



SPRING 2020

THE LEGALESE

*A Semi-Annual Newsletter Publication of the
Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association*

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

By Francie Smirnakis, HCLA President

What better time than now to re-launch the HCLA's Legalese to stay connected through this surreal (yet new normal?) time of social and physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic?

We may all be away from our usual day-to-day visits to the Danforth for a frothy Frappe, and our friendly boardroom and courtroom run-ins, but we can still look back and forward to the times when we mix and mingle over networking, fundraising and continuing professional development events.

Together, we eagerly await a future filled again with these wonderful cultural and professional bonding opportunities. But until then, we hope to bring you some optimism and a sense of community as you enjoy the fresh ideas of our fellow HCLA member contributors.

We encourage you to remotely reminisce and visit with us, as you peruse our stories, photos and updates here and on social media.

FEATURED STORIES:

**22nd Hellenic Professionals' Gala:
Fun, Friends and Fundraising!**

**The COVID-19 Crisis: Considerations
for Law Students and New Calls to
the Bar**

**How to Stay Productive While
Working From Home: 10 Tips That
Work for Me**

**A Spotlight on Our Past Scholarship
Winners**

Meet the Board

Announcements

**Welcome to the HCLA's Re-Launch
of the Legalese!**

The Board will continue to think of ways to deliver on our 2020 vision and goals during these challenging times. We may consider hosting a virtual Annual General Meeting, or delay events like the Fall President's Social until we can safely meet in person and hear the clank of our toasts to our new Calls to the Bar. Other events and initiatives may not be as impacted by our virtual interactions, like a CPD, which we could stream to members.

To give you a flavour of our priorities, the HCLA's 2020 goals include:

- **Reviving the Mentorship Program** to champion more senior mentees, recognizing evolving professional development and coaching needs in a mentee's career progression as they seek promotions, increased responsibilities and a stronger profile
- **Rolling out a new First Year Student Scholarship** in the name of Gina Alexandris, recognizing her ongoing significant contribution to legal education in Canada, which was announced at the 2020 Hellenic Professionals' Gala. For more information please email spresvelos@presveloslaw.com
- **Delivering a CPD with accredited programming**, while also profiling our talented and skilled members who can share their knowledge and experiences
- **Hosting a new type of student event**, departing from our historic wine and cheese, recognizing generational diversity and the value in connecting and mentoring in new ways

- **Revisiting preliminary work done on charitable status and endowment fund structuring** as a means to facilitate longer term fundraising to support our annual Justice Karakatsanis Scholarship and other special scholarships the Board may approve from time to time

We hope to see you close and soon, but for now, please stay home, stay safe and stay healthy!



22ND HELLENIC PROFESSIONALS' GALA: FUN, FRIENDS AND FUNDRAISING!

BY FRANCIE SMIRNAKIS AND TRISH VROTSOS, GALA COMMITTEE

"Picture it" – One chilly leap year night in February, the who's who of the Hellenic Canadian professionals' community gathered at a sold-out gala held at a swanky downtown hotel to raise funds for student scholarships and socialize, while sipping rakomelo tumblers and nibbling on flaming saganaki to the sweet soulful sax of Athenian professional musician, Miss Saxo Vaya.

The Gala Committee worked tirelessly for many months to pull together an elevated event with new and special add-ons and surprises, like the specialty ouzo-infused truffles by renowned Greek Canadian Chef “Kalofagas”, Peter Minaki, that were circulating during the red carpet photo and cocktail reception. Guests paired the luscious little bombs with Greek specialty rosé bubbly made possible through Greek importer, Kolonaki Group.

The Toronto Greek Band kept everyone on their feet dancing till the sweet late night loukoumades made their appearance from Loukoumania bakery, and Greek community gyro-extraordinaire, Catering by Nikos, began wrapping savoury chicken to sop up the “Tears of Chios” mastic specialty cocktail. Is your mouth watering yet?

Guests brought the kefi from as far as Nova Scotia and California. The Ritz Carlton Ballroom had never seen such diaskedasi. The dishes stayed on the tables, but the Greeks (and some non-Greeks) got down on their knees to clap their para to the zeibekiko finish line.

The evening was only made possible because of all of your support, including the many Silent Auction donors and sponsors. New this year, the Gala Committee voted on a new \$10,000 presenting sponsorship level. We were humbled by the overwhelming support of not one, but two Presenting Sponsors: **Altimal Dental/MCI The Doctor's Office** and **Conte Jaswal Lawyers**.

This year, the Gala also saw an increase in Chairman level sponsors from three to four as follows: **Greybrook Realty Partners, Polydor Foundation, Sotos LLP** and **MyoHealth**. Several other law firm sponsors included **Bougadis, Chang Barristers LLP, Tony Lafazanis Personal Injury & Disability Insurance Law, Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP** and **Blaney McMurtry LLP**. We also can't forget the special sponsors and donations that contributed to the night's fundraising success, such as **Dina Constantinou (Desjardins)** and the **Hellenic Heritage Foundation**.

In addition, the HCLA also wants to formally thank the Gala Committee and the Hippocrates Hellenic Canadian Medical Association (HHCMA) and the Asclepius Dental Society (ADS). The three hosting associations successfully collaborated to deliver an amazing event raising approximately \$45,000, divided equally among the associations to fund student scholarships and other initiatives within the Hellenic professionals' community in Canada.

We wish to again congratulate the following winners of the law student scholarships that were awarded at the Gala (\$3,500 each):



Ellie Minchopoulous (University of Toronto) – Justice Karakatsanis Scholarship

Angelique Merakos (University of Ottawa) – Justice Karakatsanis Scholarship

Anastasia Grigoriou (University of Toronto) – Hellenic Professionals' Scholarship

For the first time this year, a joint law, medical and dental scholarship was awarded in light of a generous donation from one of the Presenting Sponsors, **Altima Dental/MCI The Doctor's Office**, who requested that the entire sponsorship amount go to the students directly. Owner, Dr. George Christodoulou, increased his sponsorship to \$10,500 so that three special scholarships in the amount of \$3,500 could be given out in addition to each association's other annual scholarships. The HCLA, HHCMA and ADS decided to call this the “Hellenic Professionals' Scholarship”.

This scholarship further displays the collaboration of the three hosting associations and alignment of their mandates to support students in professional programs in the Hellenic Canadian community. *Maybe next year there will be another sponsor who would like to fund this cross-professional scholarship?*

We also want to recognize all scholarship applicants for their strong and impressive applications and encourage students to apply for next year's scholarships.

The HCLA also announced a new First Year Law Student Scholarship to be awarded to a student of Hellenic descent who will be starting law school in Canada in the Fall of 2020.

The Board approved this special scholarship to honour Gina Alexandris' exceptional commitment and contributions to various law schools and programs in Canada, including the new Ryerson Law School, Ryerson's Law Practice Program, University of Toronto's Foreign Trained Lawyers' Program and Osgoode Hall Law School, where Gina served as Assistant Dean of Student Services for 9 years.

The HCLA will put a call out for applications soon. Please contact Sam Presvelos at spresvelos@presveloslaw.com for more details.

2020 Gala Committee:

Francesca Smirnakis, HCLA President and Senior Counsel, RBC Canadian Wealth Management and Mutual Fund Distribution

Trish Vrotsos, HCLA Treasurer and Senior Counsel, Metro Ontario Inc.

Kosta Kalogiros, HCLA Secretary and Partner, McCarthy Tétrault LLP

Victoria Asikis, HCLA Co-Membership and Communications Director and Associate, Gowlings LLP

Sophia Karantonis Dedes, HCLA Member and Legal Counsel for Immigration and Refugee Board

Agapi Mavridis, HCLA Member and Assistant Crown Attorney at Peel Crown Attorney's Office

HHCMA: Dr. Sophia Mobilos, Dr. Sofia Nastis, Dr. Jenny Vassilakos, Dr. Vasilisa Vastis, Dr. Sophia Polymeneas

ADS: Dr. Emily Trohatos, Dr. Mary-Ellen Polymeris, Dr. Andrew Syriopoulos, Dr. Aliko Divaris



THE COVID-19 CRISIS: CONSIDERATIONS FOR LAW STUDENTS AND NEW CALLS TO THE BAR

**BY GINA ALEXANDRIS, FORMER HCLA
PRESIDENT**

As an organization, the HCLA recognizes the challenges to all its members of the recent and ongoing COVID-19 crisis. While the situation impacts all of us personally and professionally newer members and colleagues may be feeling additional pressures as they enter or begin the profession.

Below are some considerations for incoming and current law students; licensing Candidates; and new and newer (and about to be) Calls to the Bar, which we hope will offer some hope and strategies moving forward.

Take the time to figure out (or remind yourself) what matters most. In the hustle and bustle of law school; exams; articling/LPP; starting a practice...you may have lost sight of what really is important to you. Make some time, now, to reflect on those values – what really moves and motivates you? Is it working on “big” files? Pride in being a “lawyer”? Fighting for justice or the underdog? Time and flexibility to balance professional and personal goals? Enough money to travel and/or contribute to causes? Excitement? Or any of so many possibilities. There is NO right or wrong answer; but rather answers right TO YOU. You can engage the services of a coach (both Gina Alexandris and Paul Karvanis are HCLA members and lawyers, who are also coaches), or consider the LSO's Coaching and Advisor Network. Or simply spend time reflecting on your own. I often ask my coaching clients to think about (and write down) answers to questions such as:

Look forward 20 years...you are attending a function where someone is giving a speech about YOU! What would you want them to say?



If time and resources were not a concern, describe the things you long to do?

Think about one or two people you know who really inspire you. What about them is inspiring?

Use this time to build existing skills or develop new ones: while focusing on the present is ideal, part of that may well involve building or learning new skills or knowledge that may well help you in the future. Do you need to think more about your computer/tech skills or AI/Cybersecurity? Have you been interested in exploring a new practice area? Have you gotten feedback that your communications or research skills may need further work? Or do you perhaps want to branch out and learn to play that musical instrument you've always found interesting or take up painting or start training for that marathon or learn more about the great Greek philosophers... just because. This might well be the best time to think about exploring courses and workshops. Many are available online (and at this time many are free). Look at programming available, with law-related themes, through the Law Society of Ontario; the Canadian Bar Association; the Ontario Bar Association; Ryerson's Legal Innovation Zone; Osgoode's Professional Development; and so many other organizations. And for non-law programming, you can join thousands in courses offered from world-class institutions and leaders in their fields through Coursera; edX; LinkedIn Learning; and many other online providers.

Maintain...or develop...your professional network: humans need connection. That's so true, now more than ever. And while we may have to be physically distancing, we need to continue our social connecting. While wine and cheese socials may not be on the menu for a bit (and I can hear some of you saying, "thank goodness"), one-on-one video chats or small group calls or conferences are still very much possible. Perhaps use this time to update your contact list – do you still have current emails, job titles and numbers for everyone? If not sure, reach out and re-connect with someone. Let them know where you're

at, what you're up to and learn what they have been doing lately. Two critical aspects of building professional networks is to be genuinely interested in the other person and to recognize they take time to develop.

Learn another's story, their pain points, their successes and their challenges. People can sense disinterest or an "agenda"...and will shut down. But if you approach each interaction with a genuine enthusiasm in sharing with another human being, it will be far more rewarding for both parties. And remember that relationships take time to develop and run through their own timelines. Never approach a first contact with the ask of "do you have a job for me?" They don't know you yet; or know you well enough to be able to make a referral or recommendation. Give relationships time, and space, and effort to grow and develop.

And where possible, embrace and seek out professional relationships across ages and experience levels. While I value the advice and guidance of those ahead of me; and treasure the exchanges with colleagues and classmates of mine; I also embrace and thrive on my conversations with students and lawyers at all crossroads of their professional (and personal) lives. I find it most enriching to be able to have a broad and diverse network...and recognize it takes time to cultivate those (and that we are better at it at different times in our lives and careers!). Joining groups such as the HCLA, and perhaps participating on its Board, or in its newly revitalized Mentor Program (either as a Mentor or Mentee) certainly helps to build these vital connections and to develop both your confidence and knowledge.

Build your resilience and wellness: understand that change and uncertainty are absolutely hard; and we have so much of both at this point in time. Cut yourself some slack. Understand you might not be your most productive you at the moment; or that you might be too busy with unexpected demands on your time (both personal and professional) to consider any of the above. That's all okay. Our brains are historically wired to look for and react to threats; we have our amygdala to thank for that! When we see or sense a threat, our brain jumps to fight, flight or freeze, and that shows up in so many ways in our bodies and in some of our responses to situations. The part of our brain that makes rational decisions based on careful reasoning and analysis is shut down by the amygdala. And so we need to find ways not to be triggered that way and to balance these two very important parts of our brain. Building these strategies and skills to do so, will help develop our resilience, which is critical at times when we are all both stressed and trying hard to stay healthy. To that end, there are

a multitude of online programs and opportunities to find those all-important breathing techniques; help you develop different reactions; change the negative self-talk to more positive framing; use journals and gratitude and service; and otherwise stay resilient and healthy. As Ontario law students and lawyers, remember you (and your family members) are eligible to the tremendous (and free) services of the LSO's Member Assistance Program; you can find additional courses and programs through the Canadian Bar Association; or you can find resources on the newly launched Wellness Together Canada site.



HOW TO STAY PRODUCTIVE WHILE WORKING FROM HOME: 10 TIPS THAT WORK FOR ME

BY DORA KONOMI

As a young associate who is constantly learning to navigate the law, I am living in a brave new world with no precedent to guide me. The courts are closed. Our physical office is semi-closed. My dedication to work and my desire to continue serving our clients, however, are unchanged and remain wide open. The question becomes: how to stay productive in these unpredictable and tumultuous times?

I have received messages from students, lawyers and other professionals I know asking how I manage to remain productive while working from home. Here are 10 things that work for me.

I have a dedicated area where I work. My brain, much like Pavlov's dog, is conditioned to work when I enter my "work zone." I must admit that sometimes I don't heed my own advice and end up on the couch or close to the fireplace.

I established a schedule adhering to my regular routine. This means I still wake up to an alarm clock. Some days, I work until 9 or 10 p.m. Not only am I able to be productive from home, but I often find I am able to be more productive working from home. I am not required to do all the things one normally does when venturing out into the real world, including using up time commuting to work. These days, my commute consists of walking the 20 seconds it takes to get from the kitchen to my work zone.

I change into work clothes. By this, I do not mean that I am sitting at home in a suit. But I do change out of my pajamas. This tells my body that "it's showtime."

I start by making my tackle-the-world daily list. I outline all of the tasks that I want to accomplish, both work-related and non-work-related. I make my list the old-school way - with a pen and paper. When I accomplish a task, I take great pleasure in crossing it off my list.

I take breaks. Just like I would at the office. I eat snacks, drink coffee, and chat with co-workers. For example, I email coffee pictures with our chief law clerk and pretend we are together. I also email clients to see how they are doing during this time.

I have technology that works for me. We are paperless at the firm, so I have access to all my documents and emails. There are also great free apps

that have made videoconferences easier and reading cases more enjoyable, and that facilitate other activities. Of course, certain tasks on the computer are faster while at the office because I have two screens. But I've adapted.

I made my work zone pleasant, warm and cozy. I am more likely to work in a place that I like.

I play music in the background. "Alexa, play Stevie Wonder."

I leave my phone in the bedroom. When I finish a task or two on my list, I check my messages and scroll through my feed. This helps me focus on my work and avoid spending too much time on social media.

I smile. Even when the other side isn't cooperating, I smile and I'm kind. My brain releases happy hormones, which make me feel better and happier. I definitely work better when I'm happy.

A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

BY KATERINA MARAGOS, HCLA COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Every year, the Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association awards several scholarships to second and third year law students who have demonstrated both outstanding academic achievement and involvement in the Greek community at large.

2017

Zoe Kalakos is a graduate of the University of Windsor, and is nearing the completion of her articles at Inch Hammond Professional Corporation in Hamilton, Ontario. Zoe has gained a wealth of experience on a variety of matters and has developed an interest in a range of practices from defamation to insolvency.

Dora Konomi is an associate with Spiegel Nichols Fox LLP whose practice involves a broad range of civil litigation. She is also an award winning radio producer.

2016

Christina Coliviras completed her articles with Torsys LLP. Since leaving the firm, Christina has been helping grow her family's business, Styrok Inc., an innovative manufacturing start-up.



Sotiris Varlokostas is a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School and the Schulich School of Business. Sotiris is currently completing his articles at Osler, Hoskin & Hrcourt LLP where he focuses on a transaction-based practice.

2015

Sam Presvelos began his legal career at McCarthy Tetrault LLP. In 2017, Sam opened his own civil litigation firm with his twin brother, Evan Presvelos, specializing in corporate, commercial and real estate litigation. Sam recently joined a start-up energy company, Noventa Energy Partners, where he works as counsel.

James Katsuras is a second-year Associated at Roy O'Connor LLP, a boutique litigation firm in Toronto. James is developing a practice that focuses on class

actions, complex commercial and securities litigation, and general civil litigation.

2014

Victoria Asikis is an associate at Gowling WLG in Ottawa in the Advertising and Product Regulatory group. Her main focus is food and beverages, cosmetics and natural health products.



MEET THE BOARD

BY SAM PRESVELOS, HCLA STUDENT DIRECTOR

Kostas Kalogiros is the HCLA's Secretary and is a litigation partner at McCarthy Tétrault LLP. He maintains a broad litigation practice, assisting public and privately held corporations with their corporate/commercial disputes as well as working on automotive matters and professional negligence.

Kosta is a leader at McCarthy's Automotive Industry Group, where he advises key players on issues relating to autonomous vehicles and artificial intelligence. He is also a member of MT▶Play, a global gaming consultancy, with a particular industry focus on eSports.

Kosta has been a member of the HCLA since he first entered law school at Osgoode Hall Law school in 2007.

Chloe Boubalos is the HCLA's Social Director and is a litigation associate at Lenczner Slaght. She maintains a broad litigation practice with a focus on commercial and professional liability matters. She attended the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law where, in 2015, she placed first with her team in the 2015 Wilson Moot. While at the University of Toronto she served on the senior editorial board of the Indigenous Law Journal. Chloe has been an HCLA member since 2018.

Francie Smirnakis is the HCLA's President and is Senior Counsel at RBC where she supports the Canadian Wealth Management and Mutual Fund Distribution businesses, including the full service investment dealer, retail mutual fund dealers, online discount brokerage and discretionary investment manager for high and ultra-high net worth clients. Prior to RBC, Francie was Senior Counsel with BMO Global Asset Management and prior to that, she was a lawyer in BLG's Investment Management Group.

Francie has been involved with the HCLA since 2004, serving in various roles including Student Director, Social Director, Treasurer and Vice President. Francie was awarded an HCLA student scholarship in 2005.

Victoria Asikis is the HCLA's Membership and Communications Director and an associate with Gowling WLG where she practices business law with an emphasis on advertising and product regulations. Victoria graduated from the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law where she was a team member for the Oxford International Intellectual Property Moot, a Copy Editor for the Windsor review of Legal and Social Issues and the Student representative for the Hellenic Students of Windsor Law (which she founded). Victoria has been an HCLA member since 2012.

Trish Vrotsos is the HCLA's Treasurer and is Legal Counsel with Metro Ontario Inc. Prior to Metro, Trish worked at two other law firms where she practiced corporate commercial law including commercial real estate, franchising and distribution, leasing and secured transactions. Trish has been a member of the HCLA since 2008.

Voula Kotoulas is the HCLA's Vice-President and is a partner at FCL LLP and practises exclusively in civil defence litigation with a focus on municipal, professional errors and omissions and Directors' and Officers' liability, including class actions. Voula is a past recipient of the HCLA scholarship in 2005. Voula has been an HCLA member since 2005.

Yonida Koukio is the HCLA's Membership and Communications Director and has practiced litigation in Athens, Greece, with a focus on plaintiff-side tort claims. She holds LL.B. and LL.M. degrees from Democritus University of Thrace and, more recently, an LL.M. degree from Osgoode Hall Law School in Intellectual Property and Business Law. While at Osgoode, she acted as an IPilogue Editor, blogging extensively about technology and data-related legal issues, and co-published two peer-reviewed health and biotech-related articles.

After completing her Law Practice Program placement at McCarthy Tétrault LLP, she expects to be called to the Ontario Bar in June 2020.

Katerina Maragos is the HCLA's Community Relations Director and has recently completed her articles at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. She will be returning to BLG as an Associate in their Corporate Commercial Group with a focus on Indigenous and energy law matters. Katerina graduated from Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law in 2019 where she interned at the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, established Lakehead's Pro Bono Students Canada chapter and participated in the Kawaskimhon Aboriginal Moot. Katerina received the Jim Vavitsas Memorial Scholarship in 2018. Katerina has been a member of the HCLA since 2016.

Sam Presvelos is the HCLA's Student Director and the founder and partner of Presvelos Law LLP, a boutique commercial litigation firm that focuses on corporate commercial and real estate litigation. He also acts as general counsel to Noventa Energy Partners, a renewable energy company.

Sam attended Osgoode Hall Law School where he earned prizes in both Business and Real Estate Law. He received the Justice Karakatsanis Scholarship in 2015 and has been an active HCLA member since 2013.

Honourary Directors

Gina Alexandris joined the HCLA as an articling student and has since served in various executive roles, including President. Her appointment as an Honourary Director, reflects her strong commitment to the organization and helping Hellenic professionals.

For over 20 years, Gina has been inspiring and supporting individuals and organizations to strategically define their hopes and achieve their goals. As the Senior Program Director of Ryerson's Law Practice Program, Gina helped develop, implement and manage the new transition year training program for licensing Candidates in Ontario. In this role, she is responsible for ensuring academic excellence and the quality of service and program delivery for participants, and outreach to hundreds of contributing members of the legal profession. Gina has also been actively involved with the development of Ryerson's new law school.

Gina developed and directed the award-winning Internationally Trained Lawyers Program at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law and spent more than 12 years with Osgoode Hall Law School of York University, first as Director of Career Services, followed by nine years as the Assistant Dean of Student Services. Between 2013 and 2014, Gina was the Director, Strategic Planning and Knowledge

Management for the Legal Services Division of the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario. Gina is currently a Senior Director with the Law Practice Program at Ryerson University and Special Advisor to Ryerson Law School.

Christopher Tzekas is counsel at WeirFoulds LLP. He specializes in administrative law and civil litigation, with an emphasis on municipal and expropriation law, land use planning and development, and the regulation of professional organizations. Chris represents provincial ministries, municipalities, and a wide range of private clients. He also acts as counsel to a number of professional organizations. He appears regularly before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal and other administrative tribunals, Councils and committees. He has appeared at every level of court, including the Ontario Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada. Chris has authored many papers and is a frequent speaker on expropriation, land use planning and development, and issues relating to the regulation of professional organizations.

Eleni Damianakis is Vice-President, Associate General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Canadian Tire Corporation, Limited where she advises the company and its board of directors on corporate and securities law as well as governance matters. Prior to joining Canadian Tire in 2008, Eleni served as Associate Vice-President, Senior Legal Counsel and Assistant Secretary at Sears Canada Inc. She began her legal career at McCarthy Tetrault LLP in Toronto where she practiced in commercial real estate. Eleni is a past President of the HCLA and has served as a mentor to many Greek law students through the HCLA's Mentorship Program.

Tom Karavanis was a founding member of the law firm of Sotos, Karvanis (now Sotos LLP) in Toronto. His legal practice concentrated on commercial and matrimonial litigation and alternative dispute resolution. He was recognized by L'Expert as a leading practitioner in franchise litigation. He led the litigation team of Sotos Karvanis and was responsible for the recruiting and mentoring of many associate lawyers. Tom was a frequent speaker to community and legal groups on a range of subjects such as litigation, corporate governance and the latest developments in technology for lawyers.

Tom has a strong commitment to participating in the community. He helped establish the Hellenic Canadian Federation of Ontario and the Hellenic Canadian Congress. After his retirement in 1999, he volunteered in organizations such as Centennial College of Applied Arts and Technology where he served in various capacities including Chair of its Board of Governors during a critical period for the organization. Since 2005, Tom has served as an

Honourary Director of the HCLA. He was one of the founders of the HCLA in its original form in the 1980's and was responsible for reviving it in 1990. Tom is a strong believer in the HCLA and a strong advocate of its mentorship program.

George Karayannides is a Partner at Clyde & Co. He is an experienced advocate who represents clients in litigation and arbitration on a wide-range of complex and high-stakes business disputes, including class actions. George has represented a wide range of businesses, leading multinational companies, individuals and government bodies in the energy, transport, telecommunications, infrastructure and construction and financial sectors. He has significant experience before Federal and Provincial Courts, as well as before arbitral and administrative tribunals.

George is ranked by Lexpert® as a leading Corporate and Commercial Litigator in Canada, and is listed as a Leading Practitioner in Canada by the peer-reviewed Best Lawyers in the areas of Corporate and Commercial Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution. He is also recognized by Lexpert® as a Leading US/Canada Cross-Border Litigator and Infrastructure Lawyer. George holds a Martindale Hubbell, Distinguished rating. He is a frequent speaker on emerging legal issues, as well as an advocacy skills instructor.

John Yiokaris is a co-managing partner at Sotos LLP. He leads the firm's automotive sector practice, drawing on his considerable experience working as lead counsel for one of Canada's largest automotive manufacturers and numerous dealers. John is also a registered trademark agent and has extensive knowledge of intellectual property issues. He is also an experienced practitioner in the restaurant, grocery, hotel, real estate and professional services sectors, advising businesses at every stage of franchising system development. John has particular expertise in the work out of distressed franchisees and in structuring transfers in the best interests of the franchise system.

John was awarded the Lexology 2019 Client Choice Award for Franchising in Ontario and is consistently listed in Chambers Canada, the Canadian Legal LEXPERT Directory, and Who's Who Legal: Canada as a leading Canadian franchise law practitioner.

George Bougadis is an experienced civil trial lawyer and founding partner of the downtown Toronto litigation boutique: Bougadis, Chang LLP Barristers. George's commitment to the HCLA has been long standing. He joined the HCLA as a student member,

served on the Board of Directors for eight years, was elected as President from 2004 to 2006, volunteers in the Mentor Program, participates in the National Lawyer Referral Program, and was invited to act as an Honourary Director in 2013. He has also been an active member of the Hellenic Canadian Board of Trade for more than a decade.



Our Board's got Greece covered!





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Virtual CPD

On Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 5:00 pm, the HCLA will be hosting "Translation in the Legal Context", a virtual CPD event provided by Alexa Translations. The nature of legal practice has evolved over the last two decades to involve an unprecedented global component. Lawyers are now dealing with foreign clients and entities on a regular basis. This part of the practice brings about its own set of challenges, which are typically related to language and cultural barriers.

This event is complimentary for all HCLA members. Non-members are welcome to join for a \$10 administrative fee.

Call for Mentors and Mentees!

The HCLA is looking to foster mentorship in our community. Look out for a revamped application, which will be open to non-members and members alike. We'll be featuring a memorable mentor-mentee pairing in the near future – stay tuned!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to former HCLA President **Nikiforos Iatrou** of McCarthy Tetrault LLP for being recognized for his hard work as a competition litigator in the 2020 Chambers and Partners' Global Guide!

Congratulations to longtime HCLA member and former HCLA President **Angela Nikolakakos**, Chief Compliance Officer, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Toronto-based Fiera Investments, on being awarded the Women General Counsel Canada 2020 President's Award!

The HCLA is extremely proud of both Nikiforos and Angela's success! See gallery for photos.

WELCOME TO THE HCLA'S RE-LAUNCH OF THE LEGALESE!

The Legalese has been a hallmark of the HCLA and a tradition that has allowed all of us to stay informed and in touch throughout the years. After a brief hiatus, we're excited to announce that the Legalese is back, with a fresh new look.

The re-launch of the Legalese will help our members stay connected. Together, we will learn about what fellow colleagues and friends are up to and keep informed about significant events and developments.

We sincerely hope that you will engage with our newsletter and also consider contributing to the Legalese. While we welcome all article submissions, you can also send us photographs, short notes about a highlight or milestone in your career, or anything else you want to share with your HCLA colleagues and friends. The HCLA wants to celebrate your achievements. Your success is our success.

If you're interested in contributing to the next Legalese, which will be published this fall, please email us at spresvelos@presveloslaw.com. We would appreciate all submissions by September 5th.

At its core, the HCLA is a community. Through the Legalese, we hope to bring everyone in our community closer together. We need this now, more than ever.

Warm regards,

Sam Presvelos and Katerina Maragos, Co-Editors



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The Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association (HCLA)



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Gallery

