



**Media Contact:**

Helene Genetos

National Hellenic Museum

333 South Halsted Street

Chicago, IL 60661

Office: 312.655.1234 ext. 28

Email: [hgenetos@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:hgenetos@hellenicmuseum.org)

Website: [www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org](http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**National Hellenic Museum names distinguished jurors for *The Trial of Megacles***  
*Audience members will tip the scales by casting the final guilty or not guilty votes*

**CHICAGO** (Feb. 23, 2018) – The National Hellenic Museum has named 12 community leaders, legal experts and journalists to the Jury for *The Trial of Megacles*, the fifth installment of the NHM Trial Series 6:30 p.m., March 1, at the Rubloff Auditorium, 230 S. Columbus Drive. Tickets are available.

Members of the distinguished Jury include:

- WBEZ, Chicago Public Media, Vice President & General Counsel Cynthia Photos Abbott
- University of Illinois at Chicago Chancellor Michael D. Amiridis, Ph.D.
- Cook County Public Administrator, Hon. Louis G. Apostol
- Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP, Partner & Vice Chair National Litigation George Apostolides
- University of Illinois at Chicago African-American Cultural Center Director Lori D. Barcliff Baptista, Ph.D.
- WGN Host Anna Davlantes
- Calamos Wealth Management Sr. Vice President Anita Knotts
- Cook County Circuit Court Judge Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos
- U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development Office of Regional Counsel, Region V, Trial Attorney & Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas G. Massouras
- Former Chicago Public Schools CEO and former City of Chicago Budget Director Paul Gust Vallas
- The Art Institute of Chicago Department of Ancient and Byzantine Art Research Associate Lorien Yonker

The Jury, along with esteemed judges and audience members, will issue a verdict after hearing the live courtroom debate from highly respected attorneys. The case of Athenian leader Megacles presents

timeless questions and highlights the issues that continue to test the citizens and the tenets of any democracy. In a truly historical case, Megacles is being tried for violating the sanctity of supplicants and subverting the laws of Athens. Does protecting the principles of the city justify deceiving a traitor?

“Rarely does one have the opportunity to watch such compelling legal arguments presented in person,” said Konstantinos Armiros, National Hellenic Museum Trustee, Chairman of the NHM Trial Planning Committee and Partner at Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP.

Returning to preside over the event are: from the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William J. Bauer and retired Judge Richard A. Posner, along with U.S. District Judge Charles P. Kocoras and Cook County Circuit Judge Anna H. Demacopoulos. New this year to the panel of judges is U.S. District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman.

Prosecuting the case will be former U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, Patrick M. Collins of King & Spaulding and Tinos Diamantatos of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. The defense team is composed of Dan K. Webb of Winston & Strawn, Robert A. Clifford of Clifford Law Offices and Christina Fakis Adair of Gozdecki, Del Giudice, Americus, Farkas & Brocato.

The upcoming *Trial of Megacles* has been approved for 1.5 hours Ethics Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits by the Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Committee of the Supreme Court of Illinois.

The dynamic NHM Trial Series has grown both in reputation and following over the years. The 2016 *Trial of Antigone* was broadcast on WTTW-TV (PBS Chicago) in May 2017 and nominated for a regional Emmy. The 2017 *Trial of the Parthenon Marbles* sold-out the auditorium with over 700 attendees.

“Truth comes from taking an idea and arguing it from all sides until it is fully uncovered and well-polished. The best truth comes from hearty debate,” says Judge Kocoras, a proud participant of every one of the NHM Trials. “We have the Greeks to thank for this legacy in our democracy.”

Tickets are \$100 and available for purchase online at <https://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/trial>, by calling the Development Team at 312-655-1234 ext. 21, or in person at the National Hellenic Museum Store, 333 S. Halsted Street in Chicago.

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Working press wishing to attend the event must contact Helene Genetos to reserve their press pass at [hgenetos@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:hgenetos@hellenicmuseum.org).

#### **ABOUT MEGACLES AND THE CYLONIAN AFFAIR**

In 632 BCE, Megacles, a leader of Athens, stood trial for the murder of Olympic champion Cylon. After failing in a coup against the fledgling democracy, Cylon and his followers sought sanctuary in the Temple of Athena. Megacles assured Cylon that he would receive a fair trial and his life would be spared if he left the refuge of the temple. After negotiations, and even tying themselves to the temple, Cylon and his men agreed to leave its safety. Despite his promise, Megacles ordered their deaths. Megacles will once again be on trial, and with him, the underpinnings of democratic principles.

THE TRIAL OF MEGACLES IS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:

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

The [National Hellenic Museum](http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org) (NHM) portrays and celebrates Greek heritage and the Hellenic legacy through educational classes, exhibits and programs. With a growing repository of over 20,000 artifacts, the Museum catalogs and highlights the contributions of Greeks and Greek Americans to the American mosaic and inspires curiosity about visitors' own family journeys through cultural expression, oral history and experiential education. Located in Chicago's Greektown, the NHM provides lifelong learning for the whole community using artifacts and stories to spark inquiry and discussion about the broader issues in our lives.

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.

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