

# Mr. Nick Larigakis

President & CEO, American Hellenic Institute

**What is the current state of affairs due to COVID-19 and what is your forecast for the future?**

COVID-19 has changed the business world. More than ever before, the wonders of electronic communications and forums have been able to facilitate communications in this unique and unprecedented times.

However, I believe it is important that we do not enter a "new normal" in which we stop in person meetings entirely. There is no substitute for face-to-face discussions. This is especially important in the realm of public policy, which is the domain and concern of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI).

**What qualifications do you think a manager should have to become a leader both in his company and in his society?**

First, and most importantly, a leader needs to have genuine passion for what he does, whether it be in the realm of the corporation or society.

Secondly, a leader, especially in the corporate world, needs to have empathy and compassion for their employees. In addition, a leader should exude confidence and make people feel part of the larger team. Especially in larger corporations, leaders need to ensure that there is opportunity for advancement. It is essential that corporate and society leaders display the values that Greek culture has promoted for so long--Philotimo, Philoxenia & Philanthropia.



**Do the geopolitical changes taking place around the world affect your sector, and if so, how?**

There are geopolitical challenges facing the world across sectors, however, the American Hellenic Institutes (AHI) specifically focuses on the Eastern Mediterranean region. Our organization has emphasized the importance of the Eastern Mediterranean to United States policy makers, and the need to upgrade relations between the United States and ally Greece, and strategic partner Cyprus, both of whom are pillars of stability. Furthermore, AHI promotes the enforcement of the rule of law and international law, including as it pertains to malign and destabilizing regional actors, such as Turkey, whose aggression and expansionist policies threatens the peace and stability of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.



# Mr. George C. Economou

Lawyer - Founder & CEO G. C. Economou & Associates

**What is the current state of affairs due to COVID-19 and what is your forecast for the future?**

The current situation in business due to Covid-19 is unprecedented in modern times: In telegraphic terms there never were imposed, not even in war, a general closure of all economic life in so many countries simultaneously with the result world trade and business activities to disappear.

The forecast for the future is bleak. It takes time for the normal rhythms of the trade to return soon. We see this in the fall of production of basics, the gigantic increase of the cost of raw materials and the reduction of wages and salaries which now need to be supported, thus depriving the State of funds for developing new projects and creating new workplaces.

**What qualifications do you think a manager should have to become a leader both in his company and in his society?**

In the present circumstances a manager should be able to take initiatives in both his company and society. He should permit and encourage his staff to have initiatives, to ask for their views on matters within their expertise or experience and generally take care that the decisions of the Company or society are taken by



a well oiled team.

**Do the geopolitical changes taking place around the world affect your sector, and if so, how?**



The geopolitical changes that are happening around the world affect us all and certainly my sector. The legal profession is passing through perhaps the worst period of its long life. The Courts have been closed for months, and apart for some criminal cases all civil cases have been postponed sine die since the beginning of the pandemic.

There is no clearer indication of this situation than the fact that the State has considered it imperative to assist the practising lawyers with a contribution to their income and a reduction of their rent. It will take years for the situation to return to normal despite efforts by the State to decongest the Courts.

