

# The Legalese

January 2006

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The HCLA Executive Committee extends our best wishes to the community for a healthy and prosperous 2006. We look forward to serving our members, new and old, in the coming year.

## NINTH ANNUAL PROFESSIONALS' GALA

The Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association, the Hippocrates Hellenic Canadian Medical Association, and the Asclepius Dental Society proudly present the ninth annual Hellenic Professionals' Gala.

Always a highlight of the social calendar, this year's Gala will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at the Spirale Banquet Hall and Convention Centre, 888 Don Mills Road, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Join fellow Hellenic professionals for a special night of dining and dancing. This year's event promises to be the biggest ever, featuring the live Greek music of *Orchestra Opa-Opa!* Last year's hugely successful and competitive Silent Auction is back by popular demand. If you have collectible items, sports tickets or memorabilia, or vendors' gift certificates to donate to the Silent Auction please contact Rita Gratsias, Social Director, at (416) 703-2402 or at [rgratsias@bcbarristers.com](mailto:rgratsias@bcbarristers.com).

Black tie is optional, but dancing-shoes are mandatory. See you there!

Tickets for the dinner and dance are: \$100 per person, \$70 for students. Contact Rita Gratsias, above, for tickets or event information.

[Click here for a copy of the Professionals' Gala flyer](#) (PDF)

[Click here for a map link.](#)

[Click here to visit Spirale's web site.](#)

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## AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

### HCLA Annual General Meeting

The HCLA held its Annual General Meeting on October 27, 2005 at the Ontario Bar Association. HCLA President George Bougadis guided the 40 members in attendance through a packed agenda and delicious dinner.

#### *Keynote Address*

The keynote address was given by Professor Thomas W. Gallant, professor of history at York University and the Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History. His vibrant multimedia presentation brought to life a long-forgotten, shocking event in Toronto's history: the Anti-Greek Riots of 1918. The riots erupted on the hottest days on record, in an atmosphere of cultural misunderstanding and amidst the fatigue and confusion brought about by the first modern war. Tens of thousands of angry war veterans ⇒

#### *In Memoriam: Evangelos A. Hadjis*

We note, with sadness, the passing on September 10, 2005 of Evangelos A. Hadis, a distinguished member of the Montreal bar, the Montreal Greek community, and one of the original members of the Quebec chapter of the HCLA. A tribute to Monsieur Hadjis will appear in a future issue of *The Legalese*.

rioted in downtown Toronto, targeting and destroying many Greek-owned stores and restaurants. Professor Gallant's speech placed the riots in vivid historical and international political context. More importantly, Professor Gallant reminded us that our Hellenic Canadian community has not been spared by the twin evils of ignorance and racism.

*Reports by the President, Treasurer, and Membership Directors*

The AGM heard presentations by President Bougadis, Treasurer John Salmas, and Membership Directors John Yiokaris and Jim Vavitsas. The HCLA is in solid financial shape, its events are well-attended, and its mandate has never been stronger. But we need your help to reach out to all legal professionals of Hellenic descent and to our community at large. If you know of such professionals at your firm, law school, neighbourhood, or province, please tell them about the HCLA and forward a copy of this newsletter or a link to HCLA web site ([www.hcla.ca](http://www.hcla.ca), of course). On the off chance that you have not yet renewed your paid membership, now's the time (and welcome back!). The membership form can be found online at <http://www.hcla.ca/membershipform1.pdf>.

*Constitutional Amendment: Association des Avocats Helléniques-Canadiens*

The HCLA is now also known as the AAHC. By unanimous vote at the AGM, the HCLA adopted a French name: *Association des Avocats Helléniques-Canadiens*. The name acknowledges that the HCLA is now a unifying force across the country, with a growing membership from sea to sea to sea (yes, we have one member called to the bar in Nunavut!).

*Constitutional Amendment: Electronic Voting*

Also passed at the AGM is a constitutional amendment that allows the HCLA Executive Committee to propose and pass resolutions and motions by electronic/e-mail voting. The business of the HCLA can now be conducted quickly, efficiently, and seamlessly.

*Student Scholarship Presentations*

Congratulations to the recipients of the HCLA's 2005 Panagiotis Alexis Family Student Scholarships: Francesca Smirnakis of Osgoode Hall Law School and Voula Kotoulas of the University of Manitoba Law School. Both are in the final year of their legal studies. We wish them, and all our HCLA student members, good luck in their studies, articles, and legal careers.

*Election of New Directors*

The AGM wrapped up with the election of four new directors to the Executive Committee. Congratulations to new directors James Zibarras, Deanna Wolfe, Francesca Smirnakis, and Christos Grivas, and, also, to returning directors George Bougadis and John Yiokaris.

This also means saying goodbye, for now, to the directors who served the HCLA tirelessly over one or more terms. The HCLA thanks outgoing directors: Helen Fotinos (Secretary), Esia Giaouris (Social Director), and John Polyzogopoulos (Vice-President and a Past President of the HCLA).

The HCLA also continues to include Honorary Directors on its Executive Committee. Honorary Directors are distinguished senior members of the legal profession who also have strong ties to the Greek community. We thank last year's honorary directors, Chris Tzekas and John Sotos, for bringing their experience and guidance to the Executive Committee. We welcome back Chris Tzekas and thank George Glezos and Tom Karvanis for graciously agreeing to become honorary directors for a two year term of office.

Your new Executive Committee for 2006 is:

George Bougadis – President  
John Salmas – Treasurer  
John Yiokaris – Membership Director  
Rita M. Gratsias – Social Director  
Christos Grivas – Communications Director  
George S. Glezos – Honorary Director

Jim Vavitsas – Vice-President  
Deanna Wolfe – Secretary  
James Zibarras – Membership Director  
Francesca Smirnakis – Social Director & Student Rep  
Chris Tzekas – Honorary Director  
A. Tom Karvanis – Honorary Director

### **Student Outreach: Osgoode Hall**

Just a few short weeks after the AGM, several members of the HCLA's Board joined students and faculty of Osgoode Hall Law School for an informal (and informational) wine and cheese party hosted by Past HCLA President and Assistant Dean Gina Alexandris at Osgoode Hall. Undergraduates from York University and the University of Toronto also attended, as did practitioners like Ria Tzimas, one of the HCLA's founding members. That night, HCLA members answered the students' questions about the practice of law, and were rewardingly reminded that every day we all act as resources and role models for the new generation of legal professionals of Hellenic descent. Play your part by joining us at our next student function!

We thank Professor Gina Alexandris of Osgoode Hall Law School for hosting a successful event.

### **Christmas Cheer at the Court House**

OK, that headline sounds like the subtitle of a Charles Dickens novel, but on December 16th, a large and merry crowd of HCLA members gathered at the beautiful, Greek-owned restaurant *The Court House* in downtown Toronto for a night of, well, Christmas cheer. It was a chilled-out evening without the humbug of PowerPoint presentations or speeches beyond toasts of *Chronia Polla!*

We hope your holidays were happy and we wish you and your families all the best for a good start to 2006.

## *Ta Nea*

Ontario private member's Bill 23 – 2005 proclaims March 25th of each year as *Hellenic Heritage Day* and the month of March of each year as *Hellenic History and Heritage Month*. The bill had its first reading on November 3, 2005. The proposed *Celebration of Hellenic Heritage Act, 2005* recognizes and celebrates the significant contribution of citizens of Hellenic descent to Canadian society. Reprinted below is the entire text of Bill 23:

### **An Act to proclaim a day and a month to celebrate Hellenic heritage in Ontario**

#### *Preamble*

The Hellenes, the Greeks of today, are the proud descendants of a culture that originated in the glorious civilization of ancient Hellas. Many of the ideas, ideals and institutions upon which modern civilization is based, such as freedom and democracy, were first developed by the ancient Greeks.

Born in a land of limited resources, Greeks have perennially been a people on the move. From antiquity onward as seafarers, merchants and settlers, Greeks have migrated to all corners of the globe. Emigration to Canada, however, has been a more recent phenomenon. Attracted by its democratic institutions and economic opportunities, Canada became a natural country of choice. Though Greek

emigration began over 125 years ago, the vast majority of Greek immigrants came to Canada since 1950. Today, over 100,000 people of Hellenic descent thrive in Ontario.

Those that came seeking a better future opened restaurants, hotels, theatres, shoeshine parlours, farms and recreation clubs. One of the oldest Greek institutions, the Greek coffee house was also transplanted to their adopted country. Others, working in factories and construction, helped build this great province.

Ontario citizens of Greek descent continue to make significant contributions to the economic and cultural growth of Ontario and Canada as engineers, economists, lawyers, doctors, teachers, politicians, artists and business managers and numerous other lines of work. The Greek Canadian community in Ontario is a vibrant one and continues to make many significant contributions to our society and to enrich the Canadian mosaic with its traditions, history, language, culture, commerce and public service across this province.

The month of March and the day of March 25, in particular, have traditionally been a great time of celebration by the Greek community. March 25 commemorates the anniversary of the commencement of the Greek War of Independence 181 years ago that resulted in the birth of the modern Greek state.

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

*Hellenic Heritage Day*

1. March 25 in each year is proclaimed as Hellenic Heritage Day.

*Hellenic History and Heritage Month*

2. The month of March in each year is proclaimed as Hellenic History and Heritage Month.

*Commencement*

3. This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

*Short title*

4. The short title of this Act is the *Celebration of Hellenic Heritage Act, 2005*.

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*The Legalese* is published four times a year by the HCLA Executive Committee. We welcome your contributions and feedback. Please contact Christos Grivas, Communications Director, at [cgrivas@osc.gov.on.ca](mailto:cgrivas@osc.gov.on.ca).

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## HCLA MISSION STATEMENT

### NEA: Network — Educate — Advocate

The HCLA is a national non-profit organization founded in 1990. Its primary purpose is to maintain a reliable network of lawyers, judges and law students of Hellenic origin. In addition to creating professional opportunities, this network serves as a platform for members to educate one another on issues that are of common interest, as well as to educate the Hellenic Canadian community at large on relevant legal issues. When necessary, the HCLA is ready, willing, and able to advocate on behalf of its membership and the greater Hellenic Canadian community.

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