II. ROOTS

Born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, to Dr. Miguel Román and María Hernández de Román, Mike was educated at the prestigious Colegio Cervantes Centro, a Marist Brothers elementary religious institution where he received his share of scholastic awards and joined the Cub Scouts. Although Dr. Román had passed away when Mike was a year old, Mike followed in his father's and paternal aunt's musical footsteps taking up the guitar and piano at the age of twelve. His father played the violin and his aunt, Maria de Jesús Román, played the piano.

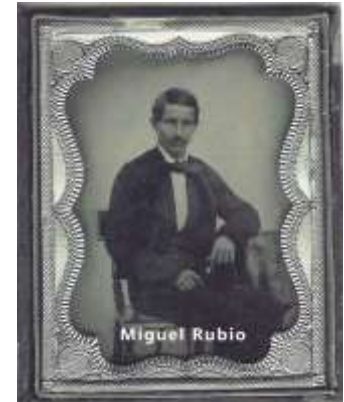


The Romans, one of the oldest family trees in Guadalajara, was a long line of professionals, including doctors, gold, gilders, accountants, jewelers and musicians who were well known and respected throughout the provincial city and in the neighboring towns.

The advent of the Mexican Revolution in 1910, led by Francisco I. Madero, along with generals Francisco "Pancho" Villa, Emiliano Zapata,

Rodolfo Fierro and Felipe Angeles, against the dictatorships of generals Porfirio Diaz, Victoriano Huerta, Venustiano Carranza and Alvaro Obregon, was destined to change Mexico's society and economy and to cause the upper class to leave the country to escape the turmoil and economic catastrophe surrounding the revolution.

Mr. Abraham Roman, Mike's great-grandfather and family patriarch, along with his son Antonio Roman and his wife, the Spanish-French Angelita Rubio, joined her brother Miguel Rubio and his family, and immigrated to Phoenix, Arizona where their eight children, including their youngest, Miguel, (Mike's father), attended school until the family returned to Mexico at the end of the bloody and tumultuous hostilities in 1923.



Mr. Encarnacion Hernández, Mike's maternal grandfather and paterfamilias, was a traveling wine merchant and farmer whose wife, Maria Lozano, and their twelve offspring, were also detrimentally affected by the same armed agrarian conflict which ultimately resulted in a substantial reduction of the family's Hacienda

estate of El Rancho Ocotillo de San Jose de Las Flores, Jalisco, Mexico, forcing Mike's mother and the majority of her siblings to leave the farm and move to Guadalajara where the men worked as taxi drivers and the women earned livings as seamstresses.

III. GROWING UP



After Dr. Roman had passed away, infant Mike, along with his widow mother and his older sister Delia, moved in with his maternal grandmother near the downtown Cathedral of Guadalajara. As he was growing up he made lots of neighborhood friends with whom the popular boy formed a club that called themselves, “The 10 Most Wanted.”

This mischievous juvenile gang of “Oliver Twist pirates” had decided to make an old colonial Inn, that was located next door to Mike’s house, into their own private playground and daydreamed about finding the buried



treasure, which according to legend, was somewhere within the Inn’s six-foot thick walls. “El Mesón Del Refugio,” (The Refuge Inn), with its Romanesque arches and stone paved patios, was a landmark which had been built by the

Spanish as a fort and trading post in the 16th century and was later converted into a market warehouse and hotel.



Like modern day “Trojan Horse Warriors,” the gang would penetrate the inn by jumping on top of delivery trucks as they arrived to unload their fresh cargo inside the patio-parking lot. The stowaways would remain hidden beneath the tarp until the truck driver would leave to check in with the innkeeper, and take his



usual siesta. The “pirates” would then quickly “confiscate” dairy products, fruits, and vegetables, making their getaway through the rear patio, climbing the rooftops and returning to Mike’s house. The “escape artists” would make house calls, “wheeling and dealing” the merchandise to cooperating housewives, and with the profits, the gang would go to the movies at the Roxy Theatre, attend Rock n’ Roll shows, which featured national recording groups of the era, and watch Lucha Libre (wrestling matches) with El Santo and Blue Demon at El Coliseo. They would also buy tickets to the bullfights featuring Gaston Santos, an action movie star and rejerneador who fought bulls not on foot but entirely on horseback at La Plaza de Toros, El Progreso.

Inevitably, one day an alert truck driver discovered the stowaways, and chased them until he managed to corner them in the building’s rear patio, which led into a livestock corral. Caught between “a rock and a hard place,” Mike and his “Goonies” had no choice other than to pull the corral gate open, allowing an 800-pound prize bull to run out of the building and into the busy street. The distraction provided the juveniles with their getaway, even amid the barrage of empty bottles, and rotten eggs being thrown at them, but it also caused an animal stampede, as the startled animals jumped their enclosures, trampling over several ducks and chickens, and damaging an old single engine airplane, which had been stored inside the patio.





Luckily, a security guard managed to close the main doors preventing the menagerie of animals gone wild from swarming into the street and joining the roaming bull outside in the now chaotic scene. Fortunately, for everyone concerned, the ferocious bull was lassoed by an experienced cowboy hand before substantial property damage had taken place, other than slight damage to several food stands along with the corner candy man's table stand, or before any frightened bystanders were seriously injured.



Although the “running of the bull’s rampage” made city news, and the neighborhood food vendors were certainly “up in arms,” no formal charges were ever filed against any of the “young rascals.” Instead, the innkeeper was given a hefty fine for keeping a wild bull without a city permit and ordered by the judge to pay the food vendors for their damages.



Needless to say, this would be the last time the ring leader and his trouble-makers would set foot inside the historic Inn, which was part of the swift punishment that they received from their angry parents, some of whom threatened to put their child in a boys town. Mike's mother was living in Chicago at the time, so it fell upon his strict grandmother, Maria Hernandez Lozano, to discipline him, and she almost sent him back to the private boarding house, where his mother had left him interned a few months



earlier.

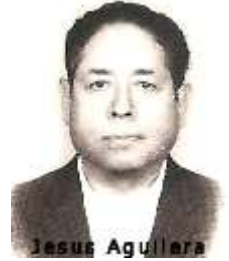


In 1970, while the Inn was being demolished to make way for a city park, several gold ingots and thousands of Spanish silver coins known as “Pieces of Eight” along with some skeletons were found inside the walls of the Inn by the city’s wrecking crew. A secret underground tunnel leading directly across the street from the Inn to El Refugio Church located on the corner was also discovered. The tunnel had been used in the late 1920’s by the Cristeros, a group of rebels led by Gen. Enrique Gorostieta, Victoriano “El Catorce” Ramirez and Jose Vega, who modeled themselves after Mexican Revolution heroes, and rose up against the government of President Calles after he outlawed the free exercise of religion for Catholics. In 2000 Pope John Paul II canonized a group of twenty-five saints and martyrs from the Cristeros’ uprising, including Father Cristobal Magallanez and Father Agustin Caloca. In 2012, the story of the Cristiada movement, the most significant relapse into bloodshed since the 1910 Revolution, was portrayed in the Hollywood movie starring Andy Garcia and Eva Longoria, “For Greater Glory.”



IV. A PASSION FOR MUSIC

In addition to learning a valuable lesson about the consequences of his bad behavior and ending the gang's juvenile misadventures, something good came from the fiasco. The Rock n' Roll shows sparked Mike's passionate love affair with music, along with some of his followers, and served as the catalyst for learning to play an instrument, motivating them to transform themselves from a group of juvenile delinquents and "rebels without a cause" into a band of wannabe musicians, calling themselves "Los Pumas Boys."



Meanwhile, Mike got a job at water purification plant, delivering bottled water to neighborhood residents, including some of the same housewives, who had been his previous customers, and soon convinced his boss to hire some of his friends. With their first wages, they bought a set of maracas and bongos. But since they could not afford to buy the more expensive instruments, they used a drum set made out of metal cookie containers, cardboard boxes, and firewood "drum sticks." His cousin and godmother, Raquel de Santiago, bought him his first acoustic guitar, and he learned guitar chord patterns, along with flowing melodies of Mexican folkloric music from Jesús Aguilera, a renowned bolero guitarist and singer, who was a guest at Mike's house at the time.



Mike was also influenced by the romantic music of El Trio Los Panchos and the duet/movie stars, Los Hermanos David and Juan Zaizar. (Mike's cousin Laura was

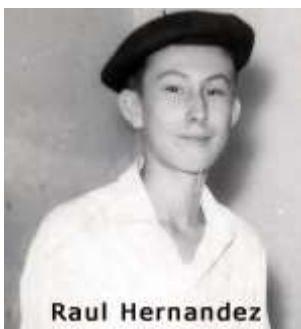


married to Juan Zaizar and Juan wanted to take Mike with him to Mexico City for musical training, but Mrs. Roman refused to grant him permission). Mike also learned how to play guitar by watching Mariachis perform around his Guadalajara neighborhood. The influence of Mariachi music

would be a significant factor in Mike's guitar playing which helped him master Carlos Santana's melodic fluency and sustained tone. (Carlos himself was a gifted violin player in his father's Mariachi band before switching to the guitar.)

Mike had certainly been inspired by the Rock bands he saw at the shows in Mexico, some of whom Mike would eventually meet, including, Cesar Costa, Enrique Guzman, Ricardo Roca, Los Rebeldes de Rock featuring Johnny Laboriel, Los Hermanos Carrion, Los Teen Tops, Los Hooligans featuring Johnny Ortega, Los Locos Del Ritmo, and Los Rogers.

Mike's cousin Raul Hernandez, with his record collection of Elvis Presley, Bill Haley and His Comets, Chuck Berry, Lil' Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis and



Chubby Checker, exposed young Mike to American Rock n' Roll music providing yet another, even greater, influence on the aspiring musician. Indeed, Mike's love and passion for music helped him to endure the



emotional experience of having left behind his extended family and childhood friends in Mexico, and also enabled him to overcome the many obstacles and meet the challenges he encountered in the United States.

V. COMING TO AMERICA

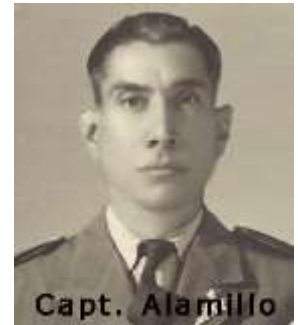


In the spring of 1963, Mike's devoted mother returned to Guadalajara to attend his grade school graduation from El Colegio Cervantes and also to make final preparations for the two of them to come to America.



Gen. de Alba

Mike wanted to remain in Mexico and attend public high school. After graduation he planned to enroll in the Air Force Cadet Academy where his uncles, Brigadier Gen. Carlos de Alba and Capt.



Capt. Alamillo

Adonay Alamillo had attended. This was the same place where some of the pilots of the famous Squadron 201 had graduated from and went on to fight against the Japanese Imperial Air Force in the Philippines during WWII. But Mrs. Roman remained steadfast in her decision to immigrate to America. Subsequently, mother and son arrived in the United States a few weeks before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, joining Mike's sister who was living in Chicago with her maternal aunt, Pachita Martinez and her husband Jimmy Martinez



Aunt Pachita, a surrogate mother to Delia and Mike, worked at the South Shore Country Club and Uncle Jimmy "the Clown," as he was affectionately known to everyone, was a steelworker and an accomplished musician who had played drums with a Latin combo called "The Hungry Five" back in the 50's. Uncle Jimmy's compassionate and kind heart made him everyone's favorite and he was always "the life of the party." Uncle Jimmy loved Mike and treated him like the son he never saw, and orphaned Mike loved him more than the father he never knew.



Uncle Jimmy guided Mike through his transition from Mexican teen to an American as the young immigrant searched

for self-identity and struggled to survive the collision of the two cultures without the benefit of bilingual education at that time. Uncle Jimmy also cultivated and influenced Mike’s early interest in the History of WWII introducing him to his brother Army Veteran Gilbert “Chato” Martinez, who had fought on D-Day’s first assault wave on bloody Omaha Beach at Normandy, France on June 6,1944. Uncle Jimmy also introduced Mike to the recordings of Latin Jazz music greats George Shearing and Cal Tjader along with Mambo King, Armando Peraza, the famous Cuban percussionist who Mike one day would perform with on stage along with Santana.

VI. TRAGEDY STRIKES

Unfortunately, in the fall of 1964, a tragic car accident took the lives of Uncle Jimmy, Uncle Jose Hernandez, and Uncle/godfather Louie Garcia, along with serious personal injuries to Mike’s mother, and his two aunts Pachita Martinez and Carmen Garcia.

Mike’s six cousins, the Garcia children, were also injured in the crash, which took place on the way to a picnic in St. Joseph, Michigan. Mike and his friends



Hector Cortez and Alfonso Alfaro had gone to the movies at the Commercial

Theatre that day.





The extraordinary tragedy caused devastating economic and emotional consequences for the entire family, particularly on young Mike who felt the terrible loss of his surrogate father had made him an orphan all over again. Overwhelmed by the sudden loss, Mike turned his melancholy and the infinite sadness into music to drown his sorrow and to fill his loneliness, finding solace by listening to a Bill Haley and Marty Robbins song named “Jimmy Martinez,” which was released around the same time in 1964, and by remembering that his aunts, María de Jesús Román and Lola Román, had once told him “music is the art of being able to express the feelings and emotions of your soul.” Ironically, both Mike’s father, Dr. Roman, and his Uncle Jimmy were forty-one years old when they passed away.



VII. STUDENT, BOY SCOUT & BAND LEADER

Mike, a product of the Chicago Catholic School system, attended Our Lady of Elementary School where he learned English, became a Boy Scout and bought an electric guitar with the money he earned working a paper route. He graduated Guadalupe from the Saints Peter and Paul Grammar School where he served as captain of the patrol boys in 8th Grade. This was also where he initially formed The Tellstars and won the Hootenanny talent show.



Mike worked part-time as a dishwasher and a bus boy during the summer while attending Saint Francis De Sales H.S., where he is still actively involved, both as a guest speaker on career days and as a chairperson for his high school class reunions. In the 1980s, he served on the School Board and in 1996, he was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

VIII. COLLEGE, POLITICS & MUSIC

Mike went on to graduate from the University of Illinois with a double major in European History and Political Science. He was elected during his senior year to the Student Government Assembly and served as chairperson of the Appropriations and Chancellors' Disciplinary Committees.



In his senior year, with the guidance of moderators Professor Milton Rakove and Dr. Romeo Pallotto, along with the assistance of his college roommates Louie Nodal and Hector Rodriguez, Mike served as college student coordinator and field campaign manager of his attorney mentor, 10th ward Alderman and Cook County Party Chairman, Edward Vrdolyak,



in a political race for Cook County Assessor. Mike also worked part-time as a union representative for United Retail Workers Union in the Chicago land area and at the Chicago Park District to pay for college tuition. It was during

his college senior year that he met Santana and jammed with them in San Francisco.



IX. LAW SCHOOL & MUSICAL ENDEAVORS

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree, Mike enrolled at DePaul University College of Law where he was elected to the

Dean's Advisory Committee and was chairperson of the Latino Law Student Association's Public Relations Committee. He appeared on numerous Chicago radio and television talk shows with such





distinguished local and legal celebrities such as the late Dean Richard Groll, Dean Leigh Taylor, the late Professor Richard Turkington, federal judge David Coar, the first Latino judge



David Cerda, and the late judge Jose Vazquez. The media exposure helped raise thousands of dollars for future Hispanic law student scholarships. He has continued to serve his alma mater as Chairperson for his law school class reunions and remains active in the recruitment of Latino law students.

Having performed with The Tellstars throughout his high school and college years, Mike simultaneously pursued academic and musical careers. As an enterprising freshman law student, he organized and developed Tellstar Productions, Inc., a musical endeavor engineered to provide high-quality rock groups to the Southeast side of Chicago, which promoted a long string of big name acts at Alderman Edward Vrdolyak's concert hall, "The Club."



During his second year in law school, Mike took aim to uncover the specific causes behind the drop-out problem at local high schools and



decided to use music and comedy as the vehicle to convey the message that would encourage students to remain in school. He arranged for "Two on Two," a CBS TV program with Walter Jacobson and Bill Curtis, to profile Bowen High School regarding their high attrition dilemma.

During a series of free rock concerts, Mike communicated to the students that the only future for dropouts was becoming "The Mayor of Drop-Out City." The concert performance by The Tellstars provided the background theme for "The Mayor of

Drop-Out City.” Its sequel, “Operation Over-Drug-Lord,” an innovative drug awareness music-video program, created and produced by Mike Roman and Tellstar Productions, Inc., was broadcast on cable T.V. and shown to Chicago high school students.



X. JURIS DOCTOR

Mike, the first South Chicago Latino to receive a Juris Doctor Degree from DePaul Law School, worked for Mayor Daley’s budgetary division and later for the Chicago Police Office of Professional Standards. Mike then founded Tellstar Records, Inc., to serve as the label for his group to record their first album titled, “The Tellstars featuring Mike Roman Play Santana.” The album received an enthusiastic response—nothing short of fantastic—especially after Santana’s original percussionist and Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame member Jose “Chepito” Areas, took the time out to fly from “the hills of San Francisco to the streets of South Chicago” to play with The Tellstars and officially endorse the album.

The album contained a superb interpretation of Santana’s music, not simply an imitation or cover as other groups have attempted to do, but actually underscoring the differences in output between a tribute band, and that of an interpretive ensemble sure of its own identity. A 1979 sold-out concert and a WGN television appearance received uniformly positive reviews, which secured the album’s success. The album is now a collector’s item in Europe.

XI. ROMAN CASANOVA FAMILY & ROMAN LAW FIRM



After leaving the government sector, Mike married Mexican-American beauty queen,



Rose Casanova, and raised three children: a daughter, Vanessa Marie, now a college student and musician, and two sons, Michael Angelo, an attorney and musician, and Brandon Anthony, a college student and musician.



In order to support his family and his widowed mother (now deceased), he founded Michael Roman & Associates, a successful general-practice law

firm on the Southeast side of Chicago serving the large Hispanic community and other ethnic groups



as well. Attorney Hyman Abrams and Appellate Judge David Lynn, along with the Vrdolyak Law Group, participated as his attorney mentors and associates Of Counsel.



One of his many high-profile courtroom victories includes a two-million dollar Federal civil-rights lawsuit against the Chicago Police Department for the false arrest and



prosecution of Gilberto Gonzalez, a young Hispanic man charged with kidnapping, rape, and robbery, despite an ironclad alibi that he was attending his own wedding reception. In a twist of irony, the procurement of justice

and complete exoneration of his client had special significance and reaffirmation of career purpose to Mike. Mike he had also been the victim of malicious prosecution and wrongful conviction when he was a college student, but was subsequently exonerated and his misdemeanor



conviction expunged pursuant to an apology letter from the complaining witness recanting her courtroom testimony against him.



In another prominent case, Mike represented a client before the Illinois Supreme Court where he successfully challenged the “No Social Security, No Divorce” domestic-relations circuit-court rule which at the time required the disclosure of social security numbers before a divorce decree could be granted contrary to the 1974 Federal Privacy Act. Both cases received local and national media coverage. The wedding alibi case has been illustrated in criminal-law books, Chicago Lawyer, Playboy, and Esquire magazines.

XII. POLITICS, MUSIC & THE LAW



In 1983, Mike served as chairperson for Hispanic Attorneys for the late Mayor Harold Washington’s Mayoral Campaign and also served in the same capacity for Mayor



Richard M. Daley’s 1989 and 1991 Mayoral Campaigns.



After a successful run as a Walter Mondale delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984, he was twice offered Cook County judgeships, but decided to decline the prestigious positions to instead concentrate on his musical passion. However, he still found the time to write a monthly column in a local newspaper on different areas of the law and also to participate in community affairs by volunteering to serve on the East Side Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as Chairperson of the East Side Labor Day Parade music committee.

Attorney Roman also donated his legal services to represent the parents of children attending over-crowded schools on the Southeast side of Chicago, and with them successfully bringing about the construction of the much needed Sullivan-Coles Elementary School by the Illinois State Board of Education. Mike also worked to obtain a donation pledge for the new school from the Spirit Foundation, one of John Lennon's charitable organizations, and almost succeeded in naming the school after the late Beatle. Mike also participated at the school as Principal for a Day, an annual event sponsored by Mayor Daley and the Chicago Public Schools system.



In 1985, Mike, along with Tellstar Productions, Inc., produced and arranged a concept album titled, "Rock n' Roll, Yesterday, Today, and Forever!" which featured a tribute to the 50's music of Elvis Presley (Rick Saucedo), 60's music of the Beatles (Rubber Soul), 70's music of Santana (Tellstars) and the 80's music of Michael Jackson (The Jasons). The last



cut on the album united all four tribute acts in a Rock n' Roll medley arranged by Mike Roman. The album, an ambitious and difficult project, was dedicated to the memory of Elvis Presley and John Lennon, and was released on the East Side of Chicago to a standing-room only crowd at a popular music venue. Many other sold out concerts throughout the Midwest followed, along with numerous radio and television appearances.



During the late 1980's Federal Amnesty Program, Attorney Roman provided pro bono legal services to hundreds of undocumented immigrants, along with their minor children, helping them to adjust their immigration status that in most cases ultimately led to full American citizenship.

XIII. TRAGEDY STRIKES AGAIN

On March 22, 1991, another heart-wrenching tragedy struck the Roman family when Danny Joyce, Mike's 20-year-old nephew and godson drowned in a North Evanston



beach while trying to save the life of his friend, James Nicholson. James had fallen into the frigid waters of Lake Michigan. Danny and a group of friends were celebrating James' return from naval duty in the 1991 Gulf War.

Attorney Roman hired his own diving team to search for the missing bodies, which were not found until three months later. He then filed a lawsuit against the City of Evanston for failure to initiate a rapid diving rescue effort until five hours after the

young men were reported missing. The lawsuit resulted in the implementation of a new Fire Department program by the City of Evanston, along with its neighboring suburbs, for future emergency rescue and recovery operations known as Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). The incident and court case received local and national media coverage.



In addition to being the mentor of his nephew and Good Samaritan, Danny, Mike Roman was also a role model for his other two nephews, Paul Joyce, a graduate of DePaul Law School and an experienced prosecutor with the Cook County State's Attorney Office at 26th and California Criminal Courts Division, and Jimmy Joyce, a private investigator and musician.



XIV. POLITICAL ACTIVIST & WWII HISTORIAN

In the 1990's, as his law practice prospered, Mike kept busy in the legal profession doing pro bono work on behalf of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association and successfully lobbied the Illinois State Legislature in opposition of "CAPS," a bill which threatened to imposed limits on economic damages resulting from medical malpractice cases.



Attorney Roman, also a real estate broker and owner of Roman Realty, also donated his legal services and successfully represented his East Side neighbors against a builder and his construction company for breach of contract to provide the pavement and street lights on the new 116th and Ave. G block.

Mike's involvement in community affairs led to his participation in organizing the 1996 Hispanic March on Washington, D.C. He chartered two buses to take marchers to D.C. with him. In Washington, they marched with Congressman Luis Gutierrez and Geraldo Rivera. Meanwhile, this relentless overachiever—who often has several projects going at the same time—continued to excel in the field of professional music and appeared on



stage with the legendary Jose Feliciano.



Music and law closed ranks when

Attorney Roman successfully represented a musical phenomenon, the late George "Buddy" Miles pro bono in a criminal case at 26th and

California's Cook County courthouse. "Buddy" Miles returned the favor by introducing Mike to Sir Paul McCartney and his late wife Linda along with Eric Clapton and Phil Collins during a concert's backstage reception party at Soldiers Field.

As a member of the American, Illinois and Chicago Bar Associations, Mike has served on various committees where he met superstar lawyer Johnnie Cochran. Cochran recommended that Mike join "Lawyers Without Borders" to assist indigent defendants and immigration clients. Mike and



the Hispanic Bar Association's picture appears in a book titled Mexican Chicago, "From Immigrant to Immigration Lawyer" and DePaul University's Dialogue Law



Magazine, which featured Mike in the Spring of 2001. Mike also participated in the Chicago Council on Foreign Affairs, attending a fundraiser hosted by Physicians against Landmines and the late Princess Diana at the Hilton Towers Hotel where he met the "Prince of Camelot," the late John F. Kennedy, Jr.

In 1997, as a founding member of the American Air Museum in Britain, Mike was invited to the opening ceremony hosted by Queen Elizabeth II and the late actor Charlton Heston in Duxford, England. In 2004, as a charter member of the New Orleans WWII Museum and the



Washington, D.C. National WWII Memorial Monument, he attended the 60th Anniversary Celebration of D-Day hosted by the French President in Normandy, France. Not surprisingly, the European trips inspired Mike to embark on a new project: to build a

diorama in homage to the June 6, 1944 Allies' beach landings at Normandy, which has become his favorite hobby.

XV. LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

In June 1999, with the release of Santana's mega hit "Supernatural" album, Mike once again met backstage with Carlos Santana, where he introduced his son Michael Angelo to the rock superstar. This meeting led to the production and recording of "The Sounds of Santana" CD, by Mike Roman and The Tellstars, featuring Jose "Chepito" Areas,



and Richard Bean, the original lead singer with Jorge Santana's Malo Band. The CD contained twelve medleys



of Santana's greatest hits arranged by Mike and was released in August 2003 to an extremely enthusiastic



crowd, followed the next evening by another popular "Don't Rock the Boat!" celebration cruise on Lake Michigan. Indeed, with "Chepito's" participation on the recording, the CD had official validation and an authentic touch of Santana and thousands of copies were sold at several Midwest

summer festivals, including the famous Taste of Chicago.

In 2007, The Tellstars recorded an original album entitled, "Cha Cha Time!" featuring "Chepito" on the title song "Cha Cha Time!" and "Runaround" and Michael Shrieve, Santana's original drummer and Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame member, who is best known for his fantastic and unforgettable drum solo at Woodstock, is featured on "Tsunami 911" which he also produced. In the same year, Mike Roman & The Tellstars backed up the legendary Jose Feliciano at Chicago's Grant Park.



Mike’s two sons, who he taught how to play guitar and coached their respective bands, also play on the “Cha Cha Time!” album. Michael Angelo plays lead guitar and tenor sax on most of the songs and Brandon Anthony plays the vibraphone and recites a poem on “D-

Day in Normandy,” which Mike wrote and dedicated to the Allied soldiers of World War II, without whom and but for the grace of God, as Mike puts it, he would be speaking German with a Spanish accent and living a nightmare instead of the American dream. In gratitude and appreciation, Mike



provides pro bono work for WWII Veterans at Illiana Post #220 on the Southeast side of Chicago and has also



provided shelter and covered funeral expenses for several homeless Vietnam Vets.

During the 2008 presidential elections, Mike collaborated with Carlos Santana on a song titled, “Obama, Man of Change,” which was dedicated to President Barack Obama, who Mike met in 2004 during Obama’s Illinois Senate Campaign. In 2012, “Team Roman” participated in the Obama For America presidential campaign and on the Presidential Inaugural Committee where Michael



Angelo worked as a staff attorney and his father was a contributor and volunteer in the campaign legal department.

In the same year, Mike and his son Michael Angelo also participated as volunteer coaches at Munster High School for “We the People,” the annual national competition

on American Constitutional Law held in Washington, D.C. Brandon Anthony and his class scored number five in the nation.

EPILOGUE

RomaNova
Family



Throughout Mike's triumphs and tragedies, five preoccupations have guided his life: family, music, history, law and politics. Although his long journey from "eagle scout to legal eagle" and from musical arranger to songwriter has brought wide recognition and monetary rewards, including international and national media attention, Mike has never forgotten that his



accomplishments also belong to his family, friends, fans, and the Hispanic community.





TELLSTAR PRODUCTIONS, INC