



**HELLENIC LAW
SOCIETY
OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

2017 – 2018

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

&

INFORMATION MANUAL

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Peter A. Bagatelos, Editor
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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
OF THE
HELLENIC LAW SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

It is one of the goals of the Hellenic Law Society of Northern California to preserve and foster an appreciation of Hellenism and Hellenic principles. These principles, which are especially vital for members of the legal profession, include the following:

- (1) A commitment to individual liberty, within an ordered society, reflected in the originally Hellenic idea of democracy;
- (2) A commitment to the rule of law as an instrument of justice in a civilized polity, rather than as the unspirited mechanism of technocracy or bureaucracy; and
- (3) A love of learning and commitment to preservation of that spirit of free inquiry (particularly into ethical matters) which may as well be named by the term the ancient Hellenes used, "philosophy," in its best and broadest sense.

In other words, one of the mottoes of the Society is:

LIBERTY, LAW WITH JUSTICE, AND LEARNING.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS
OF THE
HELLENIC LAW SOCIETY
OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

ARTICLE 1 - Name

The name of this voluntary unincorporated professional association shall be the HELLENIC LAW SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (hereinafter "SOCIETY").

ARTICLE 2 - Purpose

The purpose of the Society is to bring together persons connected with the legal profession into a professional association to do the following:

- A. To advance the highest principles on which our legal system is based as they may benefit the Hellenic culture and society;
- B. To foster, promote, and uphold the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct among its members;
- C. To promote fellowship and social interaction;
- D. To provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas, information, materials, and support related to the practice of law;
- E. To identify and encourage selection of qualified candidates for judicial appointments;
- F. To facilitate referral of clients requiring legal or other services, including the development of a directory of members of this Society;
- G. To promote and assist law students who are members of this Society in their professional development;
- H. To participate on a local, state, national and/or international level with other Bar and legal associations; and
- I. To have and exercise generally all other rights and powers conferred on such an association; provided, however, that this Society is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to the members thereof and is organized solely for nonprofit purposes.

ARTICLE 3 - Membership

A. Each person desiring to be a member of this Society shall:

- (1) Be connected with the legal profession as:
 - (a) an Attorney licensed to practice law;
 - (b) a Judge, whether active or retired;
 - (c) a graduate or a law student engaged in a formal course of study to qualify for the practice of law;
 - (d) a certified paralegal;
 - (e) a court reporter; or
 - (f) courthouse personnel.
- (2) Be of Hellenic descent or related by family with persons of Hellenic descent;
- (3) Reside or work in Northern California; and
- (4) Pay dues in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

B. Persons who do not meet the above requirements for membership, but who otherwise have a deep-rooted interest in the practice of law, and who wish to promote the purposes of this Society, may be admitted by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors as Associates of this Society.

C. The members may refuse any person from becoming a member or Associate or expel a member or Associate if the Board determines that such person does not embrace the purposes for which this Society exists.

D. An annual meeting of the members shall be held in December of each year, or as soon thereafter as practicable for the purpose of electing a Board to manage the affairs of this Society and handling any other matters. Special meetings of the members may be called by the Board of Directors. A majority of the members or 30 members, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum. Not less than thirty (30) days notice shall be given to members of the annual meeting.

ARTICLE 4 - Board of Directors

The business and affairs of the Society shall be conducted and controlled by a Board consisting of 15 to 21 members and/or Associates. Members of the Board shall each hold office until his or her successor has been elected.

The initial 15 Board members shall hold their positions for staggered terms for one to three years commencing in October, 1984, as determined by lots drawn at a meeting of the directors as set forth below:

- (1) Five Board members: one (1) year
- (2) Five Board members: two (2) years
- (3) Five Board members: three (3) years

Thereafter, the seats on the Board shall be numbered from one (1) to twenty-one (21) and shall be for staggered terms of two years each so that half of the seats are voted upon annually. Effective with the election held in 1995, terms of Directors shall commence on January 1 of the next year following.

To the extent possible, the Board shall reflect a cross-section of the membership.

Upon completion of a term, each director's position shall be filled by election at the next annual meeting of members for a term equal to two years.

Any change in the Board shall be by two-thirds vote of the other members of the Board present and voting. A vacancy on the Board shall be filled for the unexpired term by the remaining members or member of the Board.

The Board shall have the power to do all acts necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Society, subject to the limitations and consistent with the provisions of this Charter and Bylaws and applicable laws and regulations. Forty percent (40%) of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter and Bylaws, the Board may take action: (a) by the greater of a majority vote or six (6) of the members of the board at a meeting at which a quorum of board members is present; or (b) by a majority of the Board members without a meeting if a majority of the Board members serving in office consent in writing to such action.

ARTICLE 5 - Officers

A. The officers of the Society shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer appointed by the Board. Additional officers may also be appointed if desired by the Board. Any officer so appointed shall hold office until his successor has been elected and he is qualified to act. Any officer may be removed, with or without cause, by a majority of the members of the Board. If the office of Treasurer becomes vacant, the Assistant Treasurer shall immediately become Treasurer.

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Society and shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Society.

The Secretary shall attend all meetings, keep minutes of the meetings and be responsible for all communications.

B. The Treasurer, aided by the Assistant Treasurer, and subject to the control of the Board, shall have general supervision, direction and control of the financial accounts and records of the Society, shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board or by this Charter and Bylaws. The Treasurer is specifically empowered to secure appropriate insurance as is necessary to safeguard the Society, its Board of Directors, officers, and members from exposure to liability. The Treasurer shall make financial reports to the Board as requested.

ARTICLE 6 - Executive Committee

The Board, in its discretion, may delegate responsibility for the business and affairs of this Society to an Executive Committee consisting of five members. The persons appointed to act as the members of the Executive Committee shall be the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and two other members of the Board, who shall accept this appointment, and each shall hold office until his or her successor has been appointed.

The Executive Committee shall have such power as the Board delegates to do all acts necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Society, subject to the limitations and consistent with the provisions of this Charter and Bylaws and applicable laws and regulations. All votes of the Executive Committee shall be by majority vote except as otherwise provided and may be taken with or without a meeting.

ARTICLE 7 - Compensation of Officers and Members of the Board

Volunteer Officers and Members of the Board waive any right to receive compensation for services rendered hereunder, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Society with the approval of the Board.

ARTICLE 8 - Duration

The Society shall be dissolved and cease to exist as an unincorporated association upon a majority vote of the members of the Society. Any funds remaining upon dissolution shall be distributed in accordance with then applicable law.

ARTICLE 9 - Amendments

This Charter and Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Board duly called for that purpose by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board or by a majority vote of the members of the Society.

Revised: 10/10/91
01/16/96
02/02/12

**RECIPIENTS
OF
ATHENIAN AWARD**

The Hellenic Law Society of Northern California bestows its coveted Athenian Award from time to time on very worthy contemporary individuals who exemplify and personify the highest ideals of the ancient Athenian culture.

The persons listed below are the past recipients of the Athenian Award:

	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Year Award Conferred</u>
(1)	Professor George Anastoplo Chicago, Illinois	1987
(2)	Honorable George Christopher Former Mayor of San Francisco San Francisco, California	1988
(3)	Honorable Nicholas Petris California State Senator (Retired) Oakland, California	1992
(4)	Honorable Peter Tamaras Former Member of San Francisco Board of Supervisors San Francisco, California	1996
(5)	Honorable S. Lee Vavuris California Superior Court Judge (Retired) San Francisco, California	1997
(6)	Frank P. Agnost Publisher, The Hellenic Journal Brisbane, California	1999
(7)	Professor Thanasis Maskaleris San Francisco State University San Francisco, California	2000
(8)	John Keker, Esq. Prominent Attorney and Community Leader San Francisco, California	2001
(9)	Honorable Louis J. Papan California State Assemblyman (Retired) Millbrae, California	2002

**RECIPIENTS
OF
ATHENIAN AWARD
(CONTINUED)**

- | | | |
|------|---|------|
| (10) | Theofanis V. Economidis
Substantial contributor to Hellenism
San Francisco, California | 2004 |
| (11) | Vasilios B. Choulos, Esq.
Hellenic Law Society Founder
San Francisco, California | 2005 |
| (12) | Peter A. Bagatelos, Esq.
Hellenic Law Society
Administrative Coordinator
San Francisco, California | 2005 |
| (13) | Theodore A. Laliotis
President, Hellenic Federation of Northern California
Hellenic Leader and Businessman
Palo Alto, California | 2006 |
| (14) | Martha Klirinomos
Professor of English and
Director Center for Modern Greek Studies
College of Humanities
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, California | 2007 |
| (15) | Frosene Phillips
Editor, The Hellenic Journal;
Columnist; Church & Community Musician
Orinda, California | 2008 |
| (16) | Honorable George T. Choppelas
Judge of the Superior Court (Retired)
San Francisco, California | 2009 |
| (17) | Honorable Nicolaos Theophanous
Honorary Consul of Cyprus
Lafayette, California | 2011 |
| (18) | Honorable Jeff Adachi
San Francisco Public Defender
San Francisco, California | 2016 |
| (19) | Honorable George V. Spanos
Judge of the Superior Court (Retired)
Contra Costa County | 2017 |

**HELLENIC LAW SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

PAST AND PRESENT CHAIRPERSONS

1. Vasilios B. Choulos*	1985 – 1986
2. Peter C. Lagarias	1987 – 1989
3. E. John “Ted” Kleines*	1990 – 1990
4. Peter A. Bagatelos	1991 – 1993
5. Basil Plastiras	1994 – 1995
6. George C. Spanos	1996 – 1998
7. George G. Benetatos	1997 – 1999
8. Roberta Economidis	2000 – 2002
9. Zach Georgopoulos	2003 – 2003
10. Aspasia A. Papavassiliou	2004 – 2006
11. George V. Choulos	2007 – 2008
12. Marileni “Mia” Mattis	2009 – 2011
13. Adamont “Monty” Georgeson	2012 – 2015
14. George G. Benetatos	2015 – 2018

* Deceased

HELLENIC LAW SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

2017

DIRECTORS

Peter A. Bagatelos
George G. Benetatos
George V. Choulos
James Cois
Dimitrios Dimitrakos
James F. Fotenos
Adamont Georgeson
Chris Gus Kanios
George C. Kasolas
Peter C. Lagarias
Gus P. Panagotacos
Stella Pantazis
Diane Papan
Virginia Papan
Marina G. Papanikolaou
Aspasia A. Papavasiliou
Evanthia Pappas
Basil Plastiras
Mia Mattis Sarikakis
Nick Tarlson

Director Emeritus

Robert Frank

2017

OFFICERS

Chair:

George G. Benetatos

Vice Chair:

Stella Pantazis

Secretary:

Marina G. Papanikolaou

Treasurer:

Peter A. Bagatelos

Assistant Treasurer:

Nick Tarlson

UHAS Delegate:

None

2018

DIRECTORS

Peter A. Bagatelos
George G. Benetatos
George V. Choulos
James Cois
Dimitrios Dimitrakos
James F. Fotenos
Adamont Georgeson
Chris Gus Kanios
George C. Kasolas
Peter C. Lagarias
Despina Marinakis
Gus P. Panagotacos
Stella Pantazis
Diane Papan
Virginia Papan
Marina G. Papanikolaou
Aspasia A. Papavasiliou
Evanthia Pappas
Basil Plastiras
Mia Mattis Sarikakis
Nick Tarlson

Director Emeritus

Robert Frank

2018

OFFICERS

Chair:

George G. Benetatos

Vice Chair:

Stella Pantazis

Secretary:

Marina G. Papanikolaou

Treasurer:

Peter A. Bagatelos

Assistant Treasurer:

Nick Tarlson

UHAS Delegate:

None

DIRECTORY

OF

MEMBERS

2017 – 2018

**HONORARY MEMBERS
OF THE
HELLENIC LAW SOCIETY
OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**Professor George Anastoplo
Professor of Law
Chicago, Illinois**

Honorable George Christopher (DECEASED)
Former Mayor of the
City & County of San Francisco
San Francisco, California

His Eminence (DECEASED)
Metropolitan Anthony Gergiannakis
of the Dardanelles, Presiding Hierarch of the
Greek Orthodox Diocese of San Francisco
San Francisco, California

His Excellency, Vasilios Kokkinos
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Greece
Athens, Greece

**REGULAR & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
OF THE
HELLENIC LAW SOCIETY
OF
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

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Judge of the Superior Court, Retired
1700 Shattuck Avenue, #326
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Telephone: (510) 548-8808

Education: University of California, Riverside (B.A., 1960); University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall Law School (L.L.B., 1964). **Member:** California Judges Association; Alameda County Bar Association. **Areas of Practice:** Retired Superior Court Judge. Mediator, Arbitrator with JAMS.

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Education: George Washington University (1967); Stanford University (B.A., 1969); Rutgers University (M.A., 1971); University of San Francisco (J.D., 1974). **Member:** California State Bar, University of San Francisco Law Society. **Areas of Practice:** Political (Election/Campaign), Non-Profit Organization, Administrative Law.

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Member: California State Bar; California Public Defenders Association. **Areas of Practice:**
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Member: National Association of Counsel for Children. **Areas of Interest:** Public Interest
Law, Child Advocacy, Civil Rights.

Hon. George T. Choppelas
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Education: San Francisco State University (B.A., 1958); University of San Francisco
School of Law (J.D., 1961). **Member:** California Judges Association. **Areas of Practice:**
Superior Court Judge, Retired.

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Spouse: Rheeta Choulos

Education: University of California, Berkeley (A.B., 1979); University of San Francisco Law
School (J.D., 1982). **Member:** California State Bar; American Trial Lawyers Association;
Consumer Attorneys of California, USF Inns of Court. **Areas of Practice:** Personal
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and Defective Roadway Cases.

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Spouse: Nina Cois

Education: San Francisco State University (B.A., 1968); (M.A., 1971); San Francisco Law School (J.D., 1988); University of Southern California (M.B.T. Tax). **Member:** San Francisco Bar Association. **Areas of Practice:** Bankruptcy, Tax.

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Education: University of Arizona (B.A., 1972; J.D., 1976). **Member:** California State Bar; Arizona State Bar. **Areas of Practice:** Entertainment Transactions, Intellectual Property, Copyright and Trademark Licensing.

Hon. Steven G. Councilis
Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Riverside
Hall of Justice – Department 43
4100 Main Street
Riverside, California 92501
Telephone: (951) 777-3729
Fax: None Provided
E-mail: None Provided

Education: University of San Francisco (B.A., 1988); U.S.F. School of Law (J.D., 1992).
Member: California Judges Association; Riverside County Bar Association; Hellenic Law Society of Southern California. **Areas of Practice:** Active Superior Court Judge.

Nicholas R. Damer, Esq.
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Former practices included **Mediation and Arbitration** services for in-court and out-of-court matters including for employment law and workplace disputes, hospital care issues including end-of-life care and conflict resolution. Counseling of workplace issues, training, investigations, and consultations concerning workplace personnel issues including discrimination. **Advocate Services** for employers and employees involving all pre-trial, trial, and post-trial proceedings. Past and ongoing interest and practice in personal injury with a focus on significant and permanent injuries and also catastrophic injuries of the head and spinal chord. **Recent seminars:** Managing the Church Employee, on behalf of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. **Recent Appointments:** 3/09- Counsel, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. **Recent Publications:** "Profile of a Leader- Maryanne Murphy- Stretching the legal mind, Attorney's quest spans the worlds of art and law, Plaintiff's Magazine, November, 2008.

Pro Bono Activities: Counsel for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. Formerly: Settlement Judge and Protempore of the Santa Clara County Pro Bono Program, 1997-1999; past guest instructor, Santa Clara University Law School, Stanford Law School; guest speaker for Continuing Education on trial practice and employment law. Santa Clara County Bar Association, CAOC and Santa Clara Trial Lawyers Association.

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In Memoriam



In Memory Of Our Colleagues Who Have Passed On, We Are Honored to Remember Them Here

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1. James P. Prevolos	1989
2. John T. Rores	1990
3. Nick Deriman	1994
4. E. John "Ted" Kleines	1997
5. Anastasios "Tassos" Samouris	2000
6. Hon. S. Lee Vavuris	2000
7. Athena V. Mishtowt	2002
8. Peter Pappas	2003
9. Vasilios B. Choulos	2003
10. Paulette V. Julius	2003
11. Francis P. Bassios	2004
12. Metropolitan Anthony Gergiannakis	2004
13. Peter Tamaras	2006
14. John Vasil	2006
15. Louis J. Papan	2007
16. George J. Berris	2010
17. Francis (Frank) B. Boone	2011
18. John Gigounas	2011
19. Nicholas Petris	2013
20. Peter Zouras	2013
21. Dr. Michael Geokas	2017
22. John B. Vlahos	2017

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