



## Biography

**Born** *Dominic John Sposeto* July 19, 1934 in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Parents** Angelo and Mary Sposeto

**Siblings** Isabel, Frances, Frank and Katherine (deceased)

**Blindness** at age 20 to Present

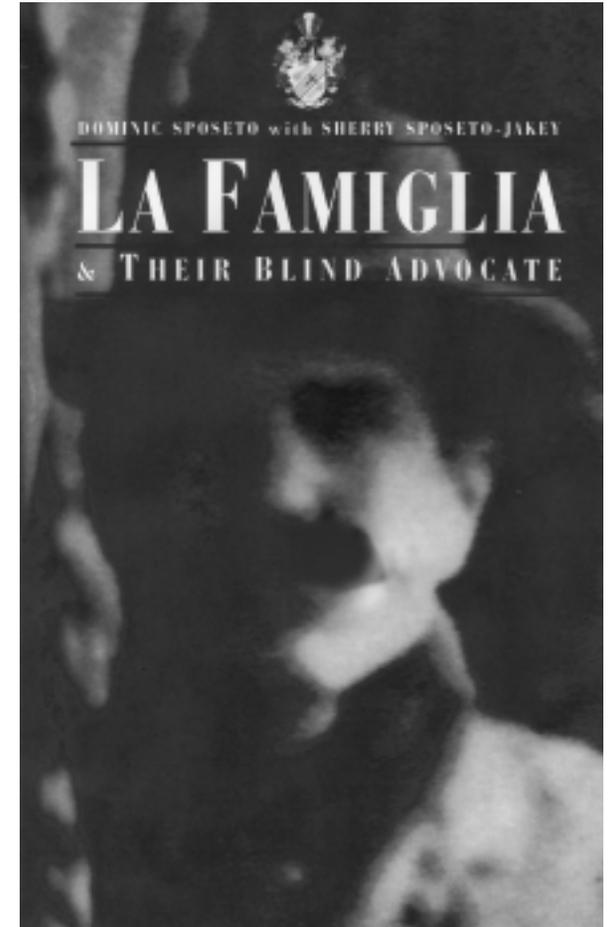
**Birth until age 21** – Lifeguard, Swim Instructor, Aquatics Director, Physical Therapist

**Age 21 to Present** – Married 1955-1982 to Sherry Kelly, two children, Michael Francis Sposeto and Anthony Charles Sposeto, Law School 1958-1961, Chief Counsel & Administrator of Santa Clara County Legal Aid and Public Defender Association 1961-1966, Private Practice as Criminal Trial Lawyer 1962 to Present, Member of California State Bar 1962 to Present, Member of American Bar Association 1962 to Present, Member of The Bar of The United States Supreme Court 1969 to Present, Selected for inclusion in *Who's Who in American Law*, Second Edition; *Marquis Who's Who*, 1979; *Who's Who in American Law*, Eighth Edition, 1994-1995; *Marquis Who's Who 1994*; *Who's Who in the West*, 16th Edition, 1978-1979; *Marquis Who's Who*, 1978; *Who's Who in the West*, 17th Edition 1980-1981; *Marquis Who's Who*, 1980.

**Married** to Wanda Bottom 1983 to present. Stepchildren Joseph Bottom, Michael Bottom, Lyn Bottom, Lori Bottom, David Bottom.

**Author** of *La Famiglia and Their Blind Advocate*, Outskirts Press 2005, (Co-Authored by Sherry Jakey-Sposeto), a biography and history of the Esposito Family, which was the original surname of Dominic's Grandfather prior to his coming to America from Italy, whose name was Dominico Esposito (Sposeto), 1877-1920.

# A New Book



by  
**Dominic Sposeto**

## Synopsis

This is the history of an extraordinary family which begins in the early 1800s and continues through six generations to the present time.

Part One begins with the first generation in 1814 when we meet Domenico Miniscarchi, Attorney General of Southern Italy. A generation later a Sicilian Don joins the family and plays a vital role in the immigration of numerous southern Italian families to America, including the Espositos (the original name of the Sposeto family), and the Iaquintas.

Prohibition was fast approaching and it was at this time the family, while living in Des Moines, Iowa, became involved in bootlegging, which erupted into warring factions in the Italian underworld at the turn of the century. Murder and retaliation left a trail of tears and devastation.

Part Two takes us to the 1940s where, with the assistance of influential Sicilian connections and the generosity of the matriarch of the family, the fourth generation left the Midwest and found a better way of life in California.

Part Three brings us to the fifth generation where we meet young Dominic who became blind in his early twenties and struggled with his orientation and blindness. Through much mentoring and nurturing, he became a highly distinguished and respected attorney, extending his practice across America. Dom's ancestors' passion for returning the family to an honorable position was at last realized.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Publication date: May 2005

### **What If You Discovered Your Closest Relatives Were Deeply Entangled with the Mafia?**

*La Famiglia and Their Blind Advocate*  
by Dominic Sposeto with Sherry Sposeto-Jakey

Out of the blue, Dominic Sposeto, a young, blind criminal attorney born in Des Moines, Iowa, and living in San Jose, Calif., received a life-changing phone call.

The caller spoke with a heavy Italian accent. He said he had known Sposeto's grandmother and needed to speak with Sposeto in person, and in private.

During the ensuing visit, the old man explained how immigrant southern Italian families had gradually become involved in organized crime at the turn of the last century, and that one such center was Des Moines. He warned Sposeto that he might be putting himself in danger in some of his legal cases in which present-day underworld figures in California played a part.

Sposeto left the meeting with the uneasy feeling that the old man was gently suggesting Sposeto's own family might have been involved in nefarious activities.

Shocked and curious, Sposeto set about researching his own roots. What he learned confirmed his worst suspicions. He wrote, "Prohibition was fast approaching, and it was at this time the family, while living in Des Moines, Iowa,

became involved in bootlegging which erupted into warring factions in the Italian underworld and an ugly tale of murder and retaliation which left a trail of tears and devastation."

In the spellbinding memoir *La Famiglia and Their Blind Advocate*, the reader accompanies Sposeto as he uncovers fact after surprising fact about a Des Moines unimaginable today but very real to his ancestors—where threats, treachery and cold-blooded shootings were commonplace, and immigrant families lived in constant fear.

The reader follows the tale to the 1940s, when influential Sicilian connections and the family matriarch led the family to leave the Midwest and seek a better way of life in Northern California.

And finally we accompany Sposeto as he goes about creating his own amazing life. Blind since his early 20s, he nevertheless rose to nationwide prominence as a criminal trial attorney and defended over 1,000 clients in court. Looking back at his life and career now from the pinnacle at age 70, Sposeto shows us that his lifelong goal of restoring the honor of his family has finally been realized.

### **The Author**

Dominic Sposeto graduated from Santa Clara University Law School. He was chief counsel of the Legal Aid and Public Defender Office of Santa Clara County, California, dabbled in the entertainment industry and later became partner in the law firm Madsen, Sposeto and Parker and went on to work on thousands of criminal cases. He lives with his wife in Sonoma, California.