



TRADE U.S.A.
Exploring Opportunities



Organizer
**AMERICAN-HELLENIC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

SPEAKERS BIOS



Elias Spirtounias
Executive Director
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics, University of Athens, Elias Spirtounias completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in cooperation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications. He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA, a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems. From 1997-February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos, an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development, and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven theme parks in Greece and abroad.

From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, in the midst of the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level memberships, foster advocacy, expand further the presence of the Chamber in the US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. He serves as Treasurer of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.



Nikolaos Bakatselos
President
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the Managing Director of Pyramis Metallourgia A.E. and Pyramis Deutschland GmbH. He was Member of the Board of Directors, and Deputy Managing Director, of Northern Greece Publishing S.A. He has held the position of Managing Director of Imperium AEX, and Member of the Board of Directors of Egnatia Bank Securities S.A. He was a Member of the Board of Directors of Attica Bank from February 2014 until June 2016. He was a Member of the Steering Committee of the International Hellenic University from 2006 until January 2014 and Member of the Board and President of the Northern Greece Committee of EEDE. He is Member of the Committee Support CERTH, Trustee of Anatolia College, Member of the Board and Member of the Steering Committee of SVE and Honorary Consul of Belgium for Northern Greece.



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After being a Member of the Board of Directors of the American–Hellenic Chamber of Commerce for several years, in June 2010 he was elected Vice President of AmChamGR and President of the Northern Greece Committee, and since June 2019 he was elected President of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. In October 2019 he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO. Nikolaos Bakatselos holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.



Dina Athanasiou
Head of International Trade Dept. “TradeUSA”
American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Dina Athanasiou is Head of the International Trade Department “TradeUSA” of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, as of November 2018. Within her role, she assists and provides guidance to Greek companies interested in exporting to the U.S. market. Prior to entering the international trade sector by joining AmCham in May 2017, she was engaged in projects focused on marketing, communications, and sales, having worked with agencies including V+O and Hill+Knowlton Strategies. She is a business development professional holding a Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing, a Diploma in Graphic Design and a Master’s Degree in Design Management with the specialization in Marketing and Branding from the University of Southampton (UK). She speaks Greek, English and Spanish.



Dimitris Karavasilis
International Trade Advisor, American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce
CEO, DK Marketing and Idea Monkeys LLC

Dimitris Karavasilis is a highly motivated, visionary and performance driven international marketing professional, with an advanced know-how and significant expertise in a wide range of economic and industrial sectors; since 1999 he has been providing significant Greek and foreign firms with marketing services. He is founder and CEO of “The DK Marketing Agency” with offices in Athens and Thessaloniki and “The IDEA MONKEYS Marketing Agency” with offices in New York and London. In 2018, he started a new collaboration with “All pack Hellas”, a two-month printed packaging issue. In the beginning of 2019, he launched a new project, the “exportnews.gr” magazine. He has studied Business Administration and International Marketing at “The University of Sheffield”. Prior to the foundation of DK Marketing, he had been working as a senior executive in industrial and commercial enterprises in Greece and abroad, such as SATO, Toshiba, Sunair, Premierotel, Pointgroup, Axon Inc., and D&B group. During his career, he has been undertaking major projects on behalf of big multinational consulting firms in the UK, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Turkey and China; he has also participated as an invited speaker in many local and international conferences.

He is a member of the Administrative Committee and of the Board of Directors of the Greek International Business Association (SEVE) and an Executive Consultant on international trade issues at the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce in Athens. He also participated in the core team of the Dutch experts of Task Force, contributing in establishing the Trade and Promotion Roadmap as the key source for reforming the Greek Export Strategy; he is also member of the Hellenic Institute of Marketing and an active member of various International Organizations.



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Corbin Van Arsdale
President and General Counsel
Associated General Contractors (AGC)-Texas Building Branch

Corbin is a fifth-generation Texan who attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned degrees in finance and law—and lettered in baseball, going twice to the College World Series. Corbin and his wife Stephanie, who is the business manager for a commercial real estate investment firm, have raised three daughters and two sons—and live in the Austin suburb of Cedar Park, where Corbin is currently serving his second term as Mayor.

Corbin currently serves on the boards of the Texas Civil Justice League, Texas Business Roundtable, Texas Comptroller's Business Advisory Group, and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Corbin previously served three terms in the Texas House of Representatives and four terms on the Cedar Park city council. Corbin was also previously General Counsel of Boyer, Inc., a civil, electrical, marine, and mechanical construction firm in Houston – and an attorney practicing constitutional and maritime law at the Houston law firm of Fitzhugh & Elliott.



Anna Tauzin
Chief Revenue and Innovation Officer
Texas Restaurant Association

At the Texas Restaurant Association, Anna leads the charge on shaking things up at the 84-year-old institution. She heads up all products and services, business development, marketing, and communication and also creates new member value through unique events and education. Additionally, she is driven to bring more restaurant technology to the state of Texas with unique partnerships and innovative programming.

Anna is a frequent speaker and serves on multiple boards, including SXSW Interactive and Restaurant Unstoppable. Previous to coming to TRA, she headed up innovation for the National Restaurant Association in Washington, D.C.

She has worked in several restaurants during her career, including BOH and FOH. Her favorite job was as a Denny's waitress on the graveyard shift. She could tell you some stories.



Ted Diamantis
President
Diamond Wine Importers

In 1992, I created Diamond Wine Importers out of the belief that Greece, with its natural terroir of mountain vineyards, maritime influenced climate, volcanic and alluvial soils, and over 200 ancient indigenous varieties, can once again become a source of some of the greatest wines in the world.

State-by-State Insights: Texas, California, New Mexico



Thursday, May 20
18:30-20:00 hours

AmChamGR
digital
Talks & Events 2021



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Over the last 30 years of tasting and traveling throughout Greece, we have compiled a portfolio of the best artisan, vineyard-driven producers who are working with the best native varietals from the best appellations. We only focus on producers and growers who are fully committed to quality and sustainability from vine to bottle. These producers are people that have passion, are self-made men, work with the land, and embody the true winemaking spirit.

Our goal is to now educate and enlighten the American wine market about these indigenous varietals, ancient appellations and, most importantly, the spirit of these outstanding producers. Currently our distribution network is active in 46 states, Puerto Rico, Grand Caymans, US Virgin Islands and Bahamas.

We recently also just launched a new Greek Gin brand "Stray Dog" Wild Gin. It's the first and only "wild gin" in the category and one of only 3 gins produced in Greece today. In addition to DWI...we also have a food brand and importation company named Naturally Greek Foods. This company was launched in 2012 for the purposes of representing and creating gourmet greek food brands to the US consumer.

Born and Raised in Chicago IL

Education: Northern Illinois University | BA Economics, BA Political Science

Work: Allstate Insurance Co. Commercial Division, Claims | AJ Gallagher - Risk management | Heritage Wine Cellars | Diamond Wine Importers

Organizations: Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC) National Board Member