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*The National Hellenic Museum's Trial of Themistocles, images by Elios Photography*

## **Ancient Athenian hero Themistocles found “not guilty” by audience of over 500 jurors in mock trial presented by the National Hellenic Museum at the Harris Theater**

***Successful defense led by attorneys Patrick M. Collins, Tinos Diamantatos and Katerina Alexopoulos***

CHICAGO (April 4, 2025)—The [National Hellenic Museum](#) (NHM) revisited Greek history on Tuesday night at Chicago’s Harris Theater as an audience of over 500 jurors found the ancient hero Themistocles “not guilty” of treason against the city and people of Athens in 459 BCE. (In the actual history, Themistocles never faced trial for his actions.)

Representing the successful defense of Themistocles were **Patrick M. Collins** (King & Spalding LLP), **Tinos Diamantatos** (Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP) and **Katerina Alexopoulos** (U.S. Department of Homeland Security). Representing the prosecution were **Sarah F. King** (Clifford Law Offices PC) and **Patrick A. Salvi II** (Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard PC). The event was emceed by award-winning Chicago media personality and NHM Trustee **Andrea Darlas**.

In their remarks, Sarah F. King and Patrick A. Salvi II attempted to convince the jury Themistocles (played by **Jonathan Shaboo**) put his ambition over his loyalty to Athenians, noting his controversial and suspect move to Persia, the very enemy Greece had defeated in the Persian Wars under Themistocles’ leadership. However, after a cross-examination of witness Arsenia (played by **Judge Megan Goldish**) by Patrick M. Collins, no tangible proof of Themistocles’ treasonous activities was presented, despite the energetic Arsenia’s insistence that she saw letters between the hero and Persian enemies.

Defense attorneys Tinos Diamantatos and Katerina Alexopoulos further convinced the jurors of their client’s innocence when reminding the audience how Themistocles made Athens the world’s foremost naval power and led them to victory in the Battle of Salamis, the turning point in the second Persian War. Diamantatos stressed in his closing argument the moral imperative of a fair judicial system, and told jurors the prosecution had not met their burden of proof in this case.

All four judges found Themistocles not guilty, including **Justice Joy V. Cunningham** (Illinois Supreme Court), **Hon. Georgia N. Alexakis** (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois), **Hon. Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos** (Circuit Court of Cook County) and **Hon. Jeffery Chrones** (Circuit Court of Cook County). The 12-member panel of esteemed jurors on stage—comprised of civic leaders, academics and media personalities—found Themistocles not guilty by a margin of 11-1. Jurors included **Christ Dalmares**, President of Dalmares Produce; **Nicholas Doumanis**, Professor and Illinois Chair in Hellenic Studies at University of Illinois Chicago; **Athena Farmakis**, President of the Hellenic Bar Association; **Themistocles Frangos**, Treasurer of the Hellenic Bar Association and AHEPA Supreme Treasurer; **Zoe Gavriilidou**, Visiting Professor at University of Chicago; **Justin Kaufmann**, Reporter at Axios Chicago; **Alex Maragos**, Anchor at NBC 5 Chicago; **Chris Papaioannou**, Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Counterterrorism, Chicago Police Department; **Christine Simms**, President and C.E.O. of the Greek American Restaurant Cooperative (GARC); **Georgia Tasiopoulou**, Consul of Greece in Chicago, Greek Consulate General in Chicago; **Rufus Williams**, Host of The Rufus Williams Show on WVON 1690 AM; and **Weeya Young**, Assistant General Counsel of IDHS and President of the Black Women's Law Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.

The National Hellenic Museum recognizes and appreciates the support of its major sponsors for The Trial of Themistocles, as well as the generosity of all sponsors who helped make this event possible. Major sponsors include: Diamond Level sponsors **Calamos Investments**, **Clifford Law Offices**, **The Jaharis Family Foundation** and **Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard**; Gold Level sponsors **John S. Koudounis and Family**, and **Morgan Lewis and Tinos Diamantatos**; and Silver Level sponsors **King & Spalding** and **The Sotos Law Firm and James G. Sotos**.

The Trial of Themistocles Committee included NHM Trustees **Andrea Darlas**, **Hon. Anna H. Demacopoulos (Ret.)** and **John V. Kalantzis**, and **Jim Sotos**.

The dynamic **NHM Trial Series** highlights the enduring relevance and value of Greek thought and history and supports the mission of the National Hellenic Museum. It has grown both in reputation and following since its inception in 2013. In 2016, NHM's The Trial of Antigone was broadcast on WTTW TV (PBS Chicago) and in May 2017 it was nominated for a Midwest regional Emmy Award. Subsequent NHM Trial Series events have also aired on public television and received regional Emmy nominations. Since 2017, the annual event has been qualified by the Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission (IARDC) for continuing legal education (CLE) credit. Attorneys attending the event can register for CLE credit on site.

### **About the National Hellenic Museum**

The **National Hellenic Museum** (NHM) has a mission to share Greek history, art, culture and the Greek American story. NHM preserves the Hellenic legacy and makes this rich heritage relevant today through its extensive collection of more than 10,000 physical artifacts, hundreds of oral histories, exhibitions, educational programs and special events. Originally founded in 1983 and located in Chicago's historic Greektown neighborhood since 2011, NHM provides lifelong learning for the community and sparks inquiry and discussion about the broader issues in our lives and society. Regular Museum hours are Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, visit [nationalhellenicmuseum.org](http://nationalhellenicmuseum.org) or call 312-655-1234.

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