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March 28, 2012

Argyrios Katos, Esq., Disciplinary Committee Chairman; and
Vasilios Sfyroeras, Esq., Disciplinary Committee Secretary and Federation Legal Advisor
Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York, Inc.
22-51 29th Street
Astoria, NY 11105

Re: Your March 29, 2012 (sic) Request appear for an April 3, 2012 Disciplinary Hearing

Dear Counselors:

Please know that I am in receipt of your letter dated March 29, 2012 (sic). I received same by fax to my office over a week ago and by mail post-marked March 21, 2012 (a copy of which I enclose for your review). As the letter purports to be signed by the both of you, I would hope that in the future you each take the time to look at the date you sign such a document before you actually sign it. You may learn one day, as attorneys, that proof-reading a letter before you sign it is helpful. Assuming you are actually aware of what the body of the letter says, I will respond accordingly below.

As I trust you recall, at one of the first formal meetings of the Disciplinary Committee Meeting where all three of us, as well as others, are standing members, it was unanimously agreed that with regard to the three issues brought before the Committee, that we would deal with them in chronological order from the date of the Board of Directors' vote on each issue.

The very first issue dealt with was that against Mr. Peter Michaleas stemming from the Federation's President, and Disciplinary Committee Member, Mr. Elias Tsekeridis' December 2011 motion to refer a certain complaint against Mr. Michaleas to the Disciplinary Committee for alleged book-keeping issues stemming from his time as Federation Treasurer 2008-2010. As I also trust you recall, the Disciplinary Committee, after hearing testimony and reviewing various documents, unanimously voted, well over a month ago, that the underlying charges were not founded. As of this date, the Committee's findings have never been put into a formal writing for submission to the General Assembly and/or Board of Directors. As Committee Chairman and Secretary on this particular subject, I would have hoped that by now you would have finalized your responsibilities before improperly attempting to move the Committee forward to its remaining topics.

Additionally and as also discussed at length during Committee meetings and as the Federation's By-Laws are clear, your terms as Committee Chairman and Secretary are limited to the specific accusation against Mr. Michaleas. Per the By-Laws, a new Committee Chairman must be selected by lot for each matter reviewed by the Committee. Accordingly, you have no present authority to move the Committee forward. This must be left to the new Chairman who

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has yet to be selected. Moreover the new Chairman will be charged with presiding over the second of the three accusations, all made by the sitting President, Mr. Tsekeridis, yet this one against Mr. Demetrios Demetriou. Once that review is complete, the Committee will only then address the Election Committee complaint that remains chronologically third in line, yet the improper subject of your letter.

As I trust you also recall, the Committee had agreed, consistent with Robert's Rules of Order, that before commencing any Disciplinary Hearing as against a member of the Federation that the accusatory motion and allegedly supporting documents would be timely forwarded to the accused party and to all Committee Members so that the accused could prepare some form of a defense and so we could review the exact accusations. To date, we have only received a heavily redacted copy of the Minutes of the Meeting where the last two motions were presented. The specific portion of the minutes where the motions were made by President Tsekeridis was plainly missing and never presented to the accused or to the entire Committee.

Additionally, and with specific regard to the subject that relates to matters that happened during my term as President of the Federation, all I received was an unsigned copy of the Election Committee's findings. And while we are on the subject, I must note for the record that Mr. Sfyroeras was contemporaneously retained by the Election Committee to act as its Legal Advisor, who I can only assume advised them accordingly. Therefore, as his testimony will very likely be material to the review of this subject, I assume that he will recuse himself from the disciplinary Committee during the course of this particular subject so as to avoid such a glaring conflict. One would have thought that the President, who by his own motion brought all three of the accusations pending before the Disciplinary Committee where he simultaneously sits, would similarly recuse himself.

Gentlemen, as I have earlier advised you, as members of the Disciplinary Committee we remain both ethically and legally responsible to carry out our underlying duties and remain liable for our decisions. As attorneys all, we must live to an even higher standard than the remaining Committee Members. Accordingly, your letter was most distressing not only from its clearly wrong dates and the possible manipulation of your signatures, but from its abject defiance of earlier agreed upon determinations and absolute disregard of the Federation's By-Laws, where Mr. Sfyroeras sits as Legal Advisor.

As noted below, I have cc'd this letter to the NYS Attorney General's Office/Charities Bureau that reviews matters effecting Not-For-Profit entities such as the Federation of Hellenic Societies. I do this with a very heavy heart and with grave reservations because after faithfully and voluntarily serving this organization for over a decade as a Board Member and as immediate Past-President, without blemish, I am concerned that the present administration, motivated by nothing more or less than politics and a desire to silence any opposing voices, which you are both inextricably and actively involved in, is going down a path of no return.

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The present administration's failure, as supported by both of you by either vote or through your "legal" advice, to properly and/or adequately "review", if you can even call it that, the objective and fact based complaints made almost two years ago, against the present General Secretary for abuse of power, misuse of Federation funds, defiance of the Federation's By-Laws, as well as NYS and Federal Not-for-Profit Law, is troubling. Even more troubling is the present administration's attempt, through its abusive use of Disciplinary proceedings, to sanction and/or remove from the Federation, those who have merely brought to light this documented evidence. Such pathetic practices compel a public airing of the situation.

Please also be aware that shortly, I will be forwarding to the Attorney General's office for their review, the exact details and supporting documentation of the referenced egregious acts of the Federation's General Secretary, as was presented in writing to the President in the Summer of 2010 that have been left to fester.

I trust the above is clear and that you will both act in full accordance with the NYS Law as well as the Federation's By-Laws and standing Committee decisions and cease such misplaced correspondence in the future.

Very truly yours,


Demetrius Kalamaras

cc: NYS Attorney General/Charities Bureau
All present Disciplinary Committee Members
Bill Stathakos, Federation Past President and resigned Disciplinary Committee Member
Nick Diamantides, Federation Past President and resigned Disciplinary Committee Member

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