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Ancient Greek hero Odysseus found “not guilty” by audience of over 700 jurors in mock trial presented by the National Hellenic Museum at Harris Theater

Successful defense led by attorneys Patrick M. Collins and Tinos Diamantatos of King & Spalding LLP

CHICAGO (March 17, 2026)—The [National Hellenic Museum](#) (NHM) revisited Greek history on March 12 at Chicago’s Harris Theater as an audience of over 700 jurors found Odysseus, the legendary King of Ithaca, not guilty of first degree murder in the killing of the suitors.

The Harris Theater was alive with excitement as the story of the great hero of the Trojan War leapt from the pages of Homer’s ancient poem onto the stage. Odysseus, powerfully portrayed by **Christos Vasilopoulos**, faced a spirited prosecution by **Antonio Romanucci** (Romanucci & Blandin LLC) and **Daisy Ayllón** (Romanucci & Blandin LLC). The prosecution argued that Odysseus was not justified in killing the men who had taken up residence in his palace during his long absence—attempting to marry his wife and seize control of his kingdom. Characterizing his response as vengeance and an abuse of power, they called his own court poet, Phimeus—portrayed in a compelling performance by **Leonardo Sfondouris**—to testify that Odysseus acted in a fit of rage.

Odysseus was defended by **Patrick M. Collins** (King & Spalding LLP) and **Tinos Diamantatos** (King & Spalding LLP). The defense argued that the suitors had unlawfully overrun Odysseus’s household, threatened his family, and destabilized his kingdom. In reclaiming his home, they contended, Odysseus acted not out of vengeance but out of duty—to protect his family and restore rightful order to his household and realm.

After hearing the arguments and testimony, the jury of featured community leaders on stage returned a verdict of “not guilty” by a narrow vote of 7 to 5. Jurors included: **Moyo Adeolu**, Reporter & Social Host, Axios Chicago; **Joan A. Akalaonu**, President, Black Women Lawyers’ Association of Greater Chicago, Inc; **Hon. Frank J. Andreou**, Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division; **Kasey Chronis**, Reporter, FOX 32 Chicago; **Professor Nicholas Doumanis**, Professor and Illinois Chair in Hellenic Studies, University of Illinois Chicago; **Hon. John Fitzgerald Lyke Jr.**, Circuit Court of Cook County, Criminal Division; **Gina Kondraros**, NHM Associates; **James Lakerdas**, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of St. Andrew; **Anna Metrakos**, Senior Attorney, Global Law Firm Dentons; **George Reveliotis**, President, The Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of Illinois (ENOSIS); **Georgia Tasiopoulou**, Consul of Greece in Chicago, Greek Consulate General in Chicago; and **Katherine A. Twardak**, Tomasik Kotin Kasserman, LLC.

The judges were in stronger agreement, with three of the four jurists concluding that Odysseus should be acquitted. Judges presiding at the Trial of Odysseus were **Hon. Georgia N. Alexakis** (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois), **Hon. Jeffery G. Chrones** (Circuit Court of Cook County), **Hon. Sara L. Ellis** (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois) and **Hon. Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos** (Circuit Court of Cook County). The audience jury also weighed in, overwhelmingly finding Odysseus “not guilty.”

The Trial Series is one of the most dynamic ways the National Hellenic Museum brings its mission to life. Each year NHM returns to stories from the ancient Greek world and examines them through a modern lens, inviting audiences to wrestle with the enduring questions they raise about leadership, resilience, responsibility, and power.

The National Hellenic Museum recognizes and appreciates the support of its major sponsors for the Trial of Odysseus, as well as the generosity of all sponsors who helped make this event possible. Major sponsors included: Diamond Level sponsors **Calamos Investments** and **The Jaharis Family Foundation**; Gold Level sponsors **King & Spalding**, **John S. Koudounis and Family**, **Reveliotis Law**, and **Romanucci & Blandin**; and Silver Level sponsors **Tinos Diamantatos**, **Partner, King & Spalding**, **Anna Giannoulis and Family**, **HSF Kramer**, and **The Sotos Law Firm**, **James G. Sotos**.

About the National Hellenic Museum

The **National Hellenic Museum** (NHM) is a nonprofit public history museum located in Chicago’s historic Greektown neighborhood, with a mission to share Greek history, art, culture, and the Greek American story in relevant and meaningful ways. NHM brings the Greek American experience to life through engaging exhibitions, dynamic programs, and spirited community events that celebrate both legacy and possibility. The Museum’s collection of over 10,000 artifacts and oral histories tells a powerful story—one that shares the personal journeys of immigrants shaping life in America. Originally founded in 1983 and located in Greektown 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 or call 312-655-1234.

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