

RULE OF LAW 2024 CONFERENCE

June 26, 2024

HOTEL GRANDE BRETAGNE



# THE RULE OF LAW PILLAR OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

Under the Auspices of

H.E. The President of the Hellenic Republic  
Katerina Sakellariopoulou

Organizer



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## WELCOME ADDRESSES

# THE RULE OF LAW PILLAR OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

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## ELIAS SPIRTOUNIAS

Executive Director

American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the 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 co-operation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in the 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 until 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 cultural 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 the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. Since January 2022 he served as Treasurer and since January 2024 as Vice Chair of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.

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## NIKOLAOS BAKATSELOS

President

American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce

Nikolaos Bakatselos is the President & CEO of "Pyramis Metallourgia A.E." and "Pyramis Deutschland GmbH".

Nikolaos Bakatselos 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 AEEX", 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.

Nikolaos Bakatselos 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 of Directors of SVE, Member of the Board of Directors of IOBE and Honorary Consul of Belgium for Northern Greece.

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 is the President of AmChamGR.

Nikolaos Bakatselos is Founding Member and Member of the Board of Council of Competitiveness of Greece.

From October 2019 until February 2022, he was elected as President of HEDNO by the General Assembly of HEDNO.

He holds a B.A. in Sociology from University of Reading and a MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University Business School.

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## JOHN KYRIAKIDES

Managing Partner

Kyriakides Georgopoulos Law Firm

John Kyriakides is eligible to plead before the Greek Supreme Court and heads the firm's disputes team. He is a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of its Legislative Reforms Committee. He is also a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC-Hellas), Commission on Arbitration, of the International Bar Association and of the Hellenic Society of Criminal Law.

John primarily represents clients in commercial and civil disputes. Additionally, he handles litigation before the criminal courts and prosecuting authorities, representing corporate clients in white collar crime cases, including handling of internal audits and investigations. He led the development of KG's gaming & betting practice, offering regulatory, compliance, and corporate advice to gaming operators and B2B providers.

*Recent work highlights include:*

- Represented a leading aircraft manufacturer in a 'defense offset' claim totaling over €25m.
- Defended a €1bn claim against a leading telecoms operator arising out of an alleged breach of competition laws.
- Represented a major foreign banking institution in relation to civil and criminal claims initiated by clients following the embezzlement of funds in excess of €8m by an ex-director.
- Represented a major UK consulting, transformation and digital services company in relation to a civil and criminal dispute initiated by a Greek investor seeking damages in excess of €75m.
- Handled several claims filed against pharmaceuticals for the circulation of allegedly defective drugs.
- Acted for one of the world's leading technology companies focused on industry infrastructure and mobility in a €100m dispute with the Greek State concerning alleged defective rolling stock and breach of contract.
- Advised a beverages company in defending a €5m claim for goodwill compensation further to the termination of a distribution agreement.



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## KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

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## IOANNA KLAPA-CHRISTODOULEA

President

Areios Pagos

Ioanna Klapa-Christodoulea of Agesilaos was born in Thessaloniki in 1958. She is married and the mother of two children. She speaks English and French very well. She joined the judiciary in the year 1984 and was initially appointed as Associate Judge at the Athens Court of First Instance. She was promoted to the rank of Court of First Instance in 1986 and was assigned to the Court of First Instance of Evrytania. Subsequently, in 1987, she was transferred to the Court of First Instance of Piraeus, where she served until 2001, when she was promoted to the rank of President of First Instance and was assigned to the Court of First Instance of Alexandroupoli. During her service as President of the Court of First Instance, she served in the Court of First Instance of Corfu in 2002, in the Court of First Instance of Ioannina in 2003, until the year 2006 in the Court of First Instance of Lefkada. She was promoted to the rank of Appeal Court Judge in 2007 and was placed to the Court of Appeal of Crete. She was then transferred to the Court of Appeal of Patras, then to the Court of Appeal of Ioannina and in 2012 to the Athens Court of Appeal, where she served until 2017, when she was promoted to the rank of President of Appeals. On June 15th, 2020, she was promoted to Supreme Court Judge (Areopagite), appeared and took up her duties on September 11th, 2020 and joined to the A1 Political Department of the Supreme Court for Civil and Criminal Justice.

She was elected as President of the Hellenic Supreme Court for Civil and Criminal Justice on 27th of July 2023.

Throughout her career she participated in scientific conferences and related events of legal entities.

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## **DIMITRIS VERVESOS**

President

Athens Bar Association

Dimitris Vervesos is the President of the Athens Bar Association and the President of the Plenary of Presidents of the Greek Bar Associations. Born in Athens in 1964, he graduated from Varvakeios High School (1982) and then from the Law Faculty of the University of Athens in 1988.

Dimitris Vervesos has been a registered member of the Athens Bar Association since 1990, rapidly ascending to key leadership roles including being elected as member of the Board (since 1993), General Secretary (elected in 2002 and reelected in 2005), Vice President (elected in 2008), and ultimately being elected President of the Athens Bar in 2017 and reelected in 2021.

An expert in labor law, Dimitris Vervesos has published numerous articles in his field of expertise and beyond and has participated as a speaker in law conferences. He is a member of Hellenic Society of Labor Law and Social Security and has served as an arbitrator for the Organization for Mediation and Arbitration.

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## THE RULE OF LAW AS A FACTOR OF GROWTH



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## **ANNA MANI-PAPADIMITRIOU**

Deputy Minister

Ministry of Development and Investments

Anna Mani-Papadimitriou was born in Katerini, Pieria, and is a distinguished legal professional and politician.

She graduated from the Law School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Public Administration. For 25 years, she practiced law actively and collaborated with banks as a legal advisor.

Her political career began when she was first elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) for Pieria with the New Democracy party in 2012. She was re-elected in 2019 and 2023, showing a strong and consistent presence in Greek politics. During her tenure in the Hellenic Parliament, Anna has held several significant positions. She served as Dean of the Parliament, Vice-President, and Member of various committees, including the Permanent Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice, and the Special Standing Committee on European Affairs. Additionally, she chaired the Library Committee of the Parliament and was Vice-President of the Economic Affairs Committee.

In June 2023, she was appointed as the Deputy Minister of Development in the government of Kyriakos Mitsotakis, where she continues to contribute to Greece's development policies and initiatives.

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## KONSTANTINOS KOUSSOULIS

Vice President  
Council of State

Konstantinos Koussoulis is currently Vice-President of the Greek Supreme Administrative Court (Council of State).

He is also Director of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Hellenic Republic and national representative at the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).

He chairs the Greek Ministry of Justice Committee on the impact of AI on the judicial system and the Supervisory Committee of the Office of Judicial Statistics.

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## HARA NIKOLOPOULOU

Vice President

Hellenic Competition Commission

Hara Nikolopoulou is a lawyer and Vice President of the Hellenic Competition Commission. She has handled numerous cartel, abuse of dominance and merger cases in a wide range of industries. She has served the HCC since 2011 in various positions of trust, having served as Director, Head of Units in the Legal Services Directorate and responsible for the International Relations of the HCC.

Prior to joining the HCC Hara worked as a competition lawyer at the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission, in the competition practice group of law firms in Athens and Brussels and as a trainee at the European Commission. Hara graduated from the School of Law of the University of Athens in 2000 and was admitted to the Athens Bar in 2002. She holds an LL.M in Corporate and Commercial Law from University College London and a Master of Science in Economics (Economic Regulation and Competition) from the Department of Economics of City University in London. She speaks English and French.



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## MARIA GAVOUNELI

Professor, Faculty of Law, EKPA  
Director General, Hellenic Foundation for  
European and Foreign Policy

Maria Gavouneli is a Professor in the Law Faculty of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, a member of the Athens Public International Law Centre (Athens PIL), Director of the University of Athens' Refugee and Migration Studies Hub, and Director General of ELIAMEP. During the 2018–2019 academic year, she was a visiting professor at the University of California Berkeley as a Fulbright Scholar. She graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of Athens (1987, A. Papadakis Scholarship, M. Stasinopoulou Prize) and from the University of Cambridge, where she obtained an LL.M. in international law (1988) and a Ph.D. in international environmental law (1994, Greek State Scholarship). For her doctoral thesis on: "Pollution from offshore installations", she was awarded the international Paul Guggenheim Prize.

Visiting Professor in Greece and abroad at institutions including the Hague Academy of International Law, the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), the universities of Edinburgh (Brodie's Lecture), Oxford, Manchester, Glasgow, Utrecht, Ankara, Tulane, Paris 1 (Panthéon Sorbonne) and Paris 2 (Panthéon Assas), the NUS Academy of International Law, and the Nippon Fellows programme at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea – ITLOS. Her extensive publications include five monographs: *Pollution from offshore installations* (Martinus Nijhoff, 1995 – Guggenheim Prize), *State Immunity and the Rule of Law* (Ant. N. Sakoulas, 2001), *Functional jurisdiction in the Law of the Sea* (Martinus Nijhoff, 2007), *Energy installations in the sea* (Nomiki Bibliothiki, 2016) and *Energy at Sea* (Edward Elgar, 2024). She has edited eight collective works, contributed a large number of papers to collective volumes, and published numerous articles in Greek, English, French and Italian. She is fluent in Spanish and has a basic knowledge of German. She is one of the editors-in-chief of the *Yearbook of International Environmental Law* (OUP).

President of the International Law Association – the Greek branch of the ILA, and Vice President of the Hellenic Society of International Law & International Relations. She is also President of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights—GHCHR, a member of the Management Board of the National Transparency Authority, and a member of the National Accessibility Authority.



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## IOANNA MANDROU

Journalist

Kathimerini, SKAI

Ioanna Mandrou is a journalist. She holds a lead position in the Greek newspaper "I Kathimerini" and the affiliated TV station "SKAI".

Ioanna Mandrou was born in Vlachokerasia Arkadias in Greece. From 1985 to date she has been working as a journalist focusing and presenting on judicial topics in newspapers, radio and TV. She studied Law in the Faculty of Law at EKPA University of Athens and graduated with honors. She worked for 15 years for the Greek newspaper "To Vima" (1990-2004) and "Alpha" TV station (2005-2010). Since 2009 she has been working at "I Kathimerini" newspaper and has been a journalist and commentator on the main newscast of "SKAI" tv and radio station, since 2010.

She has also been writing articles on current affairs on a daily basis for the online version of "I Kathimerini" (Kathimerini.gr) and the online version of "SKAI" tv station ([skai.gr](https://www.skai.gr))

During her career she has worked in several radio stations (flash, 902 and many others) and also in Greek newspapers, such as "I Proti" and "I Apogevmatini". She has participated in dozens of conferences concerning institutional, justice and other issues and has been awarded by the Botsis Foundation for her contribution to journalism. She has also taught in National School of Judges about the Media and Justice relations and has been honored with the observer status of the Legal Research Association.

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CONVERSATION WITH THE  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF PHILIP MORRIS

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## YANN GUERIN

Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
Philip Morris International Inc

Yann is the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Philip Morris International Inc. (PMI) since June 2023.

Yann has held several positions within the Legal & Compliance department, including VP and Associate General Counsel, Middle East, Africa & PMI Duty Free (2018–2019); VP and Associate General Counsel, South and Southern Asia (2019–2021), based in Hong Kong; and VP and Associate General Counsel, Corporate (since 2021). In this last role, he served as lead deal counsel on PMI's USD 13 bio. acquisition of Swedish Match.

A French and Swiss citizen, Yann studied law, management, and finance in parallel. In 2001, he received both a Master of Science in management from ESSEC Business School and a Master in Law from Cergy-Pontoise University. In 2002, he was admitted to practice law by the Paris Bar Association. Before joining PMI, he practiced M&A with Skadden Arps.

Yann met his wife Caroline ... when she was also a lawyer at PMI. Together they have one daughter aged 9 and two twin boys aged 4. While unreasonable (and unimpressive), he still tries to practice Volley-Ball on his non-copious free time.

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## IOANNIS STAVROPOULOS

Managing Partner

Stavropoulos & Partners Law Office

Admitted to Athens Bar, 1986. Admitted to Supreme Court of Greece, 1997. Managing Partner and founder of the law firm "STAVROPOULOS & PARTNERS". The client base of the firm consists mainly of multinational companies including a number with American origin such as Coca-Cola, Philip Morris, Pfizer and Du Pont. Ioannis studied at the Law School of the University of Athens (LL.B., 1983) and the University of Kent, U.K. (LL.M., 1985).

As a tax consultant or tax attorney with great experience and expertise in tax law matters, he has dealt with numerous cases concerning application of double taxation treaties, transfer pricing and the EU direct taxation and VAT legislation. A number of his cases constitute leading jurisprudence published in Greek and international legal and tax journals. He has participated in legislative and scientific committees either as an expert or representing various organizations. In 2012-2013 he actively participated, as an expert, in the tax reform committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Finance and was appointed as a member in the Advisory Board to the first Governor of the Tax Administration. As a business lawyer, he has taken part in major merger and acquisition projects, domestic and international share and asset transactions as well as anti-trust cases.

He has published articles on various tax issues and has participated as speaker in numerous seminars including all tax conferences organized by AmCham. He has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Directors of the Greek Branch of the International Fiscal Association (IFA). He also serves as the Chairman of AmCham Taxation Committee while he participates in tax and legal committees of various Federations and Chambers. Ioannis has been awarded by the world's leading legal directory Legal 500 with the "Hall of Fame" distinction in tax law.



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## INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, MEDIATION AND ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION METHODS

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## CHARALAMBOS MACHERAS

Justice of the Hellenic Supreme Court ad h., International Arbitrator,  
ICC & LCIA, Accredited Mediator Greece & England

Charalambos G. Macheras is a Supreme Court Judge (ad. h.). He is a highly distinguished legal professional with over forty (40) years of experience presiding in the Courts of Athens and Piraeus, as well as the Hellenic Supreme Court. He possesses a deep understanding of Hellenic litigation and legislation.

He exhibits extensive experience in resolving disputes across the fields of shipping, commercial, and intellectual property matters. Furthermore, he has a proven ability to make sound legal judgments and decisions in general. His international recognition is well-deserved.

In addition to a Bachelor of Laws from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, he also holds a Bachelor of Public Law and Political Science from the same university, as well as a Master of Laws (LLM) from the prestigious University College London (UCL) of the London University.

Charalambos Macheras is an accredited mediator by the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in London and the Hellenic Ministry of Justice. As a highly sought-after arbitrator with experience in complex cases, he is a member of the LCIA European Users' Council and ICC Hellas.

Previously, he served as a Delegate of the Hellenic Republic to the European Union, with a particular focus on the Unified Patent Court Preparatory Committee.

Furthermore, he also represented Greece as an Agent before the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Luxembourg in 2018, successfully defending the Hellenic State.

Charalambos Macheras has also participated as a renowned panelist and keynote speaker at various European and international legal forums. Additionally, he serves as an academic supervisor in various programs at the e-learning section (KE.DI.BI.M.) of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and is the author and co-author of articles and books on the topic of mediation."

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## NICHOLAS MOUSSAS

Founder & Managing Partner  
Moussas & Partners Law Firm

Nicholas Moussas has extensive experience in commercial arbitration and litigation across various industries, including financial services, energy, mining, and construction.

He advises both international and domestic corporations in high-profile transactions and disputes, including investor-state disputes, such as the landmark dispute of MYTILINEOS vs Serbia. Recently, his team successfully enforced a US\$ 2.4 billion arbitral award in Greece.

Nicholas is recognized as an arbitrator by the National Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) and the Athens Mediation and Arbitration Organization (EODID).

He also serves as General Counsel to the Hellenic Deposit and Investment Guarantee Fund (TEKE), providing him with a comprehensive understanding of the regulatory and banking sector in Greece.

Nicholas has published papers in legal journals and holds a Law degree from the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens and an LL.M. from Berkeley Law School.

Moussas & Partners Law Firm is prominently featured in Global Arbitration Review's "GAR 100" guide as a top arbitration practice and the Firm steadily stands out in the listings by Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500 and the IFLR 1000. Moreover, Nicholas is consistently recognized by Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 in the dispute resolution field.



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## VICKY KRIKETOU

Partner

Kyriakides Georgopoulos Law Firm

Vicky Kriketou is a Partner with the Litigation/Arbitration Department of "Kyriakides Georgopoulos Law Firm", whilst she also serves as a guest lecturer in pharmaceutical law at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She graduated from the Law School of the University of Athens, where she also obtained a Master's Degree in *Civil Procedure*. Additionally, she holds a Master's Degree (LL.M.) in *Competition Law* from the Brussels School of Competition. Following the completion of her studies, she has attended training courses in Medical Deontology, Data Protection under GDPR and Basic Principles of Compliance. She is also a Certified Mediation Advocate.

As an attorney at the Supreme Court, Vicky has acquired extensive experience in handling disputes before all grades of jurisdiction with focus on cases concerning defective pharmaceutical products and product liability in general, breach of law of obligations and torts, as well as distribution, commercial agency, franchise, and antitrust disputes. She also provides consulting services in respect to the above matters, and she has been involved in the negotiation and construction of various commercial agreements. She is a regular author of articles for Greek and international journals, such as the *Chronicles of Private Law* (ΧΠΙΔ) and the *Journal of Company and Business Law* (ΔΕΕ), as well as the *European Health & Pharmaceutical Law Review* (EHPL), where she has also served as a reviewer. As part of her academic activities, she has worked as a researcher at Leiden University in the Netherlands in the field of pharmacovigilance. She has co-authored an academic book under the title: "Medicinal Product Liability: Adverse Drug Reactions and Insufficient Product Information", which was published in 2017 by P.N. Sakkoulas. In the same context, she has participated as a speaker at both national and international pharmaceutical law conferences in Athens, London and Amsterdam. She is a member of the Athens Bar Association, the Hellenic Civil Law Association and IBA.



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## CLAIRE SERGAKI

Senior Associate  
Dryllerakis & Associates

Claire Sergaki is a Senior Associate at Dryllerakis & Associates. She has extensive experience advising and representing clients in both domestic and international arbitrations, including proceedings under the ICC, LCIA, ICSID, and Greek arbitration rules. Claire specializes in disputes across various sectors, notably energy, construction, and gambling, as well as in matters arising from concession agreements and defense sector contracts.

Claire also represents clients in arbitration related court proceedings (setting aside or recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards) and is a regular contributor to publications relating to international arbitration.

She is also advising clients in large-scale privatizations and M&A transactions, especially in the energy sector.

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## DIMITRIOS TSIKRIKAS

Professor, Law School  
University of Athens

Dimitrios Tsikrikas was born in Athens. He studied in Athens and received his law degree from the Law Faculty of the University of Athens.

Furthermore, with a scholarship from the Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienst (D.A.A.D.), he went for postgraduate studies at the University of Konstanz, in Germany, where he worked on his doctoral thesis, entitled: "Die Wirkungen der Urteile des Europäischen Gerichtshofs im Vertragsverletzungsverfahren (Art. 169 ff. EWGV)" (Duncker und Humblot, 1990).

Furthermore, with a scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung he worked at the Law Faculty of the University of Freiburg i.Br. (1994-1995).

Dimitrios Tsikrikas is Professor in Civil Procedure Law at the Law Faculty of the University of Athens. He is teaching domestic, international, european and comparative procedural law as well as domestic and international arbitration. He has published in the areas of domestic, international, european and comparative procedural law and of the law of arbitration in Greek and in other languages. He held various contributions in national and international congress and in foreign universities.

He was, in his capacity as Professor, member of the Court of the Article 99 of the Greek Constitution.

He is member of several national and international associations of procedural and comparative law (e.g. International Association for Procedural Law, Wissenschaftliche Vereinigung für das Internationale Verfahrensrecht).

He was member of the ELI / UNIDROIT working group on service of documents (domestic and cross borders service).

He is member of the Scientific Council of the "Union Internationale des huissiers de justice et des officiers judiciaires".

He is Director of the Institute for Procedural Studies of the Law Faculty of the University of Athens.

He is member of the Law Council of the National Bank of Greece.

He is member of the Central Committee for Mediation.

Finally, he has the capacity to working in German, French and English language.

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## JUSTICE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND INNOVATION

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## KONSTANTINOS KYRANAKIS

Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Digital Governance

Konstantinos Kyranakis (born 19/4/1987) is a graduate of the Law School of the University of Athens with postgraduate studies in Strategic Communication at the American College of Athens.

He has worked as a freelancer in the field of digital marketing, creating websites and applications. He was a co-founder of the BrainGain initiative for the return of young people to Greece.

He was elected president of the Youth of the European People's Party, from May 2013 to May 2017.

In January 2017, the international magazine "Forbes" selected him among the 30 most influential young people under 30 in Europe, in the Law & Policy category.

In the National elections of 2019, he was elected for the first time as a Member of Parliament in the South Sector of Athens, where he was re-elected in the elections of June 25, 2023 and on June 27 he was sworn in as Deputy Minister of Digital Governance.



# THE RULE OF LAW PILLAR OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

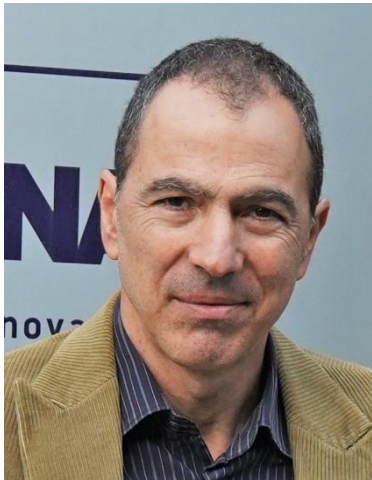
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## IOANNIS EMIRIS

President of the BoD and Director General  
Athena Research Center

Ioannis Emiris serves since 2021 as President of the BoD and Director General of Athena Research Center, which today includes 4 Institutes and 7 Units in Athens, Patras, and Xanthi. He is Professor of Algorithms in the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens since 2002 and has been a tenured researcher at INRIA Sophia-Antipolis, France (1995-2002). He received his BScEng from Princeton University, his MSc and PhD from UC Berkeley, and his Habilitation from University of Nice, France, all in Computer Science. He has been a visiting researcher in various institutions including ENS Paris, ETH Zurich, Simons Institute, UC Berkeley, City University of Hong Kong, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Plekhanov University, Moscow, JRC Ispra, and ETL Tsukuba, Japan.

His research interests span Scientific Computing, Machine Learning, Robotics, and Bioinformatics. He was honored twice with the best paper award at ACM International Symposium of Symbolic and Algebraic Computation (ISSAC). He has participated or led several European R&D projects, and several national, bilateral, and industrial projects. He has coordinated the MSc program on "Data Science and Information technologies", NKUA, has been a member of the Scientific Board of Hellenic Foundation of Research & Innovation (ELIDEK) representing Mathematics and Informatics, and is a member of the Scientific Expert Panel of Computation-based Science & Technology Research Center at the Cyprus Institute. He was Program Committee Chair of ISSAC 2011, General co-chair of ISSAC 2020, and Organization Committee chair of CG:Week / Symposium of Computational Geometry 2024.

He was an invited plenary speaker in a number of conferences such as ISSAC 2016, the German Discrete Math Symposium 2018, the Hausdorff Center School on Algorithmic Data Science, 2022, and Recent Trends in Computer Algebra (Paris 2022). Last but not least, he is Chief scientist in a deep-tech startup.

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## STAVROS ASTHENIDIS

Chief Executive Officer  
Information Society S.A.

Stavros Asthenidis is the Chief Executive Officer to the "Information Society SA", the trusted government agency operating under the Ministry of Digital Governance, responsible for procuring and coordinating all the major ICT tenders for projects and actions that transform the Greek public administration and lead it to the new digital era. He holds a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens and a Master in "Public Policy and Public Management" from the Graduate Program of Athens University of Economics and Business.

Throughout his career, he held positions of responsibility, managing, and overseeing major ICT projects. He served for several years as head of state aid schemes at Intermediate Management Agencies (Elanet, EFEPAE) during the 2nd and 3rd CSF. He was the Telecommunication Networks Project Manager (during the preparation) and the Telecommunications Manager at the Technology Control Center during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, as a member of the Organizing Committee. He has worked for the "Information Society SA" as a Project Officer in Intelligent Transport Systems, Digital Culture, Digital Health and Energy Saving Systems, for Cramoni Trading Ltd (Cyprus), as a Program Manager responsible for telecommunications projects in the international economic environment, for Egnatia Odos SA, ICAP Business Consultants and the Ministry of Development and Competitiveness as a senior consultant of Technology and Project Management.

He has cooperated with the Special Secretary for Digital Planning at the Ministry of Development, Competitiveness and Shipping for eGovernment projects and the Special Secretary for Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the Ministry of Development, Infrastructure, Transport and Networks. From April 2017 till July 2019, he served as the Chief Executive Officer to the City of Athens IT Company, DAEM SA.

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## EUGENIA BOZOU

Head of Government Affairs & Public Policy  
Google Greece, Cyprus & Malta

Eugenia Bozou is the Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy for Google in Greece, Cyprus, and Malta. She is responsible for developing and executing Google's public policy strategy in these countries and managing its government relations. She is a seasoned corporate communications professional with years of experience in the technology industry.

Before joining Google, she held Communications and CSR director's position at Microsoft and prior to that, at APIVITA SA. She has a background in journalism, having worked for some of the largest Greek publications.

She is the mother of three-year-old Marco. In her spare time, she enjoys sailing, riding her bicycle and listening to music. Eugenia was born and raised in Athens.



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## **MINA ZOULOVITS**

Partner

Zoulovits-Kontogeorgou Law Firm

Mina Zoulovits specializes in IT, digital transformation and cybersecurity/privacy issues, providing related advisory services to private companies and the public sector for more than 20 years and is distinguished as Leading Individual in Greece in the TMT sector of the prestigious international legal guide Legal 500.

She has extensive experience in assisting and managing complex legal issues by providing strategic consultation and implementation advice on digital transformation, IT, e-commerce and cybersecurity projects, in compliance with the EU digital legislation framework including relevant Regulations and Directives such as AI Act, GDPR, NIS2, Cyber resilience Act, Data Governance Act, Data Act, DSA, DMA, P2B, DORA, PSD2, e-commerce laws, eIDAS2 etc.

Her clientele includes large multinational and fast growing startups and Greek companies from various market sectors such as transportation, energy, payments, betting, Banks, cosmetics, tobacco, fashion, FMGCs, Platforms, applications, cloud, document management etc. In addition, Mina has also advised government bodies and organizations on issues related to security, privacy, digital signatures and dematerialization of administrative documents for e-government services. She has been a member of several legislative committees for laws related to e-commerce and digital issues.

She frequently participates in EU-funded legal projects, is a member of EU stakeholder groups and has acted as an evaluator & reviewer in Horizon 2020 and CEF Telecom projects. She is educator in bachelor and master programs, currently teaching e-Commerce Law at the Business Law Master Degree of the University of Lille's branch in Greece (Nomiki Vivliothiki).



June 26, 2024

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## NIKOLAOS BREGIANNOS

Partner

Bregiannos Law Office

Nikolaos Bregiannos studied as a student at the Arsakeio Schools of Psychiko. He then completed his studies at the Law School of the Democritus University of Thrace. In 2018 he was admitted to Georgetown University, where he completed the LL.M. on International Business and Economic Law and LL.M. on International Arbitration.

He is a PhD candidate in the Public Law Sector at the Law School of the Democritus University of Thrace.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Centre for Audiovisual Media and Communication (EKOME), a member of the Board of Directors of the news group "Naftemporiki" and of the medical group "Hospital Line".

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## JUSTICE FRANCESCO DEPASQUALE

President

European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ)

Called to the Bar, he held various roles in legal associations and committees, such as Vice President of the Malta Maritime Law Association from 1996 to 2002. Within the Maltese Chamber of Advocates, he served as Treasurer (1997-1999), General Secretary (1999-2007), and International Secretary (2007-2009). Additionally, he served on the Committee for Advocates and Legal Procurators of the Commission for The Administration of Justice from 1999 to 2008.

Before becoming a Magistrate, he worked as a litigation lawyer, specializing in civil, commercial, and family law, and served as Chief Legal Advisor to the Registrar of Courts (2006-2011). He became Commissioner for Justice (Central Region) in August 2006, and later, on April 28, 2011, he was appointed Magistrate for the Islands of Malta and Gozo, with duties spanning various courts and boards. In April 2019, he became a Judge for the Superior Courts of Malta and Gozo, with assignments in the Civil Court.

He held positions in the Association of the Judiciary of Malta, including General Secretary (2012-2020) and President (2022). He represented Malta on CEPEJ since 2007 and joined the CEPEJ-SATURN Working Group in 2010. In 2018, he became a Bureau Member of CEPEJ, and in December 2022, he was elected as its President for a two-year term.

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## JOHN KYRIAKIDES

Managing Partner

Kyriakides Georgopoulos Law Firm

John Kyriakides is eligible to plead before the Greek Supreme Court and heads the firm's disputes team. He is a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of its Legislative Reforms Committee. He is also a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC-Hellas), Commission on Arbitration, of the International Bar Association and of the Hellenic Society of Criminal Law.

John primarily represents clients in commercial and civil disputes. Additionally, he handles litigation before the criminal courts and prosecuting authorities, representing corporate clients in white collar crime cases, including handling of internal audits and investigations. He led the development of KG's gaming & betting practice, offering regulatory, compliance, and corporate advice to gaming operators and B2B providers.

*Recent work highlights include:*

- Represented a leading aircraft manufacturer in a 'defense offset' claim totaling over €25m.
- Defended a €1bn claim against a leading telecoms operator arising out of an alleged breach of competition laws.
- Represented a major foreign banking institution in relation to civil and criminal claims initiated by clients following the embezzlement of funds in excess of €8m by an ex-director.
- Represented a major UK consulting, transformation and digital services company in relation to a civil and criminal dispute initiated by a Greek investor seeking damages in excess of €75m.
- Handled several claims filed against pharmaceuticals for the circulation of allegedly defective drugs.
- Acted for one of the world's leading technology companies focused on industry infrastructure and mobility in a €100m dispute with the Greek State concerning alleged defective rolling stock and breach of contract.
- Advised a beverages company in defending a €5m claim for goodwill compensation further to the termination of a distribution agreement.



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## THE JUDGES AND LAWYERS PERSPECTIVE

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## **Dr. jur. DIMITRIS TSIBANOULIS**

Adj. Professor for Banking Law, Piraeus University  
Managing Partner  
Tsibanoulis & Partners Law Firm

Dimitris Tsibanoulis studied law in Athens (1980, LLB) and in Frankfurt am Main (J.W. Goethe Universität, 1986, PhD, summa cum laude). Academic Tutor at the University of Frankfurt am Main (1983-1985); Assistant at the Max-Planck-Institute, Department of History of European Law, and at the University of Frankfurt am Main (1985-1987); adjunct professor for Financial Services Regulation in the Postgraduate MBA Course for jurists at ALBA from 2000 to 2015 and for Banking and Capital Markets Law in the Postgraduate Course for jurists at the University of Piraeus since 2019.

He practices banking, capital markets and corporate law. From February 1989 until December 2022 he was legal counsel to the Bank of Greece and from May 2012 until December 2022 senior legal advisor to the Board; he advised on supervision, payment systems, clearing and securities settlement as well on bank restructuring issues; he has successfully represented the Bank of Greece before the Council of State in defense of the PSI procedure.

He advises international and domestic credit institutions and investment firms, funds and blue-chip corporations, with work including cross-border mergers and acquisitions, privatizations, restructuring and securities transactions for listed and non-listed companies, securitization of NPLs, reorganisation and recovery transactions of corporations. Among others, he is the legal counsel for corporate and compliance issues of the Supervisory Board of the Hellenic Corporation of Assets and Participations S.A. (HCAP) since its establishment in October 2016.

He is a member of the BoD of the Hellenic European Law Association (FIDE-Greece) since 2002 (General Secretary, since 2018) and the European Society for Banking and Financial Law (AEDBF) since 2003 (President 1.1.2012-17.1.2015). He is the president of the BoD of the Hellenic Society for Financial Law (since 2009) and member of the European Financial Market Lawyers Group (EFMLG, working under the auspices of the ECB, since 1999). He has been the Legal Advisor of the Republic of Cyprus on the implementation of the European capital markets legislation (2000-2004), member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Deposit & Investment Guarantee Fund (2009-2017) and of the Board of Directors of KEPE (Center of Planning and Economic Research) (1995-2001). He participated in several legal groups of the ECB and the European Commission, advising on matters pertaining to the regulation of banking and financial markets and in numerous legislative groups advising on the drafting of Greek Banking and Capital Markets Laws (since 1988).

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## SPYRIDON TSANTINIS

Professor of Civil Procedure Law  
Democritus University of Thrace

Spyridon K. Tsantinis is Professor of Civil Procedure at the Democritus University of Thrace, Director of the Private Law Department of the Law Faculty and Director of the Arbitration Research Laboratory of the same Faculty.

Doctor of Laws from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main; Magister Legum Europae from the Leibniz University, Hanover; graduate of the Law Faculty of the National and Kapodistrian University, Athens.

Managing partner of the Tsantinis Law Firm. Admitted to the Athens Bar since 1991 and to all the Greek Supreme Courts since 1999. He specialises in litigation (civil and commercial) and arbitration. He has a special interest and practice in cassation law.

He has been a member of the Legal Department of the Bank of Greece since 1996, where he was Head of the Large and Special Proceedings Department from 2015 to 2018. He is currently Deputy Head of the Performance Evaluation Department and a member of the Bank's Legal Council. He acts as arbitrator in domestic and international (ICC) arbitrations.

He has chaired or been a member of various law drafting committees. For several years he was a regular lecturer at the National School of Judges. He is the author of books and studies on various topics of national and international civil procedure, civil and commercial law and contract law. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Association of Proceduralists, Editorial Director of the Revue of Civil Procedure Law and a founding member and Vice-President of the Hellenic Bioethics Society.

Languages: Greek, German, English, French, Italian.



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## DIMITRIOS PYRGAKIS

Judge  
Council of State

Dimitrios Pyrgakis is Judge (*maître des requêtes*) at the Hellenic Council of State (Supreme Administrative Court - 5<sup>th</sup> Section of Environmental Protection) and associate member of the Hellenic Special Supreme Court (2022-2023).

He served as Rapporteur (*référéndaire*) at the General Court of the European Union (2010-2012).

He is also Professor in the National School of Judges since 2020. He is Vice-President of the Greek Public Law Association and writer of numerous books publications and papers on Public and EU Law issues.



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## VASSILIS CONSTANTINIDIS

Senior Partner  
Dryllerakis & Associates

Senior Partner of Dryllerakis & Associates since October 2014. Graduate of the Athens University Law School, LL.B. (1990). Post-graduate studies in Commercial & Labor Law in Athens University (1991-1992). Member of the Athens Bar. He is qualified to practice before all Courts of all degrees, including the Supreme Courts.

Vassilis is active in Litigation & Arbitration, Employment Law, Commercial Law, AND Intellectual Property.

He has a long experience in litigation, having handled serious cases referring to commercial disputes, intellectual property and unfair competition matters. For the last ten (10) years he is co-leading the Dispute Resolution department and has handled several cases of multinational companies of commercial nature (e.g., termination of distributorship, claims etc.) and has achieved significant alterations of case law in this area. He was also in charge of a major ICC Arbitration case. He has also contributed in several Legal Guides covering the areas of Dispute Resolution and Employment Law.

He is also specialized in employment law, having been General Counsel of Carlsberg in Greece, with extensive international experience and expertise in the fields of corporate, labor law and litigation. Vassilis also worked on several Carlsberg Group international projects for Group Legal and Group HR, y. He also contributed in the areas of employee relationship, interaction with Works Council and Trade Unions in Greece and abroad.

Vassilis has an extensive experience in all HR issues (including code of conduct policies, data protection policies, Employer's handbooks, business-level CLAs, individual employment contracts of any kind etc.).

He speaks fluently Greek, English, French and German.

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GENERAL SECRETARY OF JUSTICE

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## PANOS ALEXANDRIS

General Secretary of Justice  
Ministry of Justice

Panos Alexandris holds the position of Secretary General of Justice at the Ministry of Justice since 15/7/2019. He was President of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance and the National Mechanism for the Children's Rights.

As barrister he served as Litigation Partner to KGLaw firm. He has acted as advisor to Greek Ministers and the Prime Minister's office. He was also member of the Board of Directors of OTE from 1993 to 1996.

Panos Alexandris between March 2015 and July 2019 served also as member and afterwards as Head of the Greek Delegation of Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and also as Vice President of the Human Rights Committee of CCBE.

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## ELEFThERIA KOLLIA

Journalist

Eleftheria Kollia is a journalist - writer. She worked for two decades at the Lambrakis Journalistic Organization. As editor of the newspaper "To Vima", she was accredited for many years at the Ministry of Justice and - in the distant past - at the Ministry of Interior, having covered most of the national elections. She has represented "To Vima" in numerous journalistic missions, from Brussels to Beijing, and from Bucharest to Moscow, while she has also sketched the portraits of important figures of the world of Politics and Art, in Greece and internationally. In June 2023, her book "In the Years of Christos Lambrakis: Testimonies and Narratives for the Lambrakis Journalistic Organization 1957-2017" was published by Pataakis Publications.

Since March 2017 until today, she is employed at the website Protagon.gr, signing reports and opinion articles on a wide range of topics, political, legal, judicial and social. She is also, from autumn 2023, Editorial Director of the NOMIKI BIBLIOTHIKI DAILY website, the new portal of NOMIKI BIBLIOTHIKI, which deals with Justice issues from Greece, Europe and the world.

She holds a Master's Degree (MA) in Mass Communications from the University of Leicester, UK - which she completed with a scholarship from the Onassis Foundation. She holds a degree in Social Sciences, from the Department of Psychology, University of Crete - graduated with "A".



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## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE: ENABLER OF THE RULE OF LAW IN BUSINESS ACTIVITY

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## **NATASSA STAMOU**

Vice-Chair, Hellenic Capital Market Commission  
Chair, Investments Guarantee Fund

Natassa Stamou was appointed Vice Chair of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission (HCMC) in September 2019 and Chair of the Investments Guarantee Fund in October 2022. She has extended experience in the Greek capital market, as, prior to her appointment to the HCMC, she was, for twenty years, legal advisor, compliance officer and DPO and also member of various administrative committees of the Athens Exchange Group.

She is actively involved in sustainable finance and corporate governance issues. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Corporate Governance Council (ESED) and Secretary General of the Financial Law Association. She speaks regularly at legal and economic conferences. She is a founding member of the NGO Axion Hellas. She is a lawyer (LL.M. Sotón 1995).

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## KAKIA TZEMOU

General Counsel  
Prodea Investments S.A.

Kakia Tzemou is the General Counsel of PRODEA INVESTMENTS SA, a listed real estate investment company (REIC).

She is an attorney – at – Law, member of the Athens Bar Association, qualified to plead before the Supreme Court, she holds a Law degree from the Athens University and an International Diploma in Governance, Risk and Compliance, ICA - University of Manchester, Alliance Manchester Business School. She has also obtained certifications as a Compliance Officer and AML Officer. She speaks Greek, English and French.

She has been practicing law as an in-house lawyer and as an external legal advisor to financial and other regulated institutions since 1992 and has extensive experience in corporate, commercial, and civil law, bankruptcy and restructuring of debts, litigation of commercial law cases, finance, real estate, financial and operating leasing, corporate governance and compliance.

She has participated in various legislative committees on the legal framework of leasing, factoring and venture capital in Greece.

She has served as Deputy General Manager & Head of Legal Department of NBG LEASING SA, Deputy Compliance and AML Officer at NBG LEASING SA, Legal Advisor of ETHNIKI KEFALAIOY SA, BNP PARIBAS and ETHNIKI STEGASTIKI BANK SA.



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## VENIA PAPATHANASOPOULOU

Director Legal Affairs & Corporate Governance, Secretary to the BoD  
Athens International Airport S.A.

Attorney-at-Law at the Athens Supreme Court and Accredited Mediator (CEDR UK), certified by the Greek Ministry of Justice, holding an LL.M. in Commercial and European Law from the University of Essex, UK, currently being Director of Legal Affairs, & Corporate Secretary to the BoD at "Athens International Airport S.A." (09/2012 - to date).

Vice-President of the BoD at "Athens Airport Fuel Pipeline Company S.A."

Chair of the BoD at the "Greek National Opera" (01/2020 - to date).

Venia brings an extensive experience in negotiations with Ministries, Local Authorities and wider public sector, regarding commercial and concession agreements, regulatory, compliance, procurement and corporate issues, as well as arbitral proceedings in front of LCIA, as she has assumed the duties of General Counsel, Legal Advisor and Company Secretary in various corporations of energy, transportation, IT, gambling, media, stock market and sports industries, among others, Athens Olympic Games 2004 S.A., Athens Stock Exchange S.A., OPAP S.A., Press Institute S.A., Quest Holdings S.A.

She served as the Vice-President of the BoD at "Transparency International-Greece", providing also legal services "pro bono", while she is also member of many Greek and International institutions.

She had been included in the first edition of "GC Power List Greece and Cyprus 2018" as well as of that of 2022 of the International Independent Guide "The Legal 500" for Corporate Lawyers.

She has been nominated ICC Hellas representative to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR as of 25/7/2022.



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## THANOS PAPAGEORGAKIS

Chief Legal Officer  
Hygeia Group

Thanos graduated from the Law School Democritus University of Thrace and completed his post graduate studies (DEA) in European and International Law in the University of Lille II, in France. He has been a member of the Athens Bar Association since 1999 and also member of the Cyprian Bar Association. He has been a collaborator of the Law School Professor Aristotle Charalambakis and collaborator of the Legal Department of Piraeus Bank. He has dealt a large amount of civil, penal and commercial cases but also banking and financial issues.

Thanos has a profound experience in medical law and is Chief of the Legal Department of HYGEIA Group of Hellenic Healthcare Group (HHG). He is a member of Board of Directors of HYGEIA Hospital, MITERA Hospital and HYGEIA IVF EMVRYOGENESIS. Also, he was Vice President of HYGEIA HOSPITAL-TIRANA.

He is a visiting Professor in the post graduate program of "Bioethics" in Democritus University of Thrace and was Professor of European Law in the "Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques", branch of CEDS.

He is a lecturer in many seminars, fora and congresses of legal-medical subjects and he has composed many legal opinions. Many of his Seminars concerned the Center of Development of Greek Commerce in collaboration with Athens University of Economics and Business.

Thanos has published a large number of articles in legal magazines and websites about legal subjects of the current affairs.

He was elected Secretary in the Association of European Lawyers of Greece.

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## JOHN APSOURIS

Group General Counsel  
Helleniq Energy

Attorney-at-Law, member of the Athens Bar Association, qualified to plead before the Supreme Court, holds a Law degree from the Athens University and a Master's Degree (DEA) from the University of Aix-en-Provence (France). He speaks Greek, French, English, Spanish and Italian. From January 1994 until November 2010, he was a partner at "Dryllerakis & Associates Law Firm", handling cases of corporate, commercial and civil law, mergers and acquisitions, criminal law, mining law, bankruptcy and restructuring of debts, arbitration/litigation of commercial law cases. Since December 2010 he is the General Counsel of Hellenic Petroleum Group (now Helleniq Energy).

For a number of years, he was a Board member and/or secretary to the Board of Directors of various Greek companies. Between 2013 and 2018 he was member of the Supervisory Board of the "Hellenic Gas Transmission System Operator (DESFA) S.A.". Today, he is Chairman of the Board of ELPET VALKANIKI S.A., VARDAX S.A. and HELPE DIGITAL S.A. and a Director in other three companies of HELLENiQ ENERGY Group. In January 2020, John has been elected Chair of the Legal Issue Group of Fuels Europe (Division of the European Petroleum Refiners Association) and, since January 2019 is a member of the Hellenic Corporate Governance Council (HCGC) of the Athens Stock Exchange. He participates in the Working Groups of Corporate Governance and Industrial Permitting of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV) and in the Corporate Governance Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. He is a regular speaker in legal conferences and has published studies and articles in the Greek and international legal press.

RULE OF LAW 2024 CONFERENCE

June 26, 2024

HOTEL GRANDE BRETAGNE



# THE RULE OF LAW PILLAR OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

Under the Auspices of

H.E. The President of the Hellenic Republic  
Katerina Sakellariopoulou

Organizer



AMERICAN-HELLENIC  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
GEORGE FLORIDIS, MINISTER OF JUSTICE



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## GEORGE FLORIDIS

Minister of Justice

He was born in Kilkis in 1956. He studied at the Law Schools of Thrace and Thessaloniki.

He was elected first president of the Students' Association of Law School of Thrace in 1974 and then president of the Students' Association of the Prefecture of Kilkis. He worked as a lawyer in Kilkis and Thessaloniki.

In October 1994 he was elected Prefect of Kilkis and, a year later, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Union of Prefectural Self-Governments (ENAE).

From 1996 to 2011, he was a Member of Parliament for Kilkis, elected in five consecutive elections.

He was Deputy Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, Deputy Minister of Culture (Responsible for Sports), Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance and Minister of Public Order.

During his parliamentary term, he was a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, the Special Standing Committee on Institutions and Transparency, the Special Standing Committee on Control of the Balance Sheet and State Account, as well as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

In June 2011, he resigned from the parliamentary position and returned to practicing law.

In June 2023, he was appointed as the Minister of Justice, a position that he currently holds.