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San Diego, CA — Convivio, a leading Italian cultural organization committed to the celebration and elevation of Italian contributions to society, has announced that Dr. Stephen C. Ferruolo, the Dean of the University of San Diego School of Law, is the 2016 recipient of the Convivio Communitas Award for Leadership. The Communitas Award is given to recognize and honor Italian-community leaders who have made a substantive impact through academic, business, and civic endeavors. In announcing the award, Dr. Tom Cesarini, the Executive Director of Convivio, stated “There is no more deserving individual than Dr. Ferruolo, whose contributions to the business and biotech communities as well as his leadership as Dean of the University of San Diego School of Law are exemplary.” Dr. Cesarini further added, “Dean Ferruolo is a true renaissance man and his deep intellect and love of art, history, and Italian culture reflects all that is great about being Italian.” The Convivio Communitas Award for Leadership will be presented on January 18, 2017, during the Communitas Lecture & Luncheon to be held on the USD campus.

Dr. Stephen Ferruolo, the Dean of the University of San Diego School of Law since 2011, was previously the Founding Partner and Chair of the San Diego office of Goodwin Procter as well as a member of the firm-wide Executive Committee. His international expertise and representation of technology and life-sciences companies led to his election as Vice Chairman of BIOCOM, the largest regional life sciences association in the world, which represents more than 550 member companies. From 2003 to 2011, he served as the vice president and general counsel of BIOCOM. Prior to Goodwin Procter, Dr. Ferruolo was a partner and co-chair of the Life Sciences Practices Group for another international firm, Heller Ehrman.

Dr. Ferruolo is a 1971 graduate of the College of Social Studies at Wesleyan University. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University where he earned a master’s degree in Philosophy in 1973. Ferruolo received his MA in 1975 and PhD in 1979 in history at Princeton University and then served on the faculties at Bennington College and Stanford University. His book, *The Origins of the University: The Schools of Paris and Their Critics* (Stanford University Press, 1985) has been widely cited and remains the authoritative work in the field.

Ferruolo graduated with honors from Stanford Law School in 1990. Upon graduation from Stanford Law School, Ferruolo clerked for the Honorable Bruce M. Selya of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Notified of the award, Dr. Ferruolo said: “It is a great honor to have been selected to receive the Convivio Communitas Award for Leadership. The Italian contribution to all segments of modern society – from law and civics to art and science – has been broad and impactful and it is with great humility that I accept this award. I have had the good fortune to work in great academic and business organizations and I accept this award on behalf of all of Italian descent while giving all praise to my mother and father for their guidance and expectations.”

About Convivio

Convivio was founded in 2003 to cultivate community and fellowship while advancing and elevating Italian cultural identity through education and research, social enrichment, and innovative programming. Convivio, at its core, is a feast for the spirit; a plea for the resurgence of social capital and the embracing of Italian arts, culture, heritage and community. For more information on Convivio, visit www.conviviosociety.org.

About University of San Diego School of Law

The University of San Diego (USD) School of Law, founded in 1954, is part of the University of San Diego, a private, independent, Roman Catholic university chartered in 1949. It is recognized for the excellence of its faculty, depth of its curriculum, and strength of its clinical programs. Each year, USD educates approximately 800 Juris Doctor and graduate law students from throughout the United States and around the world. The law school is best known for its offerings in the areas of business and corporate law, constitutional law, intellectual property, international and comparative law, public interest and taxation.

USD School of Law is one of the 84 law schools elected to the Order of the Coif, a national honor society for law school graduates. The school is accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools. For more information, visit <http://www.sandiego.edu/law/>.