

WINTER 2024

THE LEGALESE

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

Volume 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Christine Arruda, HCLA President

Dear Members,

Welcome to the latest edition of The Legalese. We hope the new year has begun with much health, happiness and prosperity.

The HCLA has been exceptionally active in the past year. Our membership has increased from prior years, we have seen greater member engagement and our governance work continues at a positive pace. The HCLA has also begun taking steps towards obtaining charitable status. We are pleased to report that the HCLA successfully met its goals to network, educate and advocate and that we continue our strategic focus to gain HCLA representation across the country. I am pleased to share with you some of the achievements and accomplishments from the past year.

FEATURED STORIES:

President's Message

Invitation to the 23rd Hellenic Professionals Gala

Congratulations to our 2023 Calls!

Meet our 2022/2023 Justice Karakatsanis Scholarship Winners!

Empowering Connections: The Inaugural Hellenic Canadian Women's Luncheon

Membership Survey Results

Virtual Advocacy: Litigating From a Distance

Ottawa Hellenic Law Students Association Lawyer-Student Networking Event

Paul Papaeliou's Western Business Law Clinic Experience

Update from AGM, President's Dinner, & CPD

AGM, President's Dinner & CPD in Photos

2023/2024 Board of Directors

A Patron Saint for Judges and the Judiciary

Happy New Year!

Highlights from the Second Half of 2023

Happenings in our Community

From the Editors



Network

Among our most significant accomplishments has been the breadth of professional networking events offered in the past year. In addition to our ongoing events, we hosted our inaugural Hellenic Women's Networking Event with great success and announced the return of the Hellenic Professionals Gala with the Hippocrates Hellenic Canadian Medical Association and Asclepius Dental Society, our medical and dental colleagues. These social events remain an integral part of the HCLA calendar as they not only provide the opportunity to strengthen relationships within the legal community, but also expand our reach within the broader Hellenic community.

Educate

We continued our commitment to professional development, hosting a number of continuing legal education seminars including "Civility and Professionalism: A View from the Bench" with Justice Ria Tzimas of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. We also hosted an educational seminar introducing Canadian law to Hellenic high school and undergraduate students. By promoting legal education, we aim to raise important issues with our members and provide our community with legal insights and support. We acknowledge the feedback received from our recent member survey and are working towards providing more CPD events in a virtual format.

Advocate

I am pleased to report that the HCLA continued its advocacy work through our involvement with the Roundtable of Legal Diversity Associations and the Ontario Bar Association Diversity Council. Our members have continued to foster important dialogue about equity, diversity and inclusion issues within the legal profession. We remain committed to supporting our student members awarding two Justice Karakatsanis Scholarships this year, hosting a student job interview webinar and offering students a resume review workshop. Our Mentorship Program was highly successful this year matching numerous mentors and mentees; and our communications remained robust, regularly sharing high quality training and professional opportunities with members.

Congratulations and Gratitude

As we celebrate the HCLA's accomplishments, we would also like to congratulate our members for all their professional accomplishments. We extend special congratulations to Jeannie Theoharis, Effie Triantafilopoulos, and Nancy Krigas for their appointment to the King's Counsel and their dedication to legal excellence. We look forward to all the opportunities the coming year will present.

On behalf of the HCLA Board, I would like to thank our Honourary Directors, committees, volunteers and members for their participation and enthusiasm and our sponsors for their generous support. I extend my sincere gratitude to the HCLA Directors for their hard work, collegiality and commitment to the HCLA over the past year. Our achievements and successes are a testament to the collective strength of our community.

We thank you all for your commitment to the HCLA and look forward to another year of shared success.

Sincerely,

Christine Arruda
President



23RD HELLENIC PROFESSIONALS' GALA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024
THE RITZ-CARLTON BALLROOM

181 Wellington Street West, Toronto

RED CARPET COCKTAIL RECEPTION: 5:30 PM
3-COURSE DINNER & WINE: 7:00 PM

SILENT AUCTION • LIVE MUSIC • DJ & DANCING
CASH BAR • LATE NIGHT FOOD STATIONS & MORE
- BLACK TIE WELCOME -

TICKETS

\$250 until November 30, 2023

\$275 until December 31, 2023

\$300 until January 31, 2024

Tickets available at www.hellenicprosgala.com

SPONSORSHIP

Presenting Sponsor (\$12,500)

Chairman Sponsor (\$6,250)

Director Sponsor (\$4,375)

Staff Sponsor (\$3,125)

Business Card Sponsor (\$150)

HOSTED BY

Asclepius Dental Society

Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association

Hippocrates Hellenic Canadian Medical Association

*We look forward to celebrating with you in support of
student scholarships and other initiatives within the
Hellenic Professionals' Community of Canada.*

For more information, email hellenicprosgala@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 CALLS!



**Andreas
Arvanitis**
Western
University



**Caterina Di
Tommaso**
University of
Ottawa



**Kelly Ann
Perioris**
Western
University



**Kallisti
Sipidias**
University of
Ottawa

Mary Athanasopoulos
Queen's University

Marina Sotirakos
University of Ottawa

MEET OUR 2022/2023 JUSTICE KARATKATSANIS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

Thank you to all those who applied for the Justice Karakatsanis Student Scholarships! The Board of Directors of the HCLA received several competitive and impressive applications this year and following an anonymized review decided to award the scholarships to two deserving applicants: Sotiri Katsuras and Catherine Tajmir-Riahi. Sotiri and Catherine each received a scholarship in the amount of \$3,500. Congratulations! Here is some background on our winners:

Sotiri Katsuras

Ontario

Sotiri is entering his final year of the dual JD/MBA program at Osgoode/Schulich. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Toronto. During his time in law school, Sotiri has been actively engaged in Osgoode's advocacy competitions, placing second in the school's annual negotiation cup. Sotiri had the privilege of competing in the INADR mediation tournament held in Bologna, Italy, where he finished top place as an advocate/client team. Sotiri has been an active member of the Osgoode/Schulich community; he is currently the Vice-President of Alumni Affairs & External Relations for the JD/MBA Student's Association, and the Co-President of the Osgoode Panhellenic Association (OPA). His time at OPA has allowed him to work in conjunction with the Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association to assist and mentor other aspiring lawyers. Sotiri recently completed his summer internship at Blaney McMurtry LLP and will return to the firm to complete his articling.



Catherine Tajmir-Riahi

Quebec



Prior to completing her LL.B. in Law at the Université de Montréal, Catherine completed a Bachelor's of Arts with a double major in Philosophy and Political Science at McGill University as well as a Master's degree in Philosophy at the Université de Montréal. Catherine has always felt a strong passion for her Greek heritage and more particularly for the Greek language. She has completed Level C1 of the Greek Language Certificate and she has been teaching Greek for the past two years to high school students at the HCGM's Aristoteles High School. Her fluency in four languages gave her the opportunity to volunteer with refugees as an interpreter for Médecins du Monde in Athens. Catherine is now working as a student-at-law at a boutique litigation law firm in Montreal, Renno & Vathilakis, where she will be starting her articling in the next year.

The Board enjoyed reading all the applications and getting to know our students better. Determining the recipients of the HCLA's scholarships is always a difficult decision and is based on many factors. We would like to thank all of our applicants and congratulate them on their accomplishments. For those who did not receive the scholarship this year, we strongly encourage you to apply again in the future.

EMPOWERING CONNECTIONS: THE INAUGURAL HELLENIC CANADIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

By Chrysanthe King, 2L, Lincoln Alexander School of Law

The Hellenic Canadian Women's Networking Luncheon, organized by the Hellenic Canadian Lawyers Association (HCLA), made a resounding debut on October 14, 2023, at the Centennial College Event Centre in Toronto, Ontario. With the unwavering support of Gold Sponsors Biochem Environmental Solutions Inc. and Dina Constantinou - Desjardins Insurance Agency Owner, along with Patron Sponsors Agapi Mavridis, Mitousis Lemieux Howard Law Corporation, ALF LLP, and Moutsatsos Laakso Alexander LLP, the event proved to be a significant milestone in fostering connections and empowerment within the Hellenic community. Thank you also to Christine Arruda who sponsored the gift basket prizes for our raffle in support of student scholarships.

The event attracted women of Hellenic heritage from diverse professions and career stages, including students, creating a vibrant tapestry of experiences and aspirations. The palpable energy in the room was vibrant as attendees mingled and engaged in dynamic conversations, setting the stage for a day of inspiration and collaboration. The luncheon served as a unique platform for women to build lasting connections, transcending professional boundaries, and fostering a sense of community.

A highlight of the luncheon was the presentation on emotional intelligence delivered by the esteemed Gina Alexandris, an inspirational career coach, consultant, Honourary Director and former President of the HCLA. Ms. Alexandris not only captivated the audience with her insights but also provided valuable tools for personal and professional growth, leaving an indelible mark on all attendees. Her keynote address further enriched the event, offering guidance and motivation for women at every stage of their careers and educational journeys.

The HCLA's Women's Networking Luncheon emerged as more than an event; it became a catalyst for empowerment, collaboration, and the celebration of Hellenic women's achievements. As the luncheon sets the stage for future editions, it undoubtedly marks the beginning of a tradition that will continue to inspire and uplift the Hellenic Canadian community for years to come.



Chrysanthe King is a 2L student at the Lincoln Alexander School of Law.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

By Niki Kanavas, Community Relations Director

In October 2023 we released a Membership Survey to our membership in an effort to gain insight into our members' interests and to gauge feedback about existing programming and events. We would like to thank all members who participated in the survey. The results emphasized the membership's desire to participate in and attend CPD programming in a variety of different areas of law. We received positive feedback from the respondents regarding the board's progress and management of the HCLA.

Please find the survey results below:

1. Would you be willing to pay a higher membership?

57% of respondents are willing to pay a higher membership fee while 43% are not.

2. Would you like to have more educational CPD offered?

71% of respondents would like to see more CPD programs from the HCLA, with 28% stating they would not.

3. The areas of practice for CPD programming favoured by the respondents include:

- Corporate and commercial litigation (28%)
- Real estate transactional (solicitor) (28%)
- Professionalism and Ethics (28%)
- Wills and Estates (14%)
- Criminal Law (14%)
- Family Law (14%)

4. Would you be willing to pay for educational CPD programming?

57% of respondents would be willing to pay for CPD programs, with 71% identifying they would pay up to \$50.00 and 28% identifying they would pay up to \$25.00.

5. What type of mentorship would benefit you the most?

Respondents identified that webinars are the largest preference with group sessions and one on one mentorship coming in second and third, respectively. Finally, respondents identified they would also benefit from written materials in the law.

We look forward to receiving your feedback in future surveys!

6. As a member, do you attend the quarterly events?

Only 28 % of respondents identified that they attend; 71 % identified that they do not attend for several reasons:

- The events are geared to a younger crowd;
- Not a resident of the GTA;
- Timing and awareness of the events.

7. What type of events interest you?

- 85% responded with an interest in casual networking events;
- 71% responded with an interest in formal networking events, i.e. black-tie, or Gala events;
- 43% identified that they are interested in professional networking events including CPD.

8. Would you be interested in attending an event that could include your family members?

67% identified an interest in family events.

9. Student members identified that they would like to see more practice mentoring and one on one meetings.

10. 57 % of respondents identified a preference for receiving communications by email while 28% voted in favour of social media and 14% in favour of viewing the website.

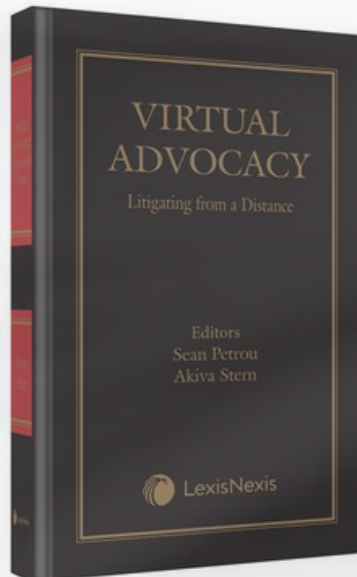
11. 57% of respondents rated the quality and value for money of membership at 5/5 while 42% voted 4/5.

VIRTUAL ADVOCACY: LITIGATING FROM A DISTANCE

By Sean Petrou, McCarthy Tétrault LLP

In early May 2022, I sat down with colleague and friend, Akiva Stern, over a drink to explore a longtime goal of writing a practical guide on motions advocacy. Over that drink and subsequent discussions with publisher, LexisNexis, we learned, quickly, there was nothing on the market regarding virtual advocacy. In late May, we decided to broaden the scope of our intended motions book by asking various leading practitioners at our firm, in different practice areas, to assist with contributing chapters to a comprehensive text. The lawyers at our firm were eager, as usual, to contribute and our firm granted us its blessing and resources to proceed. We were also able to persuade one appellate and some trial judges of the value of the book who also agreed to contribute. And that is how “Virtual Advocacy: Litigating from a Distance” ended up being published and launched by the Toronto Lawyers’ Association at the courthouse under a year later in 2023.

Virtual Advocacy is the first comprehensive authority on virtual advocacy in Canada. It tracks every stage of the litigation life cycle so that practitioners are equipped with brief and direct advice on how to handle oneself in our new virtual landscape. While the book covers every level of court in Ontario, it also addresses appeals including at the Supreme Court of Canada, federal court, commercial arbitration, and other topics such as privacy and access to justice considerations. One of the last chapters contains an annotation of key COVID-19 jurisprudence as of publication.



The textbook is very much a practice guide. It is written by practitioners and not academics; it is also contributed to by judges at both trial and appellate levels and Legal Aid Ontario in an effort to provide necessary perspective from both sides of the bench and bar and other stakeholders. The primary target audiences are practitioners and judges, but it is accessible to students and clerks.

We hope you find it of use.



Sean is an associate in McCarthy Tétrault’s Toronto Litigation Group. He maintains a general trial, arbitration, and appellate practice focusing on complex, high-stakes commercial disputes and professional liability. Sean represents clients of all sizes in a wide range of civil and commercial matters at every level of court in Ontario and across the country.

Sean is a recognized leader among his peers. The Advocates’ Society recently appointed him to the executive of the Young Advocates Standing Committee, which comprises 40 lawyers under 10 years of call across Canada. He also routinely assists legal societies with advocacy related CPD programming.



OTTAWA HELLENIC LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION LAWYER-STUDENT NETWORKING EVENT



The Ottawa Hellenic Law Students Association, under the leadership of Paraskevas Christodoulopoulos, hosted its lawyer-student networking event on November 28, 2023 at Browns Social House in Ottawa. It was an enjoyable evening of socializing and making new connections. In attendance were lawyers Victoria Asikis, HCLA member and former Board member; Andrew Astritis, HCLA member; and Stanford Cummings; as well as law students, Gabriella Panayotidis, Alexander Fortsas, Elizabeth Gregoropoulos and Alexia Lambrinakos. Thank you to Gabriella, the HCLA's Law School Representative for the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, for sharing photos from a great evening!



PAUL PAPAELIOU'S WESTERN BUSINESS LAW CLINIC EXPERIENCE

By Paul Papaeliou, 2L Western University, Faculty of Law

Hello! My name is Paul Papaeliou and I am a second-year law student at Western University. I am very fortunate to be able to share my experience as a Student Caseworker with the Western Business Law Clinic ("WBLC").

My experience with the WBLC has been a highlight of my law school journey, offering me a deeply meaningful opportunity. Working with the WBLC has allowed me to contribute pro bono legal services to diverse clients in the GTA and Southwestern Ontario regions. Specifically, the WBLC focuses on providing pro bono assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs. In my role as a Student Caseworker, I have been responsible for creating and delivering various legal deliverables for my clients. Throughout the academic year, I consistently collaborated with one primary client while also undertaking specific tasks for other clients. The range of services I've provided includes drafting and filing articles of incorporation (both provincial and federal), business name registration, analyzing employment agreements, and preparing research memoranda to address legal queries from my clients, among other services that the WBLC provides.

Working with the WBLC, as a student, offers an essential, hands-on experience to refine my knowledge of the law, and its application, gained in the classroom. Interacting with our enthusiastic clients regularly familiarizes me with the distinctive legal issues encountered by small businesses and entrepreneurs, offering me the chance to deliver effective solutions. Working for the WBLC has also taught me things beyond what the classroom is capable of teaching students. Most notably, I am much more comfortable communicating and interacting with lawyers to establish a workplan for completing tasks, as well as receiving and internalizing their feedback to my work. It has also shown me how much of an issue access to adequate justice for small business and entrepreneur clients can be, resulting in these clients turning to pro bono services. The WBLC, and legal clinics in general, effectively address this gap in the industry. This experience has made me appreciate the value of pro bono work and the value it has on local communities, and I will strive to implement pro bono initiatives into my future practice as a lawyer.

The WBLC is happy to take on new clients. If your small business is in need of services, please email me at ppapaeli@uwo.ca and I would be happy to direct your inquiry to the WBLC team!

Sincerely,

Paul Papaeliou
JD Candidate 2025
Western University, Faculty of Law



Western
Business Law
Clinic

Update From Annual General Meeting, President's Dinner & CPD

By Christine Arruda

On November 2, 2023, the HCLA hosted its Annual General Meeting, President's Dinner and continuing professional development (CPD) event at the Ontario Bar Association in Toronto. It was a wonderful opportunity for HCLA members of all levels and practice areas to connect. We were pleased to host six past HCLA presidents that evening including, Greg Kanargelidis, Gina Alexandris, John Papadakis, John Polyzogopoulos, George Bougadis and Eleni Damianakis, as well as a number of former HCLA directors.

CPD Civility and Professionalism: A View from the Bench

The HCLA was honoured to host "Civility and Professionalism: A View from the Bench" with Justice Ria Tzimas of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. It was my pleasure to host the fireside chat with Justice Tzimas who reviewed the Law Society of Ontario's Rules of Professionalism with members and discussed what has anecdotally been seen as a decline in civility and professionalism in the profession post-pandemic. The CPD provided members with a valuable reminder of the core values of our profession and our obligations as lawyers to our clients, colleagues, the judiciary and the community as a whole. The Board and the HCLA would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Justice Tzimas for sharing not only her time, but her valuable insights on the law and procedures, as well as ethics from a judicial lens.

LSO Rules of Professional Conduct

Rule Number	Rule
2.1-1	A lawyer has a duty to carry on the practice of law and discharge all responsibilities to clients, tribunals, the public and other members of the profession honourably and with integrity.
2.1-2	A lawyer has a duty to uphold the standards and reputation of the legal profession and to assist in the advancement of its goals, organizations and institutions.
3.2-1	A lawyer has a duty to provide courteous, thorough and prompt service to clients. The quality of service required of a lawyer is service that is competent, timely, conscientious, diligent, efficient and civil.
5.1-1	When acting as an advocate, a lawyer shall represent the client resolutely and honourably within the limits of the law while treating the tribunal with candour, fairness, courtesy, and respect.
5.1-5	A lawyer shall be courteous, civil, and act in good faith to the tribunal and with all persons with whom the lawyer has dealings.
5.6-1	A lawyer shall encourage public respect for and try to improve the administration of justice.
7.2-1	A lawyer shall be courteous, civil, and act in good faith with all persons with whom the lawyer has dealings in the course of their practice.
7.2-1.1	A lawyer shall agree to reasonable requests concerning trial dates, adjournments, the waiver of procedural formalities, and similar matters that do not prejudice the rights of the client.
7.2-2	A lawyer shall avoid sharp practice and shall not take advantage of or act without fair warning upon slips, irregularities, or mistakes on the part of other legal practitioners not going to the merits or involving the sacrifice of a client's rights.
7.2-4	A lawyer shall not in the course of professional practice send correspondence or otherwise communicate to a client, another legal practitioner, or any other person in a manner that is abusive, offensive, or otherwise inconsistent with the proper tone of a professional communication from a lawyer.

Annual Report

The Board reported that the HCLA successfully met its goals to network, educate and advocate over the past year and that we continue our strategic focus to have HCLA representation across the country. Beginning with the Treasurer's Report, each Board member discussed the numerous initiatives that were undertaken and the accomplishments of the past year. Our newest calls to the bar in Ontario were also announced that evening. The Board was excited to announce the return of the Hellenic Professionals Gala with the Hippocrates Hellenic Canadian Medical Association and Asclepius Dental Society, our medical and dental colleagues.

Announcing our Board Members

That evening the HCLA successfully appointed its Board for 2023-2024. The Board was pleased to announce that Danielle Tavernese (Director, Communications) and Agapi Mavridis (Director, Social) were re-elected for a two-year term. Sam Presvelos, (Vice-President), Steve Lyberopoulos (Director, Treasurer), James Trougakos (Director, Membership), Niki Kanavas (Director, Community Relations), and Alexandra Psellas (Director, Student) continue as directors. The Board later met and appointed this year's Honourary Directors including Gina Alexandris, George Bougadis, George Karayannides and Tom Karvanis.

Honouring Outgoing Directors

The HCLA expresses our gratitude to outgoing Director, Mary Arzoumanidis, for her service to the HCLA. Mary was appointed to the HCLA Board in 2021 and in addition to her work as Secretary, Mary was involved in our youth initiatives and was instrumental in enhancing the Mentorship Program. Mary's warmth and hospitality at our events will be missed. The HCLA would also like to thank outgoing Honourary Director, John Yiokaris, for his long-standing service to the Board. We appreciate John's support and his willingness to assist Board members whenever needed. We wish both Mary and John all the best and hope they will be back to serve the Board in the future.

Announcing our Scholarship Winners

We were pleased to award two scholarships at the meeting. Congratulations to Sotiri Katsuras (Ontario) and Catherine Tajmir-Riahi (Quebec) for earning the 2023 Justice Karakatsanis Scholarship. We look forward to all you will accomplish! The HCLA remains committed to providing scholarships to those exceptional students in our community to assist in reducing the financial burden of a law school education and to provide our students with the opportunity to advance their education. If you or your firm are interested in sponsoring a scholarship, please contact us at hcla.information@gmail.com.

It was wonderful evening to connect with members and learn from one of the most esteemed members of our community. Thank you to Niki Kanavas, HCLA Director, for her hard work in organizing the event and for her sponsorship of the dessert table.

AGM, PRESIDENT'S DINNER & CPD IN PHOTOS

Thank you to everyone who attended our in-person AGM, President's Dinner and CPD in November 2023!



AGM, PRESIDENT'S DINNER & CPD IN PHOTOS

Thank you to everyone who attended our in-person AGM, President's Dinner and CPD in November 2023!



2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Christine Arruda
President



Sam Presvelos
Vice-President



Steve Lyberopoulos
Treasurer



James Trougakos
Membership Director



Agapi Mavridis
Social Director



Danielle Tavernese
Communications Director



Niki Kanavas
Community Relations Director



Alexandra Psellas
Secretary / Student Director

Honourary Directors:

- Gina Alexandris
- George Bougadis
- Tom Karvanis
- George Karayannides, Q.Arb

Member Volunteers:

- Athan Papadas
- Olivia Paleologos
- Theoni Kapetaneas
- Melinda Marghetis
- Gabriella Panayotidis
- Phillip Paschali
- Thalia Petsis
- Sotiri Katsuras
- Caterina Di Tommaso
- Christina Papageorgakopoulos
- Elizabeth Frangos

A PATRON SAINT FOR JUDGES AND THE JUDICIARY

By Chrysanthe King, HCLA Student Member

Who was Saint Dionysius the Areopagite?

Saint Dionysius the Areopagite is the patron saint of the city of Athens. He is venerated as a saint by multiple denominations including the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox faiths. As an Athenian judge, he also became known as the protector of judges and the judiciary.

Dionysius was raised in a prominent family in Athens during the first century. He attended philosophical school at home and abroad and was married with children. Prior to his conversion to Christianity, he enjoyed success as a scholar and eventually secured a position in the prestigious court of law, the Areopagus, in ancient Greece. The Areopagus, originally the central governing body of Athens, was a high court with jurisdiction over intentional homicide and other serious crimes. Dionysius was converted to Christianity by the preaching of Paul the Apostle during the Areopagus sermon. Dionysius' devotion to Christ led him to forsake his familial ties and judicial career. Acknowledging his passion and commitment, the Apostle Paul appointed Dionysius as the first Bishop of Athens. Saint Dionysius continued the missionary work of Apostle Paul with much success, but was later imprisoned and tortured for his beliefs. He was ultimately beheaded in the year 96.

Saint Dionysius' life, marked by a transition from a prominent judge to a fearless advocate of the Christian faith, resonates as a powerful testament to unwavering devotion and the courage to stand firm in the face of persecution. Saint Dionysius the Areopagite stands as a beacon, inspiring believers in the legal profession to uphold justice with faith and fortitude.

The Greek Orthodox Church celebrates the Feast Day of Saint Dionysius on October 3rd.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

The HCLA welcomed 2024 with the New Year's Cheer and vasilopita cutting at Birotecca, Eataly. Congratulations to George Bougadis for winning the "flourie". We wish you a year of good luck!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SECOND HALF OF 2023

Membership - HCLA is pleased to announce that it closed the year with the highest paid membership levels since before the pandemic. We thank all members for their continued commitment to the HCLA!

Vision Meeting - The HCLA held its annual Board Vision Meeting at Terroni restaurant in late August. It was a great opportunity for the Board to meet over dinner and drinks to celebrate the years' accomplishments and share plans for the upcoming year. The HCLA Women President's Dinner continues to be a success with our past presidents reconnecting to enjoy an evening of great company and engaging conversation.

Charity Committee - HCLA Directors Sam Presvelos, James Trougakos and Christine Arruda, along with HCLA members Caterina Di Tommaso and Elizabeth Frangos have been working through the steps needed for the HCLA to obtain charitable status. Thank you to Caterina for volunteering her knowledge and experience in the area of charitable registration.

Student Events - On September 10, Alexandra Psellas (HCLA Director) along with Melinda Marghetis (HCLA Member and student volunteer) and Kaliopi Dimitrakoudis (HCLA Member) hosted a Student Job Interview Webinar to prepare students for the on-campus interview process, as well as offered HCLA student members a resume review workshop. These hands-on events were well received by our students members who indicated they felt better prepared having attended.

Student Representatives - The number of HCLA student representatives has grown considerably over the past year and now including universities which were typically unrepresented by the HCLA, including Queen's and Western. We are also pleased to have student representatives from outside the province of Ontario, with representatives from McGill. Our current student representatives include: Alexandra Tsiofas (Osgoode), Gabriella Panayotidis (Ottawa), Constantine Kanargelidis (University of Toronto), Thalia Petsis (Windsor), Chrysanthe King (Toronto Metropolitan University), Paul Papaeliou (Western), Christina Papageorgakopoulos (Queen's), Madeleine Cavadas (Queen's), Mario Michas (McGill) and Mathew Tsirmbas (McGill). Thank you to all our student representatives for their involvement with the HCLA!

Student Guide - Christine Arruda and student members Philip Paschali, Gabriella Panayotidis, Thalia Petsis, Sotiri Katuras and Christina Papageorgakopoulos have been working diligently on a student's guide to law school. The guide is intended to assist undergraduate and high school students, particularly first-generation students, navigate the path to law school. Stay tuned for its release!

Mentorship Program - The HCLA had tremendous interest in its Mentorship Program this year with numerous mentees and mentors registering for the program. HCLA Directors Niki Kanavas, Mary Arzoumanidis and Christine Arruda worked diligently to manage the program and connect mentees with mentors. Thank you to all who have volunteered for this important initiative. Special thanks to Mary for developing a program and process that will be used by future members of the HCLA.

RODA and OBA - The HCLA continues to remain active with the Roundtable of Legal Diversity Associations (RODA). Alexandra Psellas (HCLA Director), Niki Kanavas (HCLA Director) and Theoni Kapetaneas (HCLA Member) actively participated in RODA initiatives and represented the HCLA at various meetings and events. The HCLA will continue to share valuable opportunities for training, education and employment as we receive them from RODA. The Board also remains active with the OBA Diversity Council with Niki Kanavas as representative.

HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY

King's Counsel

In celebration of the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, the Ontario government is returning to the tradition of recognizing Ontario lawyers with the honorary title of King's Counsel. The King's Counsel designation is given to lawyers who have demonstrated a commitment to the pursuit of legal excellence in service to the Crown, the public and their communities. Ontario rejoins many of its provincial counterparts and other Commonwealth jurisdictions in observing this practise. Congratulations to all recipients and in particular: Jeanie Theoharis, Effie Triantafilopoulos and Nancy Krigas!

Paul Karvanis

Congratulations to Paul Karvanis on the release of his book, "The Happy Lawyer: The Blueprint to Avoid Burnout and Put Together Your Good Life Personally and Professionally". The Happy Lawyer Project, spanning interviews with 100+ lawyers, and hundreds of hours of research, analysis, and development, is aimed at trying to answer one question: How do we, as busy lawyers and professionals, become happier?

Paul's book covers the key ingredients that happy lawyers have in common, the practical approach to putting it all together, and avoiding burnout along the way. Paul's book is available for purchase on [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca).

University of Windsor Faculty of Law – Hellenic Law Students Association

The Windsor Hellenic Law Students Association is growing! This year the association welcomed 20 members with about 60% of them women. Pictured here at their Fall 2023 Social is (left to right): William George, Thalia Petsis, Elena Andreu and Konstantinos Tsatsos. Windsor law students interested in joining the association can contact HCLA Student Representative Thalia Petsis at petsis@uwindsor.ca

Justice Ekaterina Tsimberis

Congratulations to Justice Ekaterina Tsimberis for her appointment as Justice of the Federal Court, and ex officio member of the Federal Court of Appeal in February 2023. We wish you all the best!

Christina Papageorgakopoulos

Congratulations to Christina Papageorgakopoulos, HCLA student member, for receiving the 2023 Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award for her work with Pro Bono Students Canada and Martha's Table ID Clinic. This award honours outstanding PBSC volunteers across Canada who embody their core values of dignity, equity and humility.

Rhea Karvanis

Congratulations to Rhea Karvanis on the release of her book, "Antigone". Antigone is a historical fantasy novel that reimagines the legends of Greek mythology within the fall of one of the world's greatest and earliest empires. It is a tale of adventure, love and heartbreak, that tells of estranged twins who travel back in time to unearth the dark secrets of their family's past. Rhea's book is available for purchase on [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca).



FROM THE EDITORS

As we bid farewell to another edition of our publication, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and engagement. It's your enthusiasm that inspires us to bring you insightful content, and we hope you found this edition both informative and enjoyable.

We greatly appreciate the diverse perspectives and feedback we receive from our members, as it helps us grow and evolve. Your voices matter, and we are committed to delivering content that resonates with your interests and concerns. If you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Legalese, please feel free to reach out to us at hcla.information@gmail.com with your ideas or submissions. We look forward to creating future editions together.

We're hopeful and optimistic as we reflect on the past year and look forward to new beginnings. Thank you for being a valued part of the HCLA. May the new year offer you happiness, development, and fulfillment. The Board hopes you have a fantastic New Year filled with abundance and success.

Yours truly,

Alexandra Psellas and James Trougakos



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