

## A Feisty Lady

Assistant United States Attorney Diane Giacalone was as smart as she could be difficult. A workaholic and Lilly Tomkin look alike, Giacalone threw herself into her work with an exuberance few of her contemporaries at the Brooklyn United States Attorneys Office could match. And the ill will which existed between the sometimes indelicate and unquestionably devoted female attorney and the Federal Bureau of Investigation became almost legendary in the mid-1980's.

Although not enamored by the FBI for various reasons, Giacalone did have a certain fondness for the Drug Enforcement Administration and the New York City Police Department. A relationship which one day put her into an almost unbelievable position. Having worked hand in hand with the DEA and the NYPD on an Italian Organized Crime RICO case for a few years, she became angered by what she believed to be the mishandling of a fugitive witness by the bureau. And in her typical feisty fashion, she openly criticized the FBI for its perceived ineptitude.

In response, the FBI, which severely distains criticism from anyone - no less a controversial female government attorney, sent an emissary to resolve the dispute. And what started out as a civil exchange soon degenerated into a knock down drag out argument. As a eyewitness recalled, the enraged FBI Special Agent lost his cool.

"If you was a man, I'd punch you in the face," the aroused and courageous agent shouted.

Undaunted by the outburst, Giacalone, a physical fitness buff and long time member of a local gym, stood up from her desk, took up a fighting stance and glared at her antagonist.

"Don't let that stop you, take your best shot." she retorted in an almost matter of fact voice.

The feisty female government attorney had defeated the FBI's ill chosen emissary of "good will."

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