



HELLENIC FEDERATION

of New Jersey

Twelfth Annual Awards Gala

Honoring

Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq.

*Partner, Eiseman Levine Lehrhaupt & Kakoyiannis
Alexander the Great Life Achievement Award*

James Polos

*Vice President Metropolis Council of New Jersey
Alexander the Great Community Service Award
Alexander the Great Community Service Award*

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

Sunday, June 8, 2025

Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM

The Graycliff

290 Moonachie Avenue . Moonachie, NJ 07074

R.S.V.P.

Despina Kolokithas (201) 725-8217 dkpatra1@yahoo.com

Event Coordinator : Despina Axiotakis (201) 981-5764 desaxio@gmail.com



Peter Kakoyiannis was born in Brooklyn, New York, and he is a graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School and attended Herbert H. Lehman College where he received his degree (1970 B.A. in economics). Following his graduation from college, he served six years in the New York Army National Guard while pursuing a law degree at St. John's University. At St. John's University, he received a scholarship for his skills in advocacy and was awarded a Moot Court Scholarship and became a Member of the Moot Court Board.

Prior to graduation, he interned with the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York working on immigration and bankruptcy matters.

Following his completion of Law School in 1974, he worked for the Firm of Argriou & Finkel and then, as Associate General Counsel for the Bank of Commerce. Ultimately, he established the firm of Schiff, Turk & Kakoyiannis where he proceeded to specialize as a real estate attorney in Cooperative and Condominium law and has done so for the last 40 years.

In 1996 the Firm of Schiff, Turk & Kakoyiannis merged with Edwards & Angell, a Rhode Island firm and he was one of the Managing Partners in the Real Estate Group in New York.

He currently is a member of the firm of Eiseman Levine Lehrhaupt & Kakoyiannis, P.C., having been admitted to practice law in New York since 1975. He is a member of several Federal Courts including the Second Circuit and the State Courts of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His specialization in the firm is in transactional real estate and particular cooperatives and condominiums, as well as representing Lenders in commercial financings.

In addition, he has been involved in representing the Governments of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Cyprus in both inbound and outbound matters.

He has been a speaker on cooperative and condominium law and is involved in representing numerous developers and sponsors before the New York State Attorney General's Office. He counsels numerous Cooperative and Condominium Boards on their daily issues.

Being active in various community organizations including Counsel to the Hellenic American Bankers Association, Counsel and Board Member of St. Basil Academy, Cyprus Children's Fund, Inc., and having served as Second Vice President of the Federation of Cypriot American Organizations where he presently serves as Counsel, has given him a unique perspective as to Community issues. As President of the Cyprus U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Inc. he helped establish several initiatives to expand the footprint of the Chamber in the business Communities between the United States and Cyprus. He also serves on the Board of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, was past President of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Trenton, New Jersey, and is a former Member of the Archdiocese Council's Legal Committee. He was also a member of the Insurance Sub-Committee Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America ("GOA") that developed a national insurance program for the GOA and all its related organizations. In 1998 he was invested to Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, and currently is on the National Council of the Order of St. Andrew as Chairman of the Audit Committee.

In addition to representing several local Community organizations he also has acted as Special Counsel in both national and local non-profits on a Pro Bono basis. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors for Grey Nun Academy, in Yardley, Pennsylvania and also serves on the LMT Airport Task Force for Trenton Mercer Airport.

As a consistent supporter of voluntarism, he is engaged in the issues involving Cyprus and Religion Freedom both locally and in Washington, DC. He has worked consistently along with members of other organizations to support their mission as well as to ensure their success.

He and his wife, Joanne, reside in Yardley, Pennsylvania and have three children and two grandchildren.



The Honorable James Polos is a distinguished public servant with a career spanning over forty years. He currently holds the esteemed position of Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and has been honored by His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey to serve as Vice President of the Metropolis Council of New Jersey. He is also a proud parishioner of St. George Piscataway, and a member of AHEPA Monroe Chapter 75.

In his professional capacity, Jim serves as the Executive Director of the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, where he oversees a 300-million-dollar portfolio of rail, transit, and parking projects to support Middlesex County's economic growth and public transportation initiatives. He is also the Founder and President of Midlantic Property Management, a management company that has contracted business across New Jersey for 37 years.

Most recently, Jim was appointed by the Governor of New Jersey to his current position as Commissioner of the New Jersey Police Training Commission, which is responsible for the training and licensing of all state, county, and local law enforcement police officers. He also serves as Chairman of the Middlesex County Crime Stoppers Program, Commissioner of the New Jersey Chiefs of Police Accreditation Team, Member of the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Interfaith Advisory Committee and is a Trustee of the Middlesex County 200 Club.

In addition to his professional accolades, Jim spends his time giving back to the community that he has lived in and served since his early days as an EMS Volunteer and Captain. He continues to serve as the Emergency Management Director for Highland Park and coordinates all emergency operations.

In his past government roles, Jim served as a six term Commissioner of Middlesex County, two term Mayor of Highland Park and three term Councilman.

Jim attributes his success to his unwavering faith and the strong support of his wife, Rita, and daughters, Nicolette, Angela, and Sophia. Jim's motivation and eagerness to help others in need or to help them succeed through his varying public positions is built from Hebrews 13:16 , "And do not neglect to do good and to share with others for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."