

LEADING THE WAY

CYPRIOT WOMEN WHO INSPIRE



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Leading the way / Cypriot Women Who Inspire

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This album is published by the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation (OEB) and it is supported by the Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality.

Printed by Nicolaou Printers, Est. 1906

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First edition | September 2025

ISBN-13 | 978-9925-8121-5-8

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Foreword

The Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation (OEB) completes 65 years of existence and activity in 2025 as the leading representative of Cypriot businesses and the most representative Employers' Organisation in Cyprus. As such, OEB is a steady reliable and responsible Social Partner of the government.

The Federation's priorities, founding mission and statutory objectives include the obligation "to promote equality between men and women in employment and entrepreneurship, to encourage female entrepreneurship and to promote the balanced participation of both sexes in decision-making positions" [OEB Memorandum of Association – Article 3(B)(xi)].

Within this framework, one of the actions approved by the Executive Committee of OEB for the celebration of the 65th anniversary, is this publication, which aims to showcase all Cypriot women who held a top State, Political or Institutional office at the beginning of 2025. Specifically, the following women were invited to be included in the publication:

Ministers, Deputy Ministers,
Members of Parliament,
Presidents or Leaders of Political Parties,
Mayors and Municipal Secretaries,
Commissioners,
Registrars,
Presidents of Independent Authorities,
Presidents of Courts,
Presidents of Boards of Directors of Semi-Governmental Organisations,
General Directors of Ministries, Deputy Ministries, Semi-Governmental Organisations.
The two former Commissioners of the European Union.
Members of the Board of Directors of OEB.

The album is being published jointly by OEB and the Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality as part of the framework of actions included in the Memorandum of Cooperation that the two institutions agreed and signed in 2025.

OEB also wishes to thank the sponsors of its 65th anniversary namely the Bank of Cyprus, Gold Sponsor, and the Cyprus Electricity Authority and Deloitte, Sponsors.

Disclaimer: All quotes by famous women included throughout this publication have been chosen by OEB and under no circumstances is it implied that they express or are adopted by any person portrayed in the publication.



Address by the First Lady, Philippa Karsera Christodoulides

I wish to express my warmest thanks, and appreciation to the Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation, its Chairman, and the Board of Directors, for making me part of this noteworthy initiative honoring Cypriot Women Leaders, in collaboration with the Office of Commissioner for Gender Equality.

Over the years, I have followed closely and with great interest the important work of the Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation. The Federation has been consistently committed to promoting and strengthening Cypriot businesses and has played a significant role in our country's economic development.

Within this context of business excellence and leadership, the remarkable achievements of Cypriot women in leadership positions across various sectors of our economy have contributed significantly and decisively to our country's progress.

As a professional, a working mother of four, and as an active citizen committed to contributing to the best of my abilities to improving our society, I want to express my heartfelt respect to all Cypriot women who, fearlessly, passionately, and despite the challenges and obstacles they face, make the choice to pursue their dreams, taking risks, persevering.

Cypriot women deserve our utmost admiration and respect, not only for all that they have achieved in their professions, for their compassionate leadership, but also for doing so while remaining active citizens, caring mothers, dedicated daughters and so much more.

We have walked so far along on the path of gender equality, and yet we have more steps to take, in an ever-evolving context. Undoubtedly, we have made notable progress. Yet women admittedly still have to work much harder to prove themselves, to be given opportunities, to be accepted equally, as they strive for the ever-elusive balance between family and professional life.

Cyprus is undergoing significant transformation through the implementation of a targeted program by the Government to make Cyprus a fairer, more inclusive place. A country that fully respects and upholds the rights of all, including vulnerable groups, and that effectively promotes equality, including gender equality

I am very satisfied because the largest ever participation of women in our country's history has been achieved; today in the Council of Ministers, the Boards of Directors of semi-government organizations, and other high positions women have reached 40%. However, we still need more women in all decision-making bodies, politics, culture, sports, business, and blue-collar professions, simply because women have a major role to play in every sector. Achieving a balanced workforce at all levels will undoubtedly enhance culture, results, profitability, and productivity.

As First Lady, I will remain steadfastly committed to supporting and empowering more Cypriot women to become successful in whatever area they choose and remind them that each and every one of them is a source of inspiration, especially to the younger generation who will take forward our nation's legacy. I would like to congratulate once more the Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation, as well as the Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality for this important initiative and their continuous efforts in promoting gender equality in Cyprus.



Message from the Commissioner for Gender Equality, Josie Christodoulou

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for social and economic progress. However, it is not a given as no country has achieved full and substantive equality. Reaching this goal requires ongoing efforts by all, at an individual and collective level, in order to overcome gender-based socio-economic disparities and foster an environment where everyone has real and equal opportunities to advance and lead.

Women's equal participation and leadership in business, in justice, in local government, in politics, and in every sector of activity are key components of a robust and sustainable economy and, by extension, a just and prosperous society.

Empowering women across all sectors of the economy is instrumental for the success of organizations and in strengthening their competitiveness. It is crucial for every organization to create a working environment that enables each employee to develop their potential and fully contribute to its success. An environment that ensures equal participation of women and men and supports equal treatment, without discrimination. Gender must be mainstreamed in all governance practices of organizations, from recruitment and promotion processes, balanced participation in decision-making positions to remuneration and working conditions.

The Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation (OEB) plays a significant role in advancing these principles and in creating a stronger and more equitable business ecosystem. In its 65 years of activity, OEB has consistently demonstrated its dedication to women's equality and empowerment in all sectors of labour and production, thereby contributing substantially to the development of the economy and the progress of our society.

I commend OEB for its initiative to publish this album, which constitutes recognition of women's contribution to the State as well as a reminder of the need to advance gender equality in the sectors of the economy and politics.

The women leaders featured in this album serve as examples and role models for future generations. Through their achievements they reinforce the broader effort to ensure women's equal participation and representation across the full spectrum of economic, political, and social activity.

I hope this album serves as a source of inspiration for the empowerment of women and the recognition of their value in every area of life.



Greeting by the President of Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation (OEB), Antonios Antoniou

It is with great pleasure that I welcome, on behalf of the Cyprus Employers & Industrialists Federation (OEB), the publication of the Album “Leading the way / Cypriot Women who inspire”, released as part of the celebrations marking our Federation’s 65th anniversary, with the support of the Office of the Commissioner for Gender Equality.

This year, OEB proudly marks 65 years of active contribution as the leading representative of Cypriot businesses. As the most representative employers’ organization in the country, OEB is a recognized and trusted social partner of the state.

From its founding, OEB’s mission and statutory goal have included the promotion of equality between men and women in employment and entrepreneurship, the encouragement of female entrepreneurship, and the advancement of gender-balanced participation in decision-making positions.

For more than six decades, OEB has been committed to actions and initiatives that promote gender equality and support the development of women’s potential. We aim to strengthen women’s presence across all levels—by cultivating professional and leadership competencies, enhancing skills, and ensuring equal opportunities in the workplace and beyond.

It is undeniable that continuous learning and development contribute significantly to personal and professional growth. The position of Cypriot women in the economy has seen considerable improvement in recent years—due in part to socio-economic progress, but also to the determined pursuit of rights at both individual and collective levels.

OEB has made considerable strides however there is still much to be accomplished. One key area where we continue to lag is the representation of women in top management roles. If we examine data from the private sector—including companies, organizations, and associations—women in roles such as President or Senior Director rarely exceed 10%.

However, global studies consistently highlight that women in leadership:

- demonstrate strong integrity and values
- are highly conscientious of their responsibilities and duties
- make wise and courageous decisions
- communicate effectively and remain open to diverse perspectives.

OEB remains a committed supporter of all initiatives aimed at improving employment conditions and promoting inclusive growth. We must acknowledge that a healthy economy and well-functioning socio-economic structures are impossible without the active contribution of women.

As part of our 65th anniversary celebrations, OEB’s Executive Committee approved the creation of this special Album, which includes all Cypriot women holding top state, political, or institutional offices as of early 2025. Through this publication, we are given the opportunity to recognize and showcase female leaders who have distinguished themselves and continue to shape the business and economic landscape of Cyprus. These remarkable women are an inseparable part of our nation’s history.

In conclusion, Cypriot Women Leaders have shown remarkable resilience in facing both external and internal challenges, adapting to evolving circumstances and global competition, and contributing meaningfully to the country’s development. Their flexibility and perseverance have empowered them to overcome obstacles and thrive.

Women entrepreneurs, in particular, can take great pride in the achievements and values they pass on to future generations—values such as responsibility, professionalism, teamwork, ethics, reliability, kindness, honesty, and a commitment to excellence.

This publication is a celebration of extraordinary women that lead by example and thus it is a unique and valuable legacy for every businessperson and every Cypriot citizen.

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<https://www.oeb.org.cy/cywomen2025/>

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CYPRIOT WOMEN WHO INSPIRE



ONE IS NOT BORN, BUT RATHER BECOMES, A WOMAN.

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR
THE SECOND SEX (1949)



Philippa KARSERA CHRISTODOULIDES

/ FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

/ Date of office appointment

2023

“
*Love responsibility. Say:
It is my duty, and mine
alone, to save the earth.
If it is not saved, then I
alone am to blame.*

/ Philippa Karsera Christodoulides is the spouse of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Nikos Christodoulides.

In November 1999, she joined the Diplomatic Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has since served as a career diplomat both in Cyprus and abroad. Since October 2024, she has been serving as Head of the Directorate for Schengen and Consular Affairs as Minister Plenipotentiary. Throughout her diplomatic career, she has served at the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in the United Kingdom, at the Embassy in Athens and the Permanent Representation of Cyprus in Brussels, during the first Presidency of Cyprus to the Council of the European Union.

She has also headed the General Secretariat of European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served as an adviser to the President on European affairs, in the capacity of EU Sherpa.

Philippa Karsera Christodoulides studied Political Science, International and European Affairs at the Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences in Athens and War Studies at the Kings College in London. Recently she has obtained an L.L.B. Law Degree from the University of Cyprus.

What is perfect happiness for you?

I don't believe in perfection any more. We all pursue happiness and we deserve happiness. The love and support of one's family, sharing precious moments with people we love, growing together. The ability to serve and make a meaningful contribution to society and help your country to promote its interests and its people to live in prosperity. Professional fulfillment and family with common roots. Love, sharing, and giving to all.

What is your greatest fear?

Not to be strong enough to address any challenge and obstacle that might arise and stand by my children. I also worry about younger generations being so much attached to social media and image. As a mother, and as an individual committed to advancing social issues, I also worry about the challenges that future generations might face. I am heartened to see that this government is actively implementing numerous social policies that make a real difference in people's lives, particularly for our youth and vulnerable groups.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I deeply admire the women of Cyprus who showed remarkable strength and resilience after 1974, managing to rebuild their lives, support their families, and raise their children under incredibly difficult circumstances. These women are the true heroines of life. Their courage and determination continue to inspire me, as they demonstrated how unwavering spirit and hard work can overcome even the most challenging situations. One of these women is my mother Despo and of course my late grandmother Anna who managed to start again, after being expelled from their homeland in Famagusta, and offered us a good life.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

I don't believe any virtue is overrated, as long as we maintain balance and avoid excess. Each virtue has its own value and importance in life, but

like everything else, it's about finding the balance and applying it wisely depending on the circumstances.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

One of my favorite sayings is, "Even a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." I truly believe that meaningful change happens gradually, one step at a time. It's about the smaller, consistent steps we take together. Every initiative, no matter how small it may seem at first, contributes to a greater purpose. For me, this belief goes hand in hand with empathy and practical action. When we combine a thoughtful approach with the willingness to take those first steps, we create opportunities for positive change, both for individuals and for the communities we serve. As long as there is the vision of the big Change. Cyprus is already witnessing important changes, and I believe that Nikos' election as President was a clear sign from the people that they wanted a more human-centered approach to governance and real political reform.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I would like to achieve, what I am trying hard and I am nearly there, remaining consistently focused on my vision, my own work, my personal goals without any disruptions from the "noise" coming from people who do not mean well or fake news. I read something really wise the other day "don't take criticism from someone you wouldn't take advice from".

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Achievement is a rather heavy word. However, as any mother, I would tell you that I am extremely proud of my daughters who, despite the challenges first deriving from the constant change of countries due to their parents' job as diplomats and then from the fact that their father became a politician and is a public figure with all that this entails, have grown to be empathetic, humble, considerate citizens, persons who help others and are grounded. And that I personally, despite the challenges, managed to stay

committed to my young dream to serve my country as a diplomat, while growing our family and raising four wonderful young ladies.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I love my job. I am a passionate diplomat; I am devoted to my mission. I worked hard to be as successful as possible in what I am doing. And I keep working and studying hard. I believe I do well in negotiations. I always feel that I have to be well prepared, I set my goals, and the bar is always high. I love working with capable people, people who inspire me and I can learn from them. I am a team player and I believe to the remarkable results that a good team can bring. I am highly organized and persistent. I follow the implementation of my goals. I thrive on challenge, constantly review my goals so I have something to strive towards.

What do you most value in people?

Empathy and also, I admire the characteristic of not feeling insecure, giving space and encouraging others to progress, thrive and go further than you.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Eleftherios Venizelos, the Greek revolutionary leader who defined the contemporary history of Greece, expanded the country and his economic and social reforms set the core for Greece evolution and transition in the 20th century. A true visionary, who faced challenges but remained focused on his overarching goal and vision, committed to Greeks, a tough and skilled negotiator who was also capable to be consensual. He was also deeply caring, discreetly taking care of Spinalonga lepers.

What is your motto?

I have always admired Nikos Kazantzakis, and as such, one of my favorite mottos comes from him. "Love responsibility. Say: It is my duty, and mine alone, to save the earth. If it is not saved, then I alone am to blame." Each of us bears responsibility for the world we live in, and we must be the first to embody the change we desire to witness.





*I AM A WOMAN / PHENOMENALLY. /
PHENOMENAL WOMAN, / THAT'S ME.*

MAYA ANGELOU



Annita DEMETRIOU

/ PRESIDENT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
AND PRESIDENT, DEMOCRATIC RALLY (DISY) OF CYPRUS

/ Date of office appointment
2021



Embrace responsibility.



/ Mrs Annita Demetriou is the first woman and the youngest person to serve as President of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus. In 2016, she was first elected as a member of parliament and re-elected in 2021. She was also elected as President of the Democratic Rally (DISY) party of Cyprus in March 2023. She holds a university degree on Social and Political Sciences as well as a postgraduate title in International Relations and European Studies.

She is an ambassador of the global network of women politicians - Women Political Leaders (WPL) and represents Cyprus in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). She participates in the Conference of Speakers of EU Parliaments (EUSC), in the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament of the Council of Europe, the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA), the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth as well as in the Conference of Presidents of Parliaments of Small European States.

She aims for and strives towards the advancement of parliamentary work, the modernisation and digital transformation of the functioning of the House of Representatives as well as the strengthening of communication with the citizens, within an interactive framework. Her priorities include, among other issues, the promotion of human rights, the eradication of gender stereotypes, the protection of the environment and the strengthening of parliamentary diplomacy.

What is perfect happiness for you?

To leave behind a better world than the one I found.

What is your greatest fear?

To stop hoping. Failing without trying.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Whoever fights for the common good, without seeking rewards and recognition. Malala Yousafzai is a good example.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Unwavering certainty. To evolve requires questioning.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Together we can." Because it's my belief.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To have more time for my loved ones. And 20cm more in height!

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

The trust and love I receive from people. The most precious thing!

What is your most marked business characteristic?

The ability to listen – to truly listen. And the effort to be the voice of every citizen.

What do you most value in people?

The courage to stand up for their principles, even at a personal cost.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

With all those that were not afraid to change the course of history.

What is your motto?

Embrace responsibility.





Athena MICHAELIDOU

/ MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND YOUTH

/ Date of office appointment

2023

“
*If it doesn't kill you,
it 'll make you stronger.*
”

/ Dr Athena Michaelidou was appointed Minister of Education, Sport and Youth on March 1, 2023.

Dr Michaelidou is a graduate of the Cyprus Pedagogical Academy and has received her bachelor's degree from the University of Thessaloniki. She has an M.A. in Education from the University of Manchester and has completed a Ph.D. in Educational Studies at the University of London, specializing in educational research and evaluation. Having served as a public-school teacher, she then went on to teach as a professor of Pedagogy at the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, also serving in the positions of Head of the Research and Evaluation Department, Head of the Educational Research and Evaluation Centre and, finally, as its director. In this capacity, she served as Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MOECSY) and has represented the Ministry abroad in working groups of the European Commission on education issues. She also worked as collaborating educational staff at the Open University of Cyprus and the University of London.

Dr Michaelidou has coordinated a number of horizontal actions and innovations of MOECSY and has coordinated and taught for many years seminars and programmes on educational innovation, action research and educational policy. Her research interests mainly concern professional development and the introduction of innovations in education.

In July 2022, by decision of the Council of Ministers, Dr Michaelidou was appointed as Acting Permanent Secretary of the Deputy Ministry of Culture, bringing her extensive knowledge of educational administration to build a strong foundation for the newly established Deputy Ministry.

Dr Michaelidou comes from Kyrenia and is a mother of two.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Happiness is a state of mind. In order to reach that, I focus on moments that bring me happiness and increase the feeling of fulfilment.

What is your greatest fear?

I believe that self-determination is very important in one's life. Not being able to have that consistently and not being independent is one of my greatest fears.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My mother. I admire her for her incredible ability to have provided stability throughout my life and its challenges, especially her strength and resilience through the events of 1974.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Wealth. Contentment and success, for me, are defined by commitment and dedication to self-growth and reflection.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Challenges, opportunities, optimism.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I have committed myself in the study and advancement of Education in Cyprus. Since assuming the duties of the Minister of Education, Sport and Youth I have maintained my optimism but I have learned to temper it due to the realities that exist.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Like many people, I faced generational challenges and I was able to overcome them because of my family and friends. Above all, I feel most proud of being a mother to my two children who have brought me great joy.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I advocate strongly for what I believe in.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Being an educator myself, I have been inspired by the example of Maria Montessori, an innovator of primary and secondary education.

What is your motto?

If it doesn't kill you, it 'll make you stronger.



Maria PANAYIOTOU

/ MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

/ Date of office appointment

2024



*To gain time you need to
lose time.*



/ Maria Panayiotou was born in 1982 in Larnaka. She is a mother of a ten-year-old boy. Panayiotou studied History and Archeology at the University of Cyprus (UCY) graduating in 2004. In 2006, she completed her postgraduate studies in Modern East Mediterranean History at the University of Birmingham and in 2017 she was awarded a PhD in Modern and Contemporary History from the UCY. Panayiotou worked in a number of excellence research projects and served as a member of the Scientific Team of the UCY for the "Cyprus File". She also served as the Spokesperson for the EDEK socialist political party. She also worked as a Specialist Scientist, teaching economic history at the UCY's Department of History and Archeology. In March 2023, she was appointed as Environmental Commissioner and in January 2024 as Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

What is perfect happiness for you?

My son's hug.

What is your greatest fear?

Not being able to hug my son.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Any person who overcomes obstacles and with a smile and dedication works for progress and the common good.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

There is no overrated virtue. This varies for each person depending on his/her experiences and priorities.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Thank God.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Being a perfectionist.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Becoming a mother.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Workaholic.

What do you most value in people?

Kindness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I identify with many historical figures each one with different characteristics.

What is your motto?

To gain time you need to lose time.



Irene
PIKI

/ DEPUTY MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS

/ Date of office appointment
2023

“ *Culture eats strategy for
breakfast.* ”

/ Irene Piki has been serving as the Deputy Minister to the President of the Republic of Cyprus since 1st of March 2023. In this role, she advises the President on key policy matters and leads initiatives to strengthen Cyprus’s global economic and investment attractiveness.

Under her leadership, the Secretariat for the Coordination and Support of the Government Programme was established, enhancing the effective implementation of government policies and reform priorities.

She studied Economics in the UK, (BSc Regional Science – Economics and Human Geography) at the University of Reading, followed by an MSc on Environmental and Natural Resources Economics at University College London (UCL).

She was employed in the public service of the Republic of Cyprus as a career technocrat from 1997 to 2023, at various posts with a wide range portfolio, which includes issues relating to the economy, environment, regional policy, reforms and investments, as well as European issues.

In September 2019, she took over as Head of the Strategy, Coordination and Communication Directorate at the Ministry of Finance. In March 2021, she was promoted to Director of Finance and in October 2022 she became the Director of Economic Policy and European Affairs.

She has served as member of the Board of Directors of Invest Cyprus (CIPA), the Research and Innovation Foundation, the Cyprus Organization for Standardization, as well as the Cyprus Economy and Competitiveness Council. She has also represented Cyprus in various EU Committees relating to economic and cohesion policy issues.

What is perfect happiness for you?

The combination of personal fulfilment and public service.
A world where people feel empowered and opportunities are accessible to all.

What is your greatest fear?

Missed opportunities—both personal and professional—to make a real difference in the world.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Jacinda Ardern—for redefining leadership with empathy, authenticity, and decisive action.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Neutrality—because in critical moments, taking a stand is more important than avoiding conflict.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

“What’s next?”—because progress is built on always striving for better solutions.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To be more patient with processes.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Building bridges between different sectors to create solutions that serve the public good.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

The ability to turn complex challenges into actionable strategies.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity as well as a sincere desire for a positive contribution to society.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I identify with Mahatma Gandhi because his unwavering commitment to non-violence, truth, and social justice perfectly mirrors my own dedication to serving the public and driving transformative change.

What is your motto?

Culture eats strategy for breakfast, by Peter Drucker.





Marina HADJIMANOLIS

/ DEPUTY MINISTER OF SHIPPING

/ Date of office appointment
2023

“ *Always have the ability
to listen...* ”

/ Marina Hadjimanolis, born in Famagusta, Cyprus, is the Shipping Deputy Minister of the Republic of Cyprus. She holds an LLB from the University of Leicester and is a Barrister at Law. She practiced law for many years and was an elected Municipal Councilor in Limassol Municipality from 2016 to 2023. She played a significant role in various local initiatives and was a founding member of the Youth Chamber of Commerce of Limassol. She is an active member of public and private charities and since 2021, she is the first female honorary member of Europa Uomo Cyprus, where she pioneers in the campaign to raise awareness and prevent prostate cancer. In 2024, she was the first Cypriot to receive the Maritime Person of the Year Award by the International Propeller Club of the United States. She is a mother of three.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Spending time with my loved ones.

What is your greatest fear?

I pray that my family and loved ones are always well and healthy.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My parents. Both my mother and father were my role models growing up. I was blessed to grow up in a family with principles, values, and ethics.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

I would say my most overrated virtue would be perfectionism. Sometimes it can get ahead of me. Nonetheless though, it is the leading factor for always striving for excellence and giving it all my best self.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Patience". I know it sounds cliché but when one can master the art of always trying to remain calm in any situation while having a clear head to think through, it is very important. Patience to trust the process and achieve the set goals and targets. I find myself while being patient, I have a more positive attitude overall.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To dedicate, at least some time daily, to rest my mind and body.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My children and the relationship I have managed to build with them, are undoubtedly my greatest achievement.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

If I had to pick one standout characteristic for myself, I'd say it's my adaptability. I can tailor my responses to different situations. Through my position, in many roles over the years, I was able to influence, and be myself influenced by other people in a positive way. With my current position now,

I have learnt to adapt in many situations as shipping is a global sector. Through my role, I try to encourage the young generation to learn about shipping and to choose maritime professions as a career. Having children at their age helps me to understand much better their concerns and ambitions. On the other hand, I adapt my approach in meetings, depending on the challenges that we have to face in order to promote Cyprus shipping and be an ambassador for my country.

What do you most value in people?

I really value authenticity and honesty in people. The ability to be genuine and true to themselves. It creates such a strong sense of trust and connection, and it's refreshing to see when people embrace who they are. I also admire kindness and empathy; the way people lift each other up can make such a positive impact. I also value people who are ambitious and hardworking, in whatever they want to accomplish. Something that many people take for granted is also the virtue to respect. It is a core value, fundamental to build strong and healthy relationships.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I identify myself with all women in time who were role models, dynamic and dedicated for the greater good. Women who stood up for their rights and chose to make a difference in the world through their actions and influence. Young women, mothers, daughters, wives of all ages who were strong and brave.

What is your motto?

My motto is to always have the ability to listen to people in order to learn from them and become a better version of myself, whoever that person opposite you might be. It gives you a great ability to understand where the other person is coming from and to understand certain actions and circumstances. I believe in collaboration, and I enjoy listening to other people's ideas. I like to involve young people and try to pass to them the knowledge I obtained through the years and to give them opportunities like the ones I was blessed to have.



Marilena EVANGELOU

/ DEPUTY MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE

/ Date of office appointment

2023

*If each of us achieves
even the smallest positive
change, the world will
become better.*

/ Marilena Evangelou has been serving as the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare since March 1, 2023. She studied Communication and Mass Media at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, and has worked for 26 years as a journalist for various television and radio stations, for newspapers and online media as a reporter, political editor, editor in chief, radio programme presenter, as well as online programme presenter.

She also worked in the private sector, in the field of administration, public relations and communication.

She has attended numerous seminars in Cyprus and abroad, on, inter alia, issues of Discrimination on the basis of Gender, Nationality and Religion, Equality between Men and Women, Democracy and Human Rights, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press. She has participated as a speaker in Seminars and conferences, in Cyprus and in Brussels, on Media, social media and the Cyprus Problem. She is actively involved in public affairs and has also studied Music.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Spending time with my family and being surrounded by people with whom I feel comfortable.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is losing a loved one, and unfortunately, I have experienced that loss.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My parents. They dedicated their whole life to providing for their family, often putting their own needs aside.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience is not always a virtue.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I've got a few: When there is a will there is a way.
Do not postpone for tomorrow what you can do today.
No pain, no gain.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Over-analysing.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

The unique bond I have built with my husband and my two children, as well as the lifelong relationships we share with our extended family.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

No sense of time! My associates can confirm this.

What do you most value in people?

Authenticity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

There are many historical figures that I admire, however, it feels a quite heavy statement to say that I identify with any of them.

What is your motto?

If each of us achieves even the smallest positive change, the world will become better.





Vasiliki KASSIANIDOU

/ DEPUTY MINISTER OF CULTURE

/ Date of office appointment
2023

*The one who persists
wins and the one who
seeks finds.*

/ She received her Bachelor's degree from Bryn Mawr College in the USA, with a double major in Chemistry and Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, and her PhD from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London.

She joined the University of Cyprus in 1994 and was promoted to a full Professor of the Department of History and Archaeology in 2013. She served as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Cultural Foundation of the Bank of Cyprus and as a member of the National Board of Research and Innovation. In 2022, she was elected Corresponding Member of the Archaeological Institute of America.

In July 2023, she was appointed by the President of the Republic of Cyprus as Deputy Minister of Culture.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness is to travel with my husband and our two sons and to explore together a new destination, experience local culture and gastronomy.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is the loss of a loved one or to have to face a serious health problem that can disrupt our daily life or affect plans and dreams for the future.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I greatly admire Prof. Katherine Fleming who is the Alexander S. Onassis Professor of Hellenic Culture and Civilization in the Department of History at New York University where she also served as Provost. Since 2022 she is the President and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust which is the world's most important art institution, because it provides grants and training to museums and cultural institutions worldwide and runs the two most visited museums in the United States. I admire her because she is an academic who successfully manages a trust with an endowment of over 7 billion dollars and is greatly respected for what she does and at the same time she is a mother of three.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience is a good virtue to have but sometimes one needs to stop being patient and act if one wants to successfully succeed in a task, especially when others are involved.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Let's do it - we can do it". Also "I need one more day".

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I would change my attitude towards physical exercise which would help me to lose weight.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

As an academic a great achievement was that I successfully won significant funding from competitive grants to finance my research and research team and that I earned the respect of my peers through my work. However, I believe that my greatest achievement is that although I was never involved in politics, the President of the Republic, Mr Nikos Christodoulides, asked me to join his government entrusting me with the Deputy Ministry of Culture, giving me thus the opportunity to build the foundations of this newly established and long-awaited ministry.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I believe in teamwork and I strive to make others feel part of a team and that their contribution is valued and appreciated. I also believe that it is important to create and keep a schedule for projects and goals.

What do you most value in people?

I value honesty, kindness, and good manners. I greatly value people who are dedicated to what they do, whether it's their work or a cause, and who strive to achieve their goals.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Cleopatra. I do not identify myself with her, but she is someone I have always admired, because she was highly educated, and she ruled successfully one of the most important ancient kingdoms at a time when women did not have the same opportunities as men.

What is your motto?

The one who persists wins and the one who seeks finds.



Marilena RAOUNA

/ DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

/ Date of office appointment
2024

*Right is right, even if
everyone is against it,
and wrong is wrong,
even if everyone is for it.*

/ Marilena Raouna is a mother of two, Phaidon and Neriah. She was born in 1983 in Larnaka and comes from Famagusta. She is an American Academy Larnaka graduate. She studied Jurisprudence (Law) at Oxford University, holds an LLM in Public International and European Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (Chevening Scholar) and a Diploma in French language and Civilization from Sorbonne University. She worked for the European Commission, at the Directorate General for Justice, Security and Freedom, the Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Special Advisor of the Minister, and the Diplomatic Office of the President as Director and EU Sherpa. Her work has focused, inter alia, on EU affairs, EU-Turkey relations, and EU enlargement, and she has also participated in the UN-led negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus question, focusing on EU matters. As of January 2024, she serves as Deputy Minister for European Affairs, in charge of the preparations and political oversight of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2026.

What is perfect happiness for you?

The closest would be the embrace of my children. Being surrounded by the happiness of my loved ones.

What is your greatest fear?

How do I prepare my children for a world that may be harsh on them without shielding them in a way that leaves them unprepared? Striking that balance is my greatest challenge. My parents' and grandparents' generation experienced displacement as a result of the Turkish invasion. They persevered, rebuilt their lives from nothing, and raised and educated their children in an exemplary manner—despite immense loss. And they succeeded. We have a duty to them, to this blessed country, to strive to build a better world for our children. It is a fear that carries me and drives me in my daily life, in my work, in the work of this Government.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Single mothers and fathers. They do the hardest job in the world – bearing the immense responsibility of parenthood alone, and at times, while carrying a loss for themselves and their children that can never truly be filled.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Intelligence. The world has an abundance of smart people, but do we have an abundance of virtuous people? Virtuous politicians who envision changing people's lives for the better, serving the many rather than the few. We so often deify the wrong virtues.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I'm not sure - if I knew I would probably stop overusing them! I am open to observations and suggestions.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I have a hard time relaxing and enjoying something, while working hard on it. This has been true since my student years, and I am still trying to

improve on it. Hard work and enjoyment are not inherently at odds, but learning to embrace both at the same time is easier said than done.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My family. Despite how hard it has been, despite the challenges, their presence and their support, particularly that of my husband, have allowed me to pursue a professional path that I deeply care about—one that allows me to serve my country. That is a true blessing.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Empowering others -because we are only as strong as our team. Persistence, hard work, and recognising the work and contribution of others pave the way for success. I have a remarkable team at the Secretariat of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU, who are deeply committed and work exceptionally hard – alongside civil servants across the Government – to ensure that we successfully carry out the national mission of the Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2026.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty, genuineness, humour. And kindness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Rosa Parks is iconic, and has influenced me greatly - a single act of dissent against systemic injustice can make a difference. Sometimes, it is the only difference an individual can make. Closer to home, Eleni Foka embodied that same spirit of dissent and peaceful protest and service. To me they are equally inspiring figures. They are women of virtue.

What is your motto?

In the words of William Penn: "Right is right, even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it." It reminds us that we have a duty to stand against injustice, even if we have to stand alone. It is a call for bravery.



Penelope (Poly) PAPAVASSILIOU

- / 1. SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
- 2. ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY OF DIRECTORATE GENERAL GROWTH, MINISTRY OF FINANCE

/ Date of office appointment

- 1. 2023
- 2. 2024



*Try your best,
tackle the rest.*

/ I am born and raised in Nicosia, I am an economist by training (BSc Industrial Economics - University of Warwick) and I hold an MBA from the City University Business School (UK). I started my career in 1997 at the Planning Bureau (now DG Growth, Ministry of Finance). I have more than 25 years of professional experience in positions of responsibility in the Cyprus Public Administration (1997-2016) and the European Commission (Athens, 2016-2023), in issues pertaining to the economy and growth, labour, research and innovation, European affairs, project management, coordination and design of policies and reforms.

In March 2023, I returned to Cyprus where I was appointed as Secretary to the Council of Ministers and since 1.11.2024, in addition to the duties of this position, I have been appointed as an Acting Permanent Secretary of Directorate General Growth.

What is perfect happiness for you?

I don't believe in perfect happiness; I believe in happy moments. These are usually moments that I am close to nature and are shared with beloved ones.

What is your greatest fear?

Not to forget the people I love.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My mum. She is a low-key person, but a very strong and decisive woman. I think this is a rare combination of qualities.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Success.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Lately I use a lot "I am too busy, I don't have time"!

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Currently, I would like to be more in the present moment and check less my mobile.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Passing very challenging professional exams at my 50s.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Resilience. And Fairness.

What do you most value in people?

Being authentic, not pretending. And being fair.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I have big admiration for Anna Lyndh, who was a progressive leader that combined intelligence with compassion, fairness, and strongly advocated for peace through dialogue and a better world.

What is your motto?

Try your best, tackle the rest.





Savia ORPHANIDOU

/ MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - (DISY)

/ Date of office appointment
2019



Watch and learn.



/ Savia Orphanidou was born in 1979 and she is from Nicosia.

She is an English School Graduate and studied BSc in Economics and Politics (BS) and International Political Economy (MA) at Warwick University, UK. She has worked at the Ministry of Finance for 13 years (2006-2019).

Savia became a Member of the Parliament in December 2019 and was re-elected in May 2021. In February 2020, Savia became the first public figure in Cyprus to announce her pregnancy with a sperm donor. Through her personal experience, she promoted policies, which aimed at facilitating the right of every woman to motherhood.

Savia is currently the Vice Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee of Health and she is a member of the Finance Committee, the Environment Committee and the Public Expenditure Control Committee.

Since July 2020, she is a proud mother of a daughter, Despina.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Despina safely sleeping in my arms.

What is your greatest fear?

That something bad will happen to my daughter.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Viola Marcou, oncologist, for her endless efforts to give hope to women with breast cancer.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

There is no such thing as overrated virtue.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Despina don't do that!"

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To be more patient!

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My daughter! And raising her by myself.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Trustworthy and very well-organized.

What do you most value in people?

Reliability and kindness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Glafkos Clerides for his unwavering stand on universal values and principles.

What is your motto?

If somebody tells you that you can't do something, you tell them "Watch and learn".





Rita THEODOROU SUPERMAN

/ MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - (DISY)

/ Date of office appointment
2021



Nothing is impossible.

/ Member of Parliament representing the constituency of Kyrenia under the banner of DISY. Holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a master's degree in Criminology, and had worked in the Cyprus police for 35 years. For 15 years she was in charge of the Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. She has been appointed as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) Rapporteur on Terrorism and Organized Crime, and as the chairperson of the UN Special Office on Combating Terrorism and Organized Crime. Mrs. Superman was a member of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Combating Trafficking in Persons, member of the European Commission, and the Chairwoman of the Group of Experts of Interpol. In 2016, she was honored as a 'Trafficking in Persons Hero' by the U.S. Department of State.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness is not a constant variable; life is unpredictable and changes constantly, it is impossible to decide what perfect happiness would look like. Instead, I try to enjoy life as it comes, with its ups and downs.

What is your greatest fear?

Anything bad happening to my family.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire the persons who went through the traumatic events of war, who have to remember and carry this baggage through, and for the rest of their life, and who have the strength to carry on and offer back to society.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience. We live in an era which is characterized by rapid advancements. As such, we need to always be adapting and always be ready to take action, instead of waiting for things to happen on their own.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

The Greek phrase «συν Αθηνά και χείρα κίνει» (translation: God helps those who help themselves). We cannot wait for things to happen on their own, and we cannot wait for others to act on our behalf. Self-action and initiative are essential.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Being more disciplined on personal matters of health and well-being.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My biggest achievement is that I have managed to rescue and help victims of human trafficking, albeit under difficult and unsettling circumstances.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Vision; never losing sight of what's important, and adaptability; being able to connect and effectively communicate with everyone.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity, honesty and decisiveness. I believe that individuals possessing these characteristics are well-fitted to fight for the common good.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I don't consider myself to be identifying with any historical figures. Instead, I try to create my own, individual path to helping those in need, without following an identified example.

What is your motto?

Nothing is impossible.





Fotini TSIRIDOU

/ MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - (DISY)

/ Date of office appointment

2021

*Courage to lead, wisdom
to listen, and passion to
serve.*

/ Fotini Tsiridou has been a Member of Parliament for the Limassol electoral district with the Democratic Rally (DISY) since June 2021. She studied Law at City University in London, holds the professional title of Barrister-at-Law as a member of the Middle Temple in England, and completed her postgraduate studies in Maritime Law (LLM) at University College London (UCL). She is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in the United Kingdom. She serves as Deputy Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs, Justice and Public Order, and is a member of the Parliamentary Committees on Transport, Communications and Works; Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance; and Human Rights and Gender Equality. She previously served as a board member of the Cyprus Ports Authority and as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Stock Exchange (CSE). Since 2020, she has been the coordinator of DISY's Policy Production Team for Public Organisations, and as of May 2023, she holds the position of Deputy Spokesperson for DISY. She also served as Vice-President of the Friends of the Centre for Preventive Paediatrics Association and, since 2015, has been the President of this charitable organisation.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness is a life filled with purpose, surrounded by loved ones, and guided by the principles of freedom, justice, and fair progress. It is the ability to contribute meaningfully to society while cherishing personal moments of joy and fulfillment.

What is your greatest fear?

The stagnation of ideas and the erosion of democratic values. A society that ceases to evolve, challenge itself, and protect individual freedoms is a society that risks losing its very essence.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire individuals who stand unwavering in their commitment to democracy and human rights, even in the face of adversity. Those who use their voices to bring about change inspire me the most. They can be politicians, business leaders, or farmers – I admire their example.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Blind obedience. While discipline and respect are important, progress is only achieved when we challenge norms and seek better solutions. It is the cornerstone of evolution.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

“Opportunity,” “freedom,” and “cooperation.” These are not just words but guiding principles in my approach to politics and public service. When it comes to a phrase, “common sense is not so common” is my motto.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I would like to master the art of patience even more. In politics, as in life, change takes time, and sometimes the most profound transformations require perseverance. Equally important is the ability to actively listen, as true leadership comes from understanding diverse perspectives and fostering meaningful dialogue.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Advocating for policies that empower individuals, support local communities, and create a fairer, more inclusive society so as we can move towards a united and prosperous Cyprus. Seeing tangible progress in these areas is what drives me.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Unapologetic decisiveness paired with a clear-sighted understanding of the bigger picture. Strong leadership means making tough choices without hesitation while staying attuned to the concerns of the people. It is about driving change with confidence, clarity, and a commitment to results.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity, resilience, and intellectual independence. The ability to think critically, challenge convention, and stand firm in one’s beliefs while remaining open to debate is what sets true leaders apart.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

It’s not one; I would pick a three-fold role model as framed by Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill and Eleanor Roosevelt. Thatcher for her boldness and conviction, Churchill for his unwavering resilience in the face of adversity, and Roosevelt for her unwavering commitment to human rights. Leadership requires strength, vision, and the ability to stand firm even when the path forward is difficult.

What is your motto?

When it comes to politics and my family business firm “Courage to lead, wisdom to listen, and passion to serve”. When it comes to my family “Stand firm, speak boldly, and never compromise on your principles”.



Marina NIKOLAOU

/ MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - (AKEL)

/ Date of office appointment

2021

/ Personal information:

Place of origin and date of birth:

Limassol, 27 November 1986.

Studies:

Political Sciences (Department of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Cyprus)

Profession before election:

Political Advisor-European Parliament.

Foreign languages:

English.

Parliamentary tenure/activity:

Representative of Limassol constituency under the banner of AKEL-Left-New Forces since June 2021.

Currently serves as:

- Deputy Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on Internal Affairs.

- Member of the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, of the House Standing Committee on Health Affairs and of the House Standing Committee on the Environment.

- Member of the delegation of the House to the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) and to the Conference on the Future of Europe (COFE).



Cyprus belongs to its people; it should be liberated and reunited!



What is perfect happiness for you?

To love, to smile, to be able to show and receive kindness.

What is your greatest fear?

War and the root causes that lead to it.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Androula Christofidou Henriques for her stamina, determination and commitment to the fight against human trafficking but also for a better future for all women and girls.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Some people are admired for being great orators, but I believe that actions speak more than words.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I cannot think of one at the moment.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My stress levels!

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

a. The missions to Palestine during my work at the European Parliament and

b. the enactment of a law based on my political party's legislative proposal establishing the Right to be Forgotten for cancer survivors. The 'Right to be Forgotten' means the right not to be discriminated against when a former cancer patient asks for specific credit services and life insurance after a set period of time has passed. Not only in Cyprus but also across Europe, having a history of cancer can be a major hurdle for access to financial credit services, particularly payment insurance products. The law was voted unanimously in the Parliament.

I was honoured to take the lead on behalf of AKEL, on this very important and deeply social issue. We placed Cyprus in pioneers among the EU

member states as now cancer survivors can go back to their lives, once the cure for cancer is declared, like other people of similar characteristics with no cancer diagnosis.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Work ethic, which I have learned from my parents.

What do you most value in people?

Sincerity and humanity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Identification is a strong word, but there are persons that inspire us. One of them is Nicos Beloyiannis, the man with the carnation.

What is your motto?

Cyprus belongs to its people; it should be liberated and reunited!





Christiana A. EROTOKRITOU

/ MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - (DIKO)

/ Date of office appointment

2016

*Continuous effort - not
strength or intelligence
- is the key to unlocking
our potential.*

/ Christiana Erotokritou grew up in Nicosia and graduated from the English School. She studied law at the University of Wolverhampton and obtained the title of Barrister at Law at Lincoln's Inn. She is a lifelong member of the Democratic Party, elected Member of the House of Representatives in 2016 and re-elected in 2021. She was elected to the position of Vice Chairperson of the Democratic Party in 2018. She is the Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on Financial and Budgetary Affairs since 2020 and a member of the Committee of Foreign and European Affairs and the Committee of Legal Affairs since 2016. She is a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe representing the Cypriot Parliament since 2021.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Peace of mind.

What is your greatest fear?

Death.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My husband. I consider him the most intelligent man I have ever met in my life. His mental acumen is astounding.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience. Impatience is the greatest motive.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I often ask “where is it?”, as I am constantly on the move and therefore in search of the items needed for my next task.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To have a shorter fuse.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Creating and maintaining a strong family bond with our children despite the fact that both my husband and I, due to work commitments, did not spend as much time as we would or as we should have.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Quickly identifying the problem.

What do you most value in people?

I am in love with “doers”. People who get things done.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Otto von Bismarck.

What is your motto?

“Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - is the key to unlocking our potential”, by Winston Churchill in one of his famous speeches as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II.





Alexandra ATTALIDES

/ MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - (VOLT CYPRUS)

/ Date of office appointment

2021

*Stand up for what's right,
even if you stand alone.*

/ Alexandra Attalides is an independent Member of the House of Representatives for Nicosia district. She is a member of Volt Cyprus.

She is a member of three Standing Committees: Human Rights, Ethics, Development Plans and Public Expenditure Control.

Her main policy areas of activity are Human Rights, Environment, Climate Change, European Affairs and the Rule of Law.

She has studied Communication and Management and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) on European Management.

She has served as Director of Communications at the University of Nicosia and as Spokesperson of the European Parliament Office in Cyprus.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness is the happiness of my grandchildren and this can be safeguarded in a world where everyone has equal rights, loves freely, and lives sustainably.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is the permanent division of my country and witnessing globally the erosion of human rights and environmental protection.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire people who stand up against injustice, and among them Malala Yousafzai for her bravery and relentless fight for education and women's rights.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Tolerance can be overrated; we should strive for acceptance and celebration of diversity instead.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Equity" and "sustainability" are often on my lips—they're at the core of my activism.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I would be more patient, especially in the face of injustice.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Advocating for policies that protect marginalized communities and the environment is my proudest achievement.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Resilience, tenacity, honesty and the ability to build collaborative relationships and foster dialogue among diverse groups.

What do you most value in people?

I value empathy—understanding others' struggles is crucial for meaningful change.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Rosa Parks, an African American who refused to give up her seat on the bus, standing up against race segregation.

What is your motto?

"Stand up for what's right, even if you stand alone."





Maria STYLIANOU-LOTTIDES

/ COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND THE PROTECTION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS (OMBUDSMAN)

/ Date of office appointment
2023

“*What time cannot bring,
the moment will.*”

/ Maria Stylianou-Lottides was initially appointed as the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights (Ombudsman) in 2017 and was reappointed in 2023.

She is a member (in her personal capacity) of the Management Board of FRA, 1st Vice-President of the Board of AOM (Association of Mediterranean Ombudsman), one of the Directors of the International Ombudsman Institute Europe Board of Directors and member of the Board of European Ombudsman Institute (EOI).

She obtained a Law Degree from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, LLM in European Union Law from Leicester University and holds a diploma in journalism. Subsequently, she succeeded in the PanCypriot Bar Association examination, establishing herself as an active member of the Cyprus Bar Association. She was a practising lawyer in the private sector (1998-2002) and a Lawyer/advisor of the Republic at the Attorney General's office (2002-2017).

During her first tenure, she promoted and achieved the strengthening of the institutional framework and the independence of her Institution, which in 2022 contributed to the accreditation of the Institution by the Sub-committee of accreditation of GANHRI, as an A Status NHRI.

What is perfect happiness for you?

The moments of absolute serenity.

What is your greatest fear?

The control that comes with technology and globalization.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Margaret Atwood, as her work influences global movements for women's rights and freedom of speech while she remains steadfast in her values and principles in practice.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I think.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My tolerance for an extended period of time.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

The recognition of the independence of the institution I represent through many struggles.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Purpose and vision.

What do you most value in people?

Kindness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Simone de Beauvoir.

What is your motto?

What time cannot bring, the moment will.





Louisa CHRISTODOULIDOU ZANNETOU

/ LAW COMMISSIONER

/ Date of office appointment
2019



Work hard, love big, be modest, enjoy simple moments in life, be kind generous and help others as much as you can.



/ Louiza Christodoulidou Zannetou holds an LL.B from Queen Mary College, University of London, and became a Barrister-at-Law as a member of The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple. She worked in Cyprus law firms before joining the Law Office of the Republic in 1990. Since 2014, she has served as an Attorney of the Republic, heading the Administrative, Civil Law, and Domestic Violence Sections. She chaired the Gender Equality Committee (2015–2024) and is an examiner for the Cyprus Bar Association in Family Law. In 2019, she was appointed Law Commissioner by the President of the Republic

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness, for me, is seeing my loved ones happy and successful. Their joy and achievements bring me the greatest fulfillment. Also going to sleep at night with clear conscience.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing someone I love.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire my father the most because of his wisdom, kindness, honesty and generosity. He has always been my greatest role model and his hard work, steadiness and dedication inspire me to be a better person every day.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

I think self-sacrifice is the most overrated virtue. It's important to care for others, but constantly putting everyone else first can leave you unfulfilled, drained and exhausted. "You can't pour from an empty cup"—taking care of yourself should come first so you can truly be there for others.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

As a passionate lawyer and Law Commissioner, I often find myself saying things like "Against the law" "In violation of human rights" or "this is unfair". Also, as a mother, I often say to my daughters, "Always stand up for what you believe in".

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I would stop thinking too much, worrying about unimportant things and learn to ignore unworthy people. I would also get rid of my mobile phone.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I consider my greatest achievement to be my work as Law Commissioner, particularly in the area of legal drafting. Contributing to the modernization of legislation and ensuring its alignment with human rights standards has been

incredibly fulfilling. Being able to draft laws that have a lasting impact on society and advance justice is something I hold with great pride.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My most marked business characteristics are devotion, honesty, practicality and efficiency. I focus on delivering results promptly while maintaining a high standard of quality. Whether it's legal drafting or research on an area of law that needs reform, I strive to simplify complex processes to ensure the best possible outcomes.

What do you most value in people?

I most value kindness, fairness, modesty, honesty, appreciation and hard work in people. Kindness fosters meaningful relationships and creates a positive environment, while hard work and honesty leads to growth, progress, and the achievement of goals. These qualities together inspire trust and respect.

What is your motto?

Work hard, love big, be modest, enjoy simple moments in life, be kind generous and help others as much as you can.





Valentina GEORGIADOU

/ FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER (OMBUDSMAN)

/ Date of office appointment
2024

- / • Middlesex University LLB
- UCL LLM (Commercial and Corporate Law)
- Admitted to the Cyprus Bar in 2008
- Certified Mediator
- Financial Ombudsman Office:
 - Administrative officer
 - Administrative Officer A
- Deputy Financial Commissioner
- Financial Commissioner

“ *Every dark cloud has a silver lining.* ”

What is perfect happiness for you?

Clear conscience and meaningful moments.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing my family.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My parents.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

A virtue can never be overrated.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

All right / Thank you.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Limit my stress levels.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My two daughters.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Determination.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

We have to be modest. I have done nothing remarkable yet to identify myself with a historical figure.

What is your motto?

Every dark cloud has a silver lining.





Irene LOIZIDOU NICOLAIDOU

/ COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION
INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

/ Date of office appointment
2019

*Freedom is not
constituted primarily
of privilege but of
responsibilities.*

/ Irene Loizidou Nicolaidou has studied Law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and graduated in 1999. She also has a Degree in Journalism. In 2007, she was awarded a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA) by the Cyprus International Institute of Management (CIIM). She is an Accredited Mediator of CEDR (Center for Effective Dispute Resolution). She was a Member of the Cyprus Bar Association and she practiced Law from 2000 until 2015, when she was appointed as Commissioner for Personal Data Protection of Cyprus.

In 2001, Irene was elected as Member of Engomi, Nicosia Municipal Council for three consecutive (five year) terms. In this capacity, she served as a Permanent Member of the Cyprus Municipal Councils' Association, to the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities of Council of Europe and as Vice President of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress from 2007, till she assumed the position of the Commissioner.

As of September 2015, Irene is the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection and as of December 2020, she also acts as Information Commissioner. Since May 25, 2023, Irene is the Deputy Chair of the European Data Protection Board (EDPB).

What is perfect happiness for you?

Spending time with my family.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing family member.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My husband for his unconditional support.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Assertiveness.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Privacy is a matter of culture.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Being more patient.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Elected Vice Chair of the European Data Protection Board.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Decision maker/doer.

What do you most value in people?

Trust.

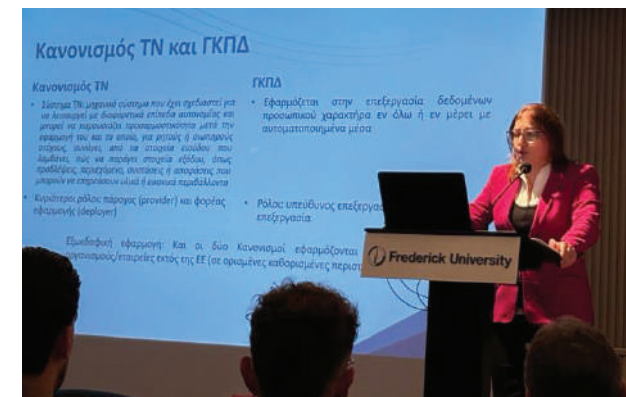
Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Aristotle.

What is your motto?

"Freedom is not constituted primarily of privilege but of responsibilities"

Albert Camus.





Josie CHRISTODOULOU

/ COMMISSIONER FOR GENDER EQUALITY

/ Date of office appointment
2023

“*Keep pushing forward
with resilience.*”

/ Josie Christodoulou was appointed Commissioner for Gender Equality on 1 March 2023. She coordinates and monitors the implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality, in collaboration with all ministries and deputy ministries. She chairs the National Machinery for Women's Rights (NMWR) and established the Civil Society Platform to enhance social dialogue on gender equality. She worked as Policy Coordinator at the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies (MIGS) and served as Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on gender mainstreaming in foreign policy. Ms. Christodoulou holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Indianapolis (USA) and a master's degree in Racial Equality Studies from Middlesex University (United Kingdom).

What is perfect happiness for you?

Listening to music and being with family/friends.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing people I love.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My grandmother. She contributed to who I am today.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Righteousness.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Why?

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To be more assertive.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My commitment and dedication to what I do.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Patience and strategic advocacy for gender equality.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Combination of Emmeline Pankhurst & Eleanor Roosevelt.

What is your motto?

Keep pushing forward with resilience.





Antonia THEODOSIOU

/ COMMISSIONER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ANIMAL WELFARE

/ Date of office appointment

2024

*Difficulties increase the
nearer we come to our
aim.*

/ Antonia Theodosiou is the Commissioner for the Environment and Animal Welfare of Cyprus. An Architectural Engineer with a Master's in historic monument restoration, an Environmental Engineer, and a Tourism Guide, she promoted the Akamas Peninsula Sustainable Development Plan and contributed to the inscription of "The Art of Dry-Stone Walling" in UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

She co-conducted research for the documentary *Petra stin Petra* on Cyprus's dry-stone heritage and has received national and international awards for projects in monument and anthropogenic landscape restoration. She has also co-authored works on traditional architecture, cultural landscapes, dry-stone heritage, and the environment.

She serves on the boards of the International Scientific Society for Dry Stone Interdisciplinary Study (SPS), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture, and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), and other organisations.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Seeing nature and people in perfect balance; no harm, just harmony. A world where nature thrives alongside humanity, not in conflict, but in mutual respect.

What is your greatest fear?

The limitation of free speech and expression. When voices are silenced, so is progress. A world where people fear to speak, think, or express freely is a world where humanity withers.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Hélène Glykatzi-Ahrweiler. A great scholar and thinker of rare depth and a powerful voice without theatrics. She speaks with clarity and conviction, whether one agrees with her or not; a proof that knowledge, not noise, shapes the world.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Honesty because it is rarely absolute; it is often shaped by perspective, circumstances, and desires. Truth matters, but so do timing, intent, and delivery.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Creativity, efficiency, practicality" is the trifecta shaping how I think, work, and envision solutions. To me, ideas should inspire, function smoothly, and serve a purpose.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I would be more intentional about making time for family, friends, and self-care. I believe in hard work; time though is unforgiving. Balance is not just a goal; it is a continuous choice worth making.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Surely my son. I admire and respect the person he has become. Raising him has been my proudest journey, and seeing him grow into himself is a joy.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I approach things in layers, constantly combining ideas and shifting focus. It keeps me thinking, evolving, and moving forward. Stagnation is not an option for me.

What do you most value in people?

I value kindness, grace, dynamism and commitment to noble causes. Purpose means little without respect and integrity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Leonardo da Vinci: Always observing, finding balance in nature, the human body, and the cosmos. Inspired by the ancient Greeks, he sought deeper meaning in structure and thought, understanding that harmony is the secret of existence.

What is your motto?

"Difficulties increase the nearer we come to our aim (Goethe)". I fully abide by this and often remind myself and my coworkers, especially when things get hard. It is not a sign to give up, but a signal that we may be on the brink of something great.





Androulla VASSILIOU

/ FORMER EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION, CULTURE, MULTILINGUALISM AND YOUTH
FORMER EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH

/ Start and end dates of office appointment

2010 – 2014

2008 – 2010

*To deliver what I
undertake and promise.
Be responsible!*

- / • Practicing lawyer 1968-1988
- Member of Parliament 1996-2006
- Member of the European Commission 2008-2014
- Author – “The Evolution of the Woman of Cyprus in the 20th century”
- President of the World Federation of EN Associations (WFUNA)
- President of the Bank of Cyprus Oncology Center for 8 Years
- First President of BPW, Cyprus

Honors By:

- The Hellenic Republic
- The French Republic
- The Kingdom of Spain
- The International Olympic Committee
- OEB & BBW Cyprus
- KOA
- Cyprus Sport Writers

Married to Dr. George Vassiliou
3 children & 5 grand children

What is perfect happiness for you?

There is no perfect happiness. My family, true friendship, professional fulfillment, music and nature.

What is your greatest fear?

The future of my country and loneliness.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Gisele Pelicot, the French woman who was repeatedly raped by her husband and others. She dared speak about it in public and has become a symbol of courage and resilience.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Kindness.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I cannot think of any.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Become less anxious.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I am very fortunate to have achieved a very fulfilling life.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Perfectionist.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty and Empathy.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Nelson Mandela and Marie Curie.

What is your motto?

To deliver what I undertake and promise. Be responsible!





Stella KYRIAKIDES

/ FORMER EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

/ Start and end dates of office appointment

2019 – 2024

/ Stella Kyriakides served as the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety from December 2019 to November 2024. Before her appointment at the European Commission, she was a Member of the Cypriot Parliament representing Nicosia with the Democratic Rally (DISY) party from 2006 to 2019, which she also served as Vice President for a decade.

In 2017, Kyriakides made history as the 30th President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), becoming the fourth woman and the first Cypriot to hold this distinguished role. Throughout her tenure at PACE, she led the Cypriot delegation, chaired the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, served as General Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, and was Vice-President of the European People's Party group.

Within the Cypriot Parliament, she demonstrated strong leadership as Chair of the Committee on Human Rights and Gender Equality and Vice-Chair of the Health Committee. A passionate advocate for patients' rights, Kyriakides founded Europa Donna Cyprus, the nation's first breast cancer organization, presiding over it for 15 years. Her leadership extended across Europe as she was elected President of the European Breast Cancer Coalition Europa Donna and chaired Cyprus's National Cancer Committee.

Kyriakides holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Reading and a postgraduate degree from the University of Manchester. She began her career as a clinical psychologist specializing in child and adolescent psychiatry within the Mental Health Services of Cyprus's Ministry of Health. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to health, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Reading.





Stella
MICHAELIDOU

/ COMMISSIONER FOR STATE AID CONTROL

/ Date of office appointment
2021



*Lead authentically, inspire
with empathy, and deliver
results with integrity.*



/ Academically qualified with distinction in BSc Economics & Mathematics, BSc Financial Studies, HND Computing and Master in Business Administration (MBA) and professionally qualified with distinction as a Banker (ACIB), with expertise in Cyprus and abroad.

Panhellenic winner in athletics learned discipline, devotion and resilience.

A dynamic personality, results-driven manager, known for her effective management abilities and strategic initiatives for operational efficiency.

A hard working, reliable problem-solver professional, adopting effective controls with critical thinking. Known for her ability to build trust and develop effective professional relationships.

An authentic leader with proven track record of inspiring high-performing teams, optimizing results and exceeding expectations through complex goals that align with the overall business strategies.

What is perfect happiness for you?

It is a Mindset that appreciates the beauty of everyday moments of my life. Moments that bring me an emotional state characterized by feelings of joy, contentment and fulfillment, bringing harmony of my mind, body and soul.

What is your greatest fear?

Emotional fear, and specifically the fear of losing someone I love. Although this fear is deeply human, it is unavoidable because it is rooted on the immense value I place on my loved ones. To overcome this, I practice mindfulness techniques to stay in the present and not think what will happen in the future.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Miltiadis Tentoglou, the Greek long jumper Olympic gold medal winner. As a panhellenic athlete, I admire him, for his explosive athletic ability, his consistency and reliability, his mental toughness, his technical precision, his adaptability and his humble and hardworking personality.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Positivity: While a positive attitude is often encouraged and welcomed, toxic positivity can dismiss real feelings and struggles, leading to a lack of authenticity and emotional depth.

What words or phrases do you most overuse?

Words: Thanks, Bravo, Perfect, Hello, why?

Phrases: Perception eats Knowledge for breakfast. I am grateful. What do you think? We will find a solution. Let's discuss. Let's think outside the box.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Improving patience. This is a powerful goal that will help me manage stress and strengthen my relationships. To succeed this, I first observe my thoughts and emotions without reacting immediately.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I am a cancer survivor and that isn't just about beating cancer, it's about embracing life with courage and joy, reminding me always of my inner power.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Results-driven manager: I focus on achieving measurable outcomes, setting clear goals, and ensuring that my team delivers high performance. I emphasize efficiency, accountability and continuous improvement to drive success.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity, authenticity, humility, open-mindedness, generosity, resilience dependability, kindness, empathy.

Which historical figure do you most identified with?

I wish I could be fully identified with the Greek Philosopher Socrates (470-399BCE) because he was well known for his Intellectual Humility, critical thinking and logic, and he was ethical and virtuous, relentless questioner and at the same time courageous and principled, charismatic and influential.

What is your motto?

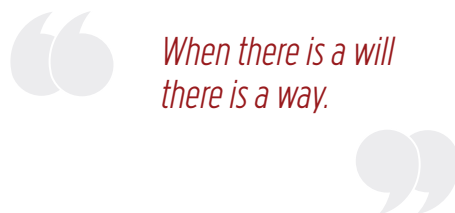
Lead authentically, inspire with empathy, and deliver results with integrity.



Anna ZAVOU

/ COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL AUDIT

/ Date of office appointment
2015



*When there is a will
there is a way.*

/ Ms Anna Zavou graduated from Pallouriotissa High School and studied Mathematical Economics in UK.

She holds the following professional qualifications:

Chartered Accountant (FCA), Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Control Self-Assessment (CCSA), Certification in Certified Government Auditing Professional (CGAP) and Certification in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA).

She worked in audit firms in both London and Cyprus. In 1994, she was employed by the Electricity Authority of Cyprus for 21 years, until November 2015, where she was appointed as Commissioner of Internal Audit of the Republic of Cyprus until today.

She served as President of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Institute of Internal Auditors from July 2020 until July 2023.

On September 2020, she was awarded the "Public Sector Finance Award" by the "16th CFO Management Forum & Awards".

What is perfect happiness for you?

Happiness for me is to have health, family happiness and career success by achieving my goals.

What is your greatest fear?

Being unable to deliver physically and mentally. I am a very energetic person both physically and mentally.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire Andriana Nicolaou, the mother of Thanasis, who died whilst he was serving as a soldier in Cyprus. For 20 years she was fighting against all odds to prove that her son did not commit suicide, as it was claimed by the Authorities, but instead he was murdered. She managed to prove so with persistence and strength. She will continue her struggle until the murderers are found and punished.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Excessive wealth. The effort to possess enormous wealth will consume valuable time and effort leading to aggressive stress. It may also involve performing illegal activities, with all the consequences involved. Wealth is important as long as one has the necessary means to live a comfortable life.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I use the phrases brainstorming and team work. I consider the effort and the ideas of a team more valuable than the efforts and abilities for one person. I encourage my team to share their views and we often exchange ideas in order to achieve the desired outcome efficiently and effectively.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I wish I had higher self-esteem and was less tolerant. I wish I didn't allow other people to influence my life. I would rather live with the consequences of my mistakes rather than the mistakes influenced by others.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Getting educated and cultivated, getting into difficult situations and eventually succeeding. That made me strong, wise, confident and above all human. I became tough and resilient over time.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Problem solving and thinking outside the box. I always identify the problem and concentrate my energy into solving it, with positive thinking and attitude.

What do you most value in people?

I value integrity because a person with integrity has pride, dignity, honesty and is human above all.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

My idol figure is Mahatma Gandhi and I wish I could identify myself with him. I admire him for his intelligence, philosophy, humble personality and leadership skills, that made the impossible happen.

What is your motto?

My motto is "When there is a will there is a way".





Irene MYLONA

/ REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

/ Date of office appointment
2022



Everything flows.



/ Irene Mylona was appointed Registrar of Companies and Intellectual Property in July 2022.

She is a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) graduate from the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki and has a Master in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Nicosia. She is also a member of the Cyprus Bar Association since 1991.

Mrs. Mylona was first appointed at the Department as an Examiner in 1993. During her 32 years of employment, she has served in various positions in the Intellectual Property and the Bankruptcies (now a subsection of the Department of Insolvency of the Ministry of Energy) Sections, but mainly in the Companies Section where she also served as a Senior Officer and Head of the Section prior to her appointment as Registrar of Companies.

Her responsibilities include the implementation of the Government's policy with regards to improving business environment and safeguarding intellectual property rights as well as the daily supervision and management of the two Sections of the Department. She is also President of the Cyprus Copyright Authority and the Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus in International Organizations such as EPO, EUIPO and WIPO.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness is not a fixed emotion, but a state of balance. To be able to take advantage of simple moments with your loved ones, be present in the laughter of the family and the warmth of friendship. It is the harmony between professional fulfillment and personal joy, where neither overshadows the other, but instead complements and strengthens the two.

What is your greatest fear?

If there's one thing that unsettles me, it's the thought of looking back one day and realizing that I have not made the most of the opportunities life presented. It's not about personal success rather than making a difference, knowing that my work, my life choices, and my efforts have left something meaningful behind. The idea of time slipping away without fully embracing the moments that truly matter is what pushes me to keep going, to stay engaged, and to never take any opportunity for granted.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire those who lead with courage and compassion - individuals who break barriers not to get personal gains but to open doors to others. One of these leaders is Mary Robinson, the first woman president of Ireland, who reformulated the role of her country in the global scenario and defended human rights, gender equality and social justice. Her leadership has never been about maintaining power, but using her influence to challenge injustice. From defending women's rights in Ireland to defending human rights at the international level as the UN High Commissioner, she has always defended the principles that create a fairer and more inclusive society. What I admire most is her ability to balance strength with empathy - an essential quality of true leadership.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Perfection. We're often taught that aiming for perfection is a good thing, but in reality, it can be a reason for hesitation. Seeking perfection often stops people from taking risks, learning from their mistakes, or moving on. Progress in life is never perfect. It is the lessons learned from trying,

failing, and trying again. Some of the greatest achievements in history came from persistence, adaptability, and the willingness to embrace the unknown, something that could never be achieved if we are only seeking for perfection.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I would say "let's find a way." Because there is always a way - sometimes it's just a vision, patience and the right team to find it out. I also often repeat "we achieve more working together" as I strongly believe that succeeding cannot be achieved on your own. On the contrary, I believe that success is built on collaboration with other people, with shared experience and the ability to bring the best out of those around us. These are the phrases that drive me day to day and reflect my belief that challenges are better overcome through teamwork and collective effort.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I often say that I need to learn to let go. I tend to need to make sure that everything under my reach is running smoothly, to anticipate every detail, and to carry the weight of responsibility fully on my shoulders. What I have started to learn is that we can't and shouldn't try to control everything. Having trust in other people and giving space for things to naturally unfold is a sign of internal strength. Things may not always go exactly as planned and that can still be ok. Letting go isn't always easy, but it's something I try to remind myself of every day.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Achievements, just like success, are more than milestones of our lifetime. If I must select one achievement it would definitely be the journey that took me where I am today, to be able to lead in a field that shapes the future of entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation. However, no personal achievement can stand on its own without my family's unconditional support, for which I am deeply grateful for. My husband, who has been my firm partner, and my son, who inspires me to continually fight for excellence. Their presence constantly reminds me that success is not just about pro-

professional milestones, but about the strength of relationships that support us.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Throughout my career I have always focused on seeking opportunities to build bridges and not on what divides us. For me, true leadership should not be focused on imposing authority, but to promote an environment where creativity and ideas can prosper, where collaboration triggers innovation and where progress is measured not only by results, but by the collective force of the people behind them.

What do you most value in people?

In today's rapid world, I constantly remind myself that it is easy to lose sight of what really matters. For that I choose to value authenticity above all, the originality of those who remain strong in their values and who act with sincerity. Along with authenticity, I appreciate honesty and empathy. Those are qualities that define the character of a person and can shape the confidence we put into each other.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Although more of a modern figure rather than a historical one, I have a deep admiration for Rina Katselli. Not only because she was the first woman elected to the Cypriot Parliament, but also for the way she carried herself with strength and a sense of purpose while serving her terms. Her presence at the Parliament enhanced a space where women's voices had been absent and made sure they were heard. But what I truly admire Rina Katselli for is that she was more than a politician. She was an award-winning storyteller and a person who enriched Cypriot literature with her work. Her journey reminds me that leadership isn't always about making noise, it is mostly about making change.

What is your motto?

As Heraclitus, the ancient Greek philosopher said, "Everything flows." This statement reminds us that change is the only constant. Nothing remains

the same and nothing should be taken for granted. I strongly believe in lifelong learning as the key to growth, progress, and resilience. In the fast-evolving world we live in, being able to adapt and shape the future rather than just react to its challenges, is what separates true leaders.





BEING POWERFUL IS LIKE BEING A LADY.
IF YOU HAVE TO TELL PEOPLE YOU ARE, YOU AREN'T.

MARGARET THATCHER



Dr Christina YIANNAKI

/ PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

/ Date of office appointment

2015

Health above all.

/ By decision of the Hellenic Republic, Prefecture, Directorate of Health, she has a license to use the title of dental maxillofacial surgery specialty.

She holds a certificate of specialization in Maxillofacial Surgery from the Dental Council of Cyprus, as well as a Degree in Dentistry from the Faculty of Oral and Dental Medicine of the University of Cairo.

She has obtained a postgraduate diploma in "Management with Specialization in Public Administration", and she attended the Postgraduate Program "Administration of Public Dental Health", of the Dental School of the University "Karolinska Institutet", in Sweden.

She has been honored, among others, by the University Clinic of Sheba Tel-HaShomer Medical Centre of Israel for her dedication and impact on Public Health.

For the period 10/10/2013-15/02/15 Active Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Helping others is a path to deep moral satisfaction. Being able to contribute to someone else's happiness naturally leads to your own. A smile from a child or a patient I have helped or a thank-you message from someone in need, gives me the strength and motivation to keep going. These small gestures are enough to fuel me in the challenging work I do, reminding me of the meaningful impact I can make on others' lives.

What is your greatest fear?

After all these years of being actively involved in the critical field of health-care, I can honestly say that my greatest fear is the "UNKNOWN". This word carries with it a sense of uncertainty, that prevents anyone from feeling fully secure, whether in the present or in the future.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Throughout my life I have encountered many people, each with their own personalities and ways of reacting. This has given me a broader understanding of how people handle situations and interact with each other. In my case, I can surely state that I mostly admire my husband, who plays a catalytic role in my life. His methodical nature, intelligence, understanding, and strong work ethic are characteristics that inspire me and give me the strength to continue my daily endeavors.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Some virtues or traits are often valued highly in a general perspective. Of course, this is something directly connected to personal perceptions. Different people might have different opinions on what qualifies or what may not necessarily be as important or beneficial as it is supposed to be. I personally believe that Perfectionism is an overrated virtue, that can simultaneously lead to stressful situations and fear of failure.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

It is in my nature to work intensively towards the goals I set. A phrase I

often use is "Let's do it" or "We must do it now". When it comes to helping others and ensuring people's health, I focus on taking immediate action, no matter how difficult or complex the situation may be.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

One thing that I would consider changing, is the amount of time dedicated to work. I would consider finding a better balance between my work hours and the time spent on personal life route between working hours and hours spend on personal life.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Upon my appointment as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, one of the key challenges I faced was organizing the patient referral sector, both within Cyprus and abroad. Through continuous efforts, I managed to restructure the sector by implementing policies that ensured the effectiveness of patient referrals using the reimbursement method. This provided Cypriot patients with the right to choose their care, improved the management of public health resources, and enhanced the range and quality of services available.

At the same time, the Ministry of Health has been navigating a critical and defining period for the future of healthcare in our country. The introduction of GeSY and the establishment of the State Health Services Organisation (OKYpY) in 2019, along with the autonomisation of Public Hospitals, marked significant structural reforms in the healthcare sector, which demands ongoing effort and long working hours to ensure their success.

Another key achievement in my career was overseeing the organization and operation of Famagusta Hospital as a Reference Hospital for COVID-19 patients during the pandemic. This period felt like a daily battle, but through dedicated coordination, we were able to overcome the challenges successfully.

Lastly, a personal milestone for me was the establishment of the National

Trauma Centre at Nicosia General Hospital and my role as Chair of the National Trauma Committee. This initiative has been incredibly rewarding and a crucial step in improving trauma care in our country.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My most marked business characteristic is persistence and determination. I consistently go above and beyond to ensure the continuous delivery of essential healthcare services.

What do you most value in people?

I most value honesty in people. Being truthful creates trust and fosters strong, meaningful connections, whether in personal or professional relationships.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Since my childhood, I have admired Marie Curie. I grew up reading her biography, written by her daughter. She was a unique woman, dedicated to her work, who succeeded in providing humanity with the knowledge of radioactivity. Her discovery laid the foundation for radiation therapy, which continues to save many lives to this day.

What is your motto?

Being in this sector, my motto is: "Health above all." I believe that good health is the foundation of everything in life, whether this is physical, mental, or emotional health. This motto shapes how I approach both my personal and my professional life, always striving to protect and promote health as the highest priority.





THERE'S A SPECIAL PLACE IN HELL FOR WOMEN
WHO DON'T SUPPORT OTHER WOMEN

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT
the first female U.S. Secretary of State





Marina IOANNOU HASAPI

/ PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

/ Date of office appointment
2024



*Life is too short to dwell
on the unimportant.
Focus on what truly
matters, embrace
challenges with purpose,
and always keep moving
forward.*



/ Dr Marina Ioannou Hasapi has served as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Works since November 1, 2024. Previously, she was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Sport, and Youth (2023–2024) and Acting Permanent Secretary of the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare (2021–2023). She also served as the Director of the Department of Labour Relations, with over 27 years of experience at the Ministry of Labour. She has been a board member of various organizations and has taught Labour Relations at the University of Cyprus. She holds a Ph.D. in Labour Relations, an MBA, a Master's in Public Sector Management, and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Having a fulfilling career, a loving family, and the freedom to grow, explore, and contribute to society in a meaningful way. True happiness comes from balance, purpose, and strong relationships.

What is your greatest fear?

Wasting time on things that don't truly matter or being unable to contribute, inspire, and create positive change.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire leaders who embody integrity, vision, and empathy—those who drive progress not just through words, but through action and example, leaving a lasting impact.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Blind obedience. While respect and discipline are important, true progress comes from critical thinking, questioning, and challenging ideas rather than following without understanding.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Let's find common ground." I believe in the power of dialogue and negotiation—solutions emerge when people truly listen to each other and seek mutual understanding.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Rather than changing who I am, I believe in continuous growth. Every experience, good or bad, teaches something valuable, and I embrace that process.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Building a career based on integrity and service while maintaining a strong, loving family. Balancing both has been my most rewarding accomplishment.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Decisiveness combined with fairness. I approach challenges with a clear mind, analyze situations thoroughly, and make informed decisions with confidence and integrity.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty, resilience, and a sense of responsibility. I admire those who stay true to their principles while treating others with kindness and respect – values my father lived by and instilled in me.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Aristotle. His belief in lifelong learning, ethical leadership and the balance between theory and practice resonates deeply with me. He emphasized the importance of civic engagement and responsible governance, recognizing that public involvement is essential for shaping a just and thriving society. His ideas continue to inspire my approach to leadership and decision-making.

What is your motto?

Life is too short to dwell on the unimportant. Focus on what truly matters, embrace challenges with purpose, and always keep moving forward.





Maria TSIAKKA OLYMPIOU

/ CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD, CYTA

/ Date of office appointment

2024



*The real voyage of
discovery consists, not in
seeking new landscapes,
but in having new eyes.*



/ Maria Tsiakka Olympiou received a BSc and an MSc in Chemical Engineering from MIT and an MBA with Distinction from the Harvard Business School.

She was also awarded a Diploma in Psychology of Work from the University of Leicester and is a certified Project Manager Professional (PMP).

She worked at the Bank of Cyprus before joining her family business specialising in office solutions which she successfully manages to this day.

She was a Board member of Pasykaf and a Board member of AMITA, the Association of MIT Alumnae.

She is married to Zeus Olympios and has two sons.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Being surrounded by family and friends.

What is your greatest fear?

Someone in my family having a serious health problem.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire every person who finds joy in life, and courage and hope even under the most adverse and challenging conditions.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Perfectionism which is often counterproductive and results in stress and fear of failure.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

All is good or as we say in Greek "Mia Hara!"

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Saying "no" more often and giving myself a break.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Balancing career and family.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Listening and being agile, adapting to changes happening around me.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity combined with kindness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

None specifically, I admire various traits of different people.

What is your motto?

As Marcel Proust once said, "The real voyage of discovery consists, not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes".





When you walk through a storm hold your head up high.

Rona KASSAPI

/ PRESIDENT OF THE CYPRUS RADIOTELEVISION AUTHORITY

/ Date of office appointment
2017

/ Born in the UK and comes from Nicosia. She is a graduate of the English School Nicosia and a lawyer since 1992. She studied in the UK and holds an LL.B., an LL.M. in Maritime Law and the title of Barrister-at-Law.

From 1991 to 2004 she practised as Legal Advisor in Maritime and Commercial Law. In 2004 she took over the position of In-house Legal Advisor at Coca Cola HBC Cyprus. From 2006 to 2015 she was Legal Advisor to Coca Cola HBC in Cyprus and Greece.

In 2006 she was appointed Member of the Board of Directors and Legal Counsel of the Coca Cola Hellenic Group Cyprus entities, positions which she holds to date. From 2005 to 2016 she served as Advisor to the President at the Industrial Disputes Tribunal. In 2016 she was appointed by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cyprus as Member of the Examination Board for Insolvency Practitioners, Ministry of Energy, Trade and Industry and in February 2017 she took the position of Vice-President. In August 2017 she was appointed by the President of the Republic as the President of the Cyprus RadioTelevision Authority after having served as Vice-President and Member of the Authority since July 2016. She is a mother of two boys who are currently living in London.

What is perfect happiness for you?

My loved ones being healthy and happy.

What is your greatest fear?

Wars and cats.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Pope Francis because he possesses a character full of virtues and values: love, kindness, caring, promotion of differentiation, unity and peace.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

All virtues exercised in exaggeration.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

No one in particular.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Worry less about things that should matter less.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Balancing for years several demanding roles: mother, professional, spouse.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Discipline, consistency and fairness.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty and sincerity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

A combination of many historical figures.

What is your motto?

When you walk through a storm hold your head up high.





Elena KOUSHOS HADJIDEMETRIOU

/ PRESIDENT OF THE CYPRUS LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

/ Date of office appointment
2021

“
*TIP TOE if you must but
TAKE the Step.*
”

/ A lawyer with extensive litigation experience having appeared before all levels of courts, including the Supreme Court of Cyprus and all levels of the District Court.

She was also a representative in Courts of Arbitration such as CAS (Court of Arbitration of Sports) and a consultant in mediation procedures at the Labour Department.

Medical Malpractice/Negligence, Employment Law and Criminal cases including but not limited to check cases, assault and all types of road traffic accidents)

Head of the Compliance department (AML Compliance) of KOUSHOS KORFIOTIS PAPACHARALAMBOUS LLC

President of the Cyprus Land Development Corporation

Businesswoman

Arbitrator

Mediator

Seminar Instructor-HRDA

Zumba Instructor

What is perfect happiness for you?

Calmness.

What is your greatest fear?

Not being able to progress/develop (Να μένω στάσιμη).

Which living person do you most admire and why?

All those that manage to stand up, to keep going, people who are sick but still fight. If you want someone more specific, my parents, each one as parents but also as people who have been through what life had in store for them and kept fighting and still do.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

I don't, I think each one serves a purpose in our lives.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

(Δόξα Σοι ο Θεός/Oh Well!).

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Don't know, every day, every year requires you to change, to adapt and to become better.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My family.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Evolution.

What do you most value in people?

When they have positive energy and transfer calmness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

A lot, everyone in their time and field has given us something to identify with in our own way.

What is your motto?

'TIP TOE if you must but TAKE the Step'.





Dr Phrosso ECONOMIDOU HADJILUCAS

/ CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS CYPRUS, ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF QUALITY, CYPRUS ACCREDITATION BODY MINISTRY OF ENERGY, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

/ Date of office appointment
2022

*Strive for excellence,
embrace growth, and
prioritize well-being.
Keep Growing, Keep
Exploring.*

/ With a distinguished career spanning over 40 years in administration, public service, education, research, and volunteer work, Dr. Hadjilucas has made significant impacts on food policy, education, and standards. Notably, she played a pivotal role in establishing mandatory food standards during her tenure as the Head of Food Standards at the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, and Industry, starting in 1980. Dr. Hadjilucas' contributions also extend to educational initiatives. She was instrumental in founding the Atsas Educational Center, a certified vocational training unit focused on sustainable agriculture and food safety. As the Director of the Center, she has overseen numerous seminars and events aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of food industry professionals.

Dr. Hadjilucas is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Nicosia in food science and technology, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses. Her talents and abilities are not only in the classroom but outside its walls when interacting with the students.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Dr. Hadjilucas has dedicated herself to volunteer work, particularly by founding and presiding over the Cyprus Association of Food Scientists and Technologists for 15 years. Her efforts have been crucial in elevating the profession of food science in Cyprus, culminating in the establishment of a respected Registration Board for the field.

Dr. Hadjilucas has been honored with the prestigious title of Fellow by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) in the USA. This recognition is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding career and significant contributions to the profession of food science and technology.

Dr. Hadjilucas attended the IFT Fellows Recognition Forum and Awards Ceremony, in July 14, 2024, at McCormick Place in the IFT FIRST Theater in Chicago, Illinois, USA where she was officially recognized and celebrated her contributions to the global food science community.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness for me is a harmonious blend of meaningful connections, personal growth, and pursuing my passions. It's about finding balance in life, cherishing moments with loved ones, continuously learning, and contributing positively to the world around me. When I'm fully engaged in activities I love, surrounded by people who uplift me, and making a difference, I feel truly happy.

What is your greatest fear?

The worry of not meeting expectations or achieving goals.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Androulla Vassiliou is a remarkable figure! She is a Cypriot politician who has made significant contributions both in Cyprus and within the European Union. Here are some highlights of her career:

- First Lady of Cyprus: She served as the First Lady from 1988 to 1993 when her husband, George Vassiliou, was President of Cyprus.
- European Commissioner for Health: From March 2008 to February 2010, she held this position, focusing on public health initiatives.
- European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, and Youth: From February 2010 to November 2014, she worked on policies to promote education, cultural diversity, and youth engagement across Europe.

Androulla Vassiliou is also known for her active involvement in social and cultural fields, particularly within the UN and EU. Her dedication to improving public health, education, and cultural understanding makes her an admirable figure.

What do you consider the most underrated virtue?

Perseverance: I continue working towards my goals despite challenges and setbacks.

Collaboration: I enjoy working with others and sharing ideas.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"In my opinion."

"It's truly interesting."

"I wanted to ask..."

"It's a great idea."

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Stop being over emotional.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Is achieving the IFT (Institute of Food Technologists) Fellows Designation, in 2024 Reward of what I have done in my professional career. I am the first Cypriot Food Scientist.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Dedication to self-improvement and growth. Analytical mindset and attention to detail. As a food scientist, these qualities are likely crucial in my work, helping me to conduct thorough research, ensure product safety and quality, and develop innovative solutions.

What do you most value in people?

Reliability, Integrity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Louis Pasteur was a French chemist and microbiologist renowned for his discoveries in the principles of vaccination, microbial fermentation, and pasteurization. His work had a profound impact on food safety and public health. Pasteur's dedication to scientific research, his innovative approach to solving problems, and his contributions to improving food preservation and safety are qualities that seem to align with my professional pursuits.

What is your motto?

Strive for excellence, embrace growth, and prioritize well-being. Keep Growing, Keep Exploring.



Constantina ACHILLEOS

/ CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE YOUTHBOARD OF CYPRUS

/ Date of office appointment

2025



*If you can dream it, you
can do it.*



/ Constantina Achilleos is a dynamic leader with extensive experience in communication, education, and youth empowerment. She currently serves as the President of the Cyprus Youth Organization, advocating for young people's rights and opportunities. At a young age, she held a leadership position as Community Leader of Agios Nikolaos, Lakatamia, showcasing her early commitment to public service. She is pursuing a Master's in Green & Digital Management and is actively engaged in agricultural policy and rural development. As a mentor and trainer, she passionately supports education, digital transformation, and sustainability, shaping initiatives that promote equality and innovation.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness is a balance between personal fulfillment, meaningful relationships, and making a positive impact on others.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is not living up to my full potential or failing those who depend on me.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I deeply admire Dr. Adamos Adamou for his dedication to both medicine and public service. His commitment to improving people's lives through his work in healthcare and politics, as well as his integrity and leadership, have been truly inspiring throughout our collaboration.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Perfectionism—it sets unrealistic expectations, creates unnecessary pressure, and often slows down progress instead of driving real success.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Let's find a solution" and "Anything is possible with effort."

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I would like to focus more on the present moment and truly enjoy the process. I tend to take on many tasks at the same time, which sometimes prevents me from fully appreciating each step of the journey.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is raising my children with values, strength, and kindness while also making a meaningful impact in my career.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

A strategic mindset combined with a strong sense of empathy and teamwork.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity, kindness, and the willingness to grow.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I most identify with Evagoras Pallikarides, a young hero who fought fearlessly for freedom and justice. His courage, passion, and unwavering belief in a better future serve as a timeless inspiration for youth and leadership.

What is your motto?

"If you can dream it, you can do it."





Maria CHARALAMBIDES

/ PRESIDENT OF TOWN PLANNING BOARD

/ Date of office appointment
2024

*All is good, and if not,
NO WORRIES,
it will be at the end.*

/ Maria received her Master's degree (MSc) in Architecture from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Greece in 1992. She is one of the co-founders and key experts of EPITESSERA Architects.

In 2024, she has been appointed by the President of Cyprus, Mr. Christodoulides, as the President of the Town Planning Board.

In 2004, she was awarded the STATE AWARD FOR BEST EMERGING YOUNG ARCHITECTS with George Paroutis, represented Cyprus in major international Architectural competitions and exhibitions such as the "Mies van de Roe award".

EPITESSERA has received several design and honor awards over the last few years and has gained significant recognition in the field of Architectural design. The company's projects are widely published in major design-oriented publications.

As a Lead Architect, with a wide range of experience, she is responsible for the implementation of projects from concept to reality and involved in a broad number and types of public and private projects commercial, residential, leisure and education sectors.

Maria enjoys interpreting a project's potential and applying her technical knowledge to develop a design. She likes the challenge of turning her skills into new and diverse projects.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Freedom OF SPEECH, Freedom of thinking, to act, freedom of movement, freedom of choice, LOVE.

What is your greatest fear?

SNAKES in all forms either be of animal kingdom origin or humankind. Seriously now: I intentionally avoid using or thinking this word, as “The words you speak, and think are shaping your future”. But since I must answer this question: losing my SMILE.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I don’t idolize people, but I really admire my daughter and my son. Sometimes their kindness and their way of thinking just takes my breath away. They are my most inspiring teachers.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

HUMILITY

We grew up listening to “be humble”, “don’t speak your mind”, “stay low”. Even though it is valuable to keep people grounded, and open to growth, it’s sometimes romanticized to the point where it discourages confidence, ambition, or taking credit for one’s achievements. In some cases, it’s weaponized to keep people in their place, making them feel guilty for asserting themselves or striving for more. Of course, genuine humility—recognizing one’s limitations and staying open to learning—is a great thing. But when it’s exaggerated into self-effacement or passivity, it can hold people back more than it helps them.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse

ALL IS GOOD, the second most overused, the most used ONE would be.... “censored”.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Nothing, seriously I am ok with myself. But take your time and read again my answer to the question about the most overrated virtue.

What do you consider your greatest achievement

What is considered GREAT anyways? That I made it so far, That I have my health, a close-knit family, my chosen profession, which I love, and I would choose again in the blink of an eye, or the State award for BEST YOUNG architect? It’s a matter of one’s perspective. But the people I was lucky to meet through my work, the knowledge I gained with this interaction of the Human nature / feelings, are and were the greatest gifts for me.

THESE ARE THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS but then again what is considered “an achievement” anyways? I am working on it and surely it would be a great one. Greatness, for me, lies in the small things: our family, our children, our friends, the smallest small act of kindness, moments in time with laughter, to make the world a better place for the future generations, etc etc.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Resilience.

What do you value most in people?

Genuine – soul born – real – authentic KINDNESS.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

None? I do not put people on a pedestal, EVER, since I was a child. I do not idolize. BUT I do admire the unknown women throughout the centuries that fought their own battle just to be part of society and to serve and be treated as humans. The women pilots during WWII, the Secret Operation officers, the nurses of the second and first world war, the camp prisoners, the “rabbits”, the First woman qualified as a physician and surgeon in England back in 19th century, the scientists, the poets, the architects, the unknown women, THOSE WOMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIFE FOR US, THOSE WHO, against the society’s norma where BRAVE Enough To challenge the “You cannot do it, you are not allowed to” with a silent and humble “Why not. Watch me”

What is your motto?

All is good, and if not, NO WORRIES, it will be at the end. Wear your brighter smile and offer it to the world.



Joanna DEMETRIOU

/ CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, THE ENGLISH SCHOOL, NICOSIA

/ Date of office appointment

2024



Pressure is a privilege.



/ Joanna Demetriou was born in 1979. She graduated from The English School, Nicosia in 1998. She holds a Law degree from the University of Nottingham (LLB Law), a Master's degree from King's College London (LLM in Public International Law), and is a Barrister-at-Law, having been called to the UK Bar in 2002 (Gray's Inn). She then qualified as a lawyer in Cyprus and is a member of the Cyprus Bar Association. She serves as Counsel for the Republic of Cyprus at the Office of the Attorney – General since 2009.

She was appointed Chairwoman of The English School Board of Management by the Council of Ministers in February 2024. She was appointed Chair of the 'Women and Sports' Committee of the Cyprus Olympic Committee by its Executive Councilwoman in 2022, and is a Board Member of the Cyprus Tennis Federation since 2019.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Harmony through my relationships with my children and family, including my pets. In a fast - paced world, time spent in nature and especially at sea (Greek waters in particular), also comes close.

What is your greatest fear?

The passage of time, and missed opportunities which cannot be reclaimed.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My parents, for their unwavering commitment to their children and each other.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience! It is indeed a timeless virtue, but may sometimes lead to a lack of decisive action when, in some instances, this may be required for progress.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I don't know. And this is probably my most overused phrase.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I am my own greatest critic, so I would judge myself less strictly.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Maintaining the inner strength and stamina to be a committed mother, professional and useful member of the community all at once, despite adversities through time.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

In my own evaluation, my insistence on fairness and integrity, at any cost.

What do you most value in people?

On a personal level, humility and authenticity, coupled with a generous

dose of good humour. On all levels, maintaining ethos at all times, and under any circumstances.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

From recent history, my inspiration is U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Through dedicating her life to law, she pioneered the human rights movement by fiercely advocating for equality and diversity, in leadership and beyond. Known for her humanity and strong moral compass, she is a role model for her pursuit of justice and commitment to serving others.

What is your motto?

'Pressure is a privilege'. These are the words of tennis champion and equal rights activist Billie Jean King. They serve as a reminder of the value of resilience, and that, when embraced, challenges lead to personal growth and development, opportunity and achievement.





Themis
AGATHOCLEOUS

/ CHAIRWOMAN, CYPRUS FOREST INDUSTRIES LTD

/ Date of office appointment
2021

“ *Create opportunities,
don't wait for them.* ”

/ Senior banking executive with 20 years of diverse, global experience in financial services across Cyprus, Greece, Egypt, UK and the Balkans, specialising in bank restructuring, mergers and acquisitions.

Currently serving as the Head of Corporate Development, Mergers and Acquisitions at Piraeus Bank S.A.

A qualified CFA charterholder, holding a BA in Mathematics from the University of Cambridge and an MSc in Operational Research from the London School of Economics.

What is perfect happiness for you?

A balance between personal fulfillment and professional success. It's about growing, making a positive impact, and fostering meaningful connections with the people around. It's a continuous journey, not a final destination.

What is your greatest fear?

Stagnation. The world is constantly changing - without adaptation and continuous learning, there is the risk of being left behind.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

The individuals who dedicate their lives to making a meaningful impact on society, like Tu Youyou, who discovered the treatment for malaria that has saved millions of lives worldwide. I admire her remarkable contributions to medicine and her perseverance in the face of adversity.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patriotism and religious faith when they turn into chauvinism and intolerance, they breed division, hostility and violence, distorting values, promoting injustice and conflict.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Let's do it" - with the right mindset and teamwork, every challenge presents an opportunity to find a solution. Also "what do you think", "bravo", "thank you".

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To embrace moments of stillness more often. In the fast-paced world we live in, it's easy to focus on what's next, but pausing to fully appreciate the present could bring even greater clarity and fulfillment.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Keeping my plants alive for more than a year.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

The ability to focus on the bigger picture while understanding potential complications and side effects of a decision.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity, reliability and positive attitude. People who are committed, transparent, and eager to contribute to a collaborative and supportive environment.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Ioannis Kapodistrias, the architect of the newly independent Greek state, played a pivotal role in its establishment through his boldness, decisiveness, and political expertise combined with his vision, resilience, and a unique blend of modesty and methodical planning in shaping the country's future.

What is your motto?

"Create opportunities, don't wait for them." Proactive effort and a forward-thinking mindset are the keys to success.





Eva PANTZARI

/ CHAIRPERSON OF THE CYPRUS COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF COMPETITION

/ Date of office appointment

2023

“*Simplify the complex,
deliver with integrity and
never lose sight of the
bigger picture.*”

/ An experienced lawyer with over 30 years in commercial and corporate Law specializing in mergers, acquisitions regulatory compliance and dispute resolution. Spent three decades in private practice. Currently serving as Commissioner for the Protection of Competition overseeing antitrust enforcement, market regulation and fair Competition policies.

Holds an LLB (Honours) Degree, Barrister at Law of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn. Admitted to the Cyprus Bar Association in 1992.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness is having my inbox under control and my coffee still warm. On a deeper level, it is doing intellectually stimulating work, making a real impact, and somehow managing to squeeze in time for friends, family, and charity work.

What is your greatest fear?

Professionally, my greatest fear is becoming complacent. Personally, I would say losing the ability to stay present and connected to the people who matter most.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire Christine Lagarde for her leadership, clarity of thought, and ability to navigate high-stakes, cross-border matters with grace and strategic insight.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

“Always being right.” While precision is essential in legal practice, particularly in regulatory compliance, it is important to balance that with pragmatism and commercial judgment. The best outcomes often come from being adaptable, not perfect.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

“To put it another way...” – which is code for: “I’m about to say the exact same thing, just slower and with a pie chart.” Also guilty of overusing “in principle,” which is lawyer-speak for “we’ll see how this goes.”

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I would like to be more patient, especially when things don’t go as planned.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Building strong relationships with people I work with and staying true to my values.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My ability to navigate complexity with clarity. Whether it’s a last-minute regulatory issue or a tense negotiation point, I’m known for being composed and detail-focused, without losing sight of the bigger picture.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity, intellectual honesty, and genuine kindness - they create trust and make any relationship stronger.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Jean Monnet – one of the architects of European integration. He worked behind the scenes, building consensus across borders and legal systems.

What is your motto?

Simplify the complex, deliver with integrity and never lose sight of the bigger picture.





Eleni KOUZOUPİ

/ CHAIRWOMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

/ Date of office appointment

2024

*Stand as a symbol
of empowerment for
those who share similar
experiences or identities.*

/ The new Chairwoman of the Committee for Gender Equality in Employment and Vocational Training has been working for the Law Office of the Cyprus Republic since 1997, specialising in labour law. During this time, she has contributed to the drafting of a number of laws on employment, women's rights and gender equality. She is an active member of the Equality Committee and the Labour Law Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association and other organisations and committees promoting gender equality. She also writes articles and participates in conferences on various issues such as equal opportunities and harassment in the workplace.

In 2003, she took up the post of Legal Advisor and Justice Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU, where she participated in expert groups of the European Commission and the Council of the EU on issues such as the fight against trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation and the Istanbul Convention. She was also actively involved in the negotiations for Cyprus' accession to the EU and during the Cypriot presidency (2012), she led the group on judicial cooperation (civil and criminal). In 2020, she took up the position of Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to Eurojust in Hague, where she dealt with cases of cross-border sexual abuse/harassment. She holds a Bachelor of Law from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, two postgraduate degrees in European Law (University of Exeter, UK) and International Relations (University of Exeter, UK) and a Diploma in Legislative Drafting (University of London).

What is perfect happiness for you?

If I were to envision perfect happiness, it would probably involve continuous learning, growth, meeting new challenges and being an active and contributing member of the society.

What is your greatest fear?

The backlash against human rights, justice, and democracy. I worry about the erosion of fundamental freedoms, the rise of authoritarianism, and the disregard for equality and fairness that threatens the progress humanity has made.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire ordinary people and their resilience, kindness and ability to make a meaningful impact in their communities, even without fame or recognition. Ordinary people often show great strength in the face of life's challenges, whether it's overcoming personal hardship, caring for others or making a difference in small but significant ways.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience might be one of the most overrated virtues. While it's often praised as essential, excessive patience can sometimes lead to missed opportunities, or tolerating unacceptable situations.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I tend to overuse the word "absolutely" when affirming or engaging in conversations. I also use the phrases "what about you?" to keep discussion flowing naturally.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

The inability to say 'no' leading to excessive work and responsibilities.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Raising my son with love and guidance, teaching him important life values.

It has been an incredible journey filled with challenges, learning moments and countless rewards.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I have been told that I am a good negotiator and that I can manage conflicts, team player, understanding different perspectives, being calm under pressure and finding solutions that satisfy both sides.

What do you most value in people?

I value authenticity, empathy - caring for others. Also, resilience, as it shows strength in the face of new challenges, which is inspiring. I also value open-mindedness - it allows for understanding and growth.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I feel that we have the duty to continue the struggle of the pioneering Cypriot women, such as Stella Soulioti, Cypriot lawyer, who was named Justice Minister in 1960 making her the first woman in the world to hold such a position. She remained in the post until 1970, serving as well as a Minister of Health. She was also the first Law Commissioner and the first woman to serve as Attorney General, making her one of the first women in the world to hold such a position. She also led the Red Cross in Cyprus until 2004.

What is your motto?

Stand as a symbol of empowerment for those who share similar experiences or identities.



Sophia
KLEOPA HADJIKYRIAKOU

/ PRESIDENT, PROFESSIONAL INCOMPATIBILITY COMMISSION

/ Date of office appointment
2025



*The truth shall set us free
and justice will prevail.*



/ L.L.B (Hons) Bachelor of Laws, University of Southampton, 1991 – 1994.

L.L.M (Lon) Master of Laws, King's College London, 1994 – 1995.

10.9.1995 – 10.9.1996 training in the law firm Antis Triantafyllides & Sons in Nicosia.

11.9.1996 registered in the Register of Practicing Advocates.

11.9.1996 – 28.2.2007 practicing advocate - Partner in the law firm Kleopas & Kleopas in Nicosia.

1.3.2007 – 10.1.2024 Judge in the Cyprus Judicial Service (District Court Judge, Senior District Court Judge, District Court President).

2019 – 2023 Trainer for the Cyprus Judicial Training School.

2022 – 2023 Appointed as Cyprus Focal Point to the United Nations Global Judicial Integrity Network.

Certified Tutor, HELP Program (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) of the Council of Europe.

2025 Appointed President, Professional Incompatibility Commission.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Time with my family.

What is your greatest fear?

“Do the thing you fear and the death of fear is certain” (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My mother, Myrna Y. Kleopas. A pioneer for women’s rights in Cyprus, she was one of the first female lawyers with her own practice, and as a diplomat was the first female General Consul and the first female Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus (Beijing, Rome, London). She taught me the importance of a strong work ethic, treating everyone equally and kindly, and of supporting other women in the workplace.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Working overly long hours – efficiency is the key, not longer hours.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Better safe than sorry.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Being a perfectionist and always wanting to be in control of the situation. Sometimes you just need to let it go.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My children.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Integrity.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (although not quite a ‘historical’ figure) for inspiring women to break gender barriers in the legal world.

What is your motto?

The truth shall set us free and justice will prevail.





“*Everything happens for a reason.*”

Mary IOANNIDOU KOUTSELINI

/ PROFESSOR-PRESIDENT OF THE CYPRUS AGENCY OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION
IN HIGHER EDUCATION BOARD - MEMBER OF ENQA – EQAR-WFME

/ Date of office appointment
2015

/ Professor at the University of Cyprus, Chair holder of the UNESCO chair in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment of the University of Cyprus (2008-2023), and a regular member of the European Academy of Arts.

She has been also the founder and coordinator of the University of Cyprus post-graduate program "Curriculum, Instruction and Comparative Education" and of the interdisciplinary program "Gender Studies". She has authored 15 books and more than 400 articles and invited chapters in academic refereed journals and books.

She served as President, Vice president and member of the board of in several independent Councils and Advisory Committees in Cyprus and abroad.

What is perfect happiness for you?

A valued life with health, satisfaction and dreams.

What is your greatest fear?

The death of loved ones.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I don't admire, I just appreciate those who are dedicated and work hard for a better life and society.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Richness without charity.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

All good.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

It would be everything and nothing.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My family and my work.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Effectively dealing with many different things at the same time.

What do you most value in people?

Principled persons.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Aristotle- the ancient Greek philosopher.

What is your motto?

Everything happens for a reason.





Yianna HADJIHANNA

/ PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONTROL OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR BY FORMER STATE OFFICIALS, JUDGES AND CERTAIN FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE WIDER PUBLIC SECTOR

/ Date of office appointment
2024

*Don't stop when you're
tired, stop when you're
done.*

/ She holds an LLB and a Master's, LLM in European and Commercial Law, from the University of Sheffield (UK), and a Master's, MA in Human Rights and Democratization, earned on a full scholarship, with studies in Malta and the Netherlands. Admitted to the Cyprus Bar in 2001.

She has worked at the Law Office of the Republic since 2002 and she is currently an Attorney of the Republic. She gives lectures in various institutions, and since 2016 is an external associate at MIM's Master's Program.

Since 2024, she is the President of the Committee for the Control of Employment in Private Sector and a member of the Committee for the Investigation of Incompatibility.

She has held leadership roles as President of multiple Disciplinary Councils. She served as a member of the Board of the Central Agency for Equal Distribution of Burdens and a member in Investigation Committees.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness for me is seeing all my family healthy, united, living in peace and harmony, and being surrounded by love and joy.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is the loss of a family member. The thought of facing such a loss deeply shakes me, as I can't help but imagine the immense sadness I would feel. What frightens me most is the idea of having to find the strength to overcome that grief and learn to live with the absence.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My father is the person I most admire. He is an incredibly hard-working man who, even after officially retiring, continues to work long hours - not for financial gain, but out of a deep desire to stay mentally and physically active. His passion for learning and his ability to offer sound advice are qualities I deeply respect. He is always reliable, offering support not only to our family but to anyone in need. Through both his actions and the moral lessons he's shared, he's taught me invaluable insights about life. I admire his strength, his unwavering passion for justice, and his compassion for others.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Aristotle once said that courage is the mother of all virtues, and I completely agree. Courage is essential in a world that often lacks virtue. It takes bravery to do what needs to be done, speak up when necessary, and express opinions freely - all while maintaining respect for others and not fearing the consequences.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I would say that the phrases I overuse are "No worries"," Don't forget", "Come now". As for individual words, "great" and "amazing" tend to pop up quite often in my conversations.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

If I could change one thing about myself, it would be to improve my patience, and handle situations in a more diplomatic way. While I value being straightforward and direct, I recognize that sometimes a more thoughtful and measured approach can be more effective in certain situations.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Aside from the indescribable joy of giving life to my two wonderful children, which remains my greatest blessing, I am proud of the balance I've achieved between my personal and professional life. It hasn't been easy, and I'm not afraid to admit that I've faced my fair share of challenges. There were times when I poured significant effort into my career, but in the end, this led me in reaching the highest rank in my office.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My most marked business characteristic is strong leadership. I believe effective leadership sets the tone for workplace culture, empowers teams, supports sound decision-making, and provides a clear vision for the future. Throughout my career, I've led by example - communicating clearly, staying accountable, and encouraging others to grow. I also value adaptability and innovation, especially in today's fast-changing environment, and I always strive to approach challenges with creativity and openness. Above all, I hold integrity and ethics at the core of how I operate, because they build trust and foster long-term, fair competitiveness.

What do you most value in people?

I value honesty, integrity, responsibility, and self-discipline in people, qualities that shape one's character. When paired with self-control, self-management, and freedom from prejudice, these traits create an exceptional combination.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Throughout history, many remarkable figures have shaped society, but the

historical figure I most identify with is Margaret Thatcher. As the first female Prime Minister of the UK and the longest-serving of the 20th century, she was a transformative leader. I admire her determination to revitalize the British economy and restore the country's global standing. Her pioneering reforms, known as "Thatcherism", reflected her belief in free-market principles, efficiency, self-reliance, and accountability. What resonates most with me is her unwavering focus, resilience in the face of opposition, and ability to drive impactful change - qualities I strive to embody in my own professional journey.

What is your motto?

The motto I live by both professionally and personally is, "Don't stop when you're tired, stop when you're done." This mindset has shaped my character, reminding me to persevere through challenges and stay focused on completing tasks, no matter how tough they may seem. It pushes me to go the extra mile and ensures that I finish what I start, always striving for excellence.





*I RAISE UP MY VOICE—NOT SO THAT I CAN SHOUT,
BUT SO THAT THOSE WITHOUT A VOICE CAN BE HEARD...
WE CANNOT SUCCEED WHEN HALF OF US ARE HELD BACK.*

MALALA YOUSAFZAI



Athina PANAYIOTOU

/ DIRECTOR GENERAL - CYPRUS ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION
DIRECTOR GENERAL - CYPRUS CERTIFICATION COMPANY

/ Date of office appointment
2015



Why? Why not!



/ Director General, Lead Auditor – CYPRUS CERTIFICATION COMPANY LTD, CCC
Director General – CYPRUS ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION, CYS
Elected Board Member – International Quality Network (IQNet)
Years within the Organizations: Since 01/01/2004

In charge of the overall operation of both organizations, including budgeting, strategy and HR.

The Cyprus Organization for Standardization (CYS) is the National Standardization Body of Cyprus responsible for all Standardization activities, governed by a Board of Directors appointed by the Council of Ministers. The Cyprus Certification Company (CCC) is a Certification Organization founded in 2002, operating as a private limited liability company with the Cyprus Organization of Standardization being its sole shareholder through the Ministry of Finance, and with the same Board of Directors. CCC receives no government funding and has been a successful profitable company since the day it was transformed from a public entity to a private company.

What is perfect happiness for you?

On the “world-peace” level, perfect happiness would be to live in a world where I could feel that there is hope for a sustainable, peaceful and bright future for my children and any future generations. In the scope of my personal “world”, perfect happiness is my family being healthy, on the beach together and me enjoying the day reading a good book.

What is your greatest fear?

To lose hope that things can and will get better. The greatest fear of all is to see my loved ones suffer.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire a lot of people for different aspects of their lives or careers.

I admire Stephen Curry, a basketball player with the utmost dedication to the game, with evident respect for his opponents, with a relentless approach to winning and with the motto that his family is the core of his ability to be successful.

I admire Dr. Kypros Nikolaides for his ground-breaking work that has changed the global outcome of managing prenatal syndromes and his respect for the science.

I admire my father for his drive and hard work to overcome the difficulties of a non-privileged upbringing, to achieve professional success and to provide the best life for his family, with a focus on providing the best education for me and my siblings and making us believe that anything is possible.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Out of the 7 “capital” virtues, I think chastity is the most overrated, since its definition in the context of modern life is no longer applicable. Being “pure” and virtuous is continually used to describe people with the aim to “upgrade” them, whereas their actions and intentions are the exact opposite!

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

“Seriously?”

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Improve my procrastination tendencies.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My relationship with my four well-rounded children and how we communicate on all aspects of our lives. Not always agreeing on everything, but that is part of the role of being a parent!

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My communication skills and the fact that I know my line of work in a manner where I can confidently talk about it anywhere and to anyone.

What do you most value in people?

The ability to be straight forward with their views and beliefs without in the process insulting anybody.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I will not say that I identify with because she is on a level that I could never be, but the historical figure that I admire the most is Marie Curie, a woman who lived in an era where women were disregarded in every aspect of their existence. She was a pioneer in education, in science, a pioneer in the battlefield with her groundbreaking research, that in the end cost her, her life.

What is your motto?

“Why? Why not!”



Dr Photoula HADJIPAPA

/ MAYOR OF LAKATAMEIA MUNICIPALITY

/ Date of office appointment

2024

*Live with purpose,
embrace every challenge,
and always stay true to
yourself.*

/ Dr Photoula Hadjipapa was elected Mayor of Lakatameia in 2016 and re-elected in 2024 as Mayor of the newly unified Lakatameia Municipality, including Tseri and Syn. Anthoupolis. As a medical doctor, she served as a Senior Medical Officer and practiced privately for 18 years. She holds a degree in Medicine from the Medical University of Sofia and a postgraduate diploma in General Medicine from the University of Surrey. Dr Hadjipapa is an active public servant since 1991, and has led municipal committees and played a key role in relocating the DEXEL battery factory. She is President of the Cyprus Healthy Cities Network. Born in 1957, she has two children and four grandchildren.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness for me is being by the sea - the endless horizon, the soothing waves and the sense of freedom it gives you, are priceless.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is war. The destruction it brings, the lives it shatters, and the lasting consequences on people and communities are deeply unsettling.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

The living person I admire most is my mother. Her unwavering strength, kindness, and dedication to our family have always inspired me. She has taught me valuable life lessons and has been a constant source of love and support.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

I believe that perfectionism is one of the most overrated virtues. While striving for excellence is important, the pressure to be flawless often leads to unnecessary stress and sometimes prevents personal growth. I strongly believe that embracing our imperfections and learning from our mistakes are an essential part of our personal growth.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I tend to overuse the phrase "Panagia mou," which refers to the Virgin Mary. It has become a natural expression for me, especially when I'm surprised or overwhelmed.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

If I could change one thing about myself, it would be my sensitivity. While it allows me to connect deeply with others, it can sometimes make me more vulnerable to emotional impact.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is my children. Seeing them grow, learn, and develop into individuals with strong values has been the most fulfilling accomplishment of my life.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My most marked business characteristic is persistence. I believe in staying focused and committed, even when I face challenges, until I achieve my goals.

What do you most value in people?

What I value most in people is honesty. It creates trust, fosters open communication, and builds strong, authentic relationships.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I most identify with Melina Merkouri. Her passion for the arts, her dedication to preserving Greece's cultural heritage and her tireless efforts to promote social change have been truly inspiring to me.

What is your motto?

My motto is: "Live with purpose, embrace every challenge, and always stay true to yourself."



Eleni HADJIMICHAEL

/ MAYOR OF OCCUPIED AKANTHOU

/ Date of office appointment

A' Election 2017

B' Election 2024



*Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.*



/ I was born in occupied Akanthou, trained as a teacher at the Cyprus Pedagogical Academy & worked as a teacher later as headmaster and Inspector at primary schools. I am a graduate of the Universities of Ioannina and Thessaloniki (MA) in language and culture.

I am involved in literature and have published more than 10 books. I am a contributor to various magazines and the CYBC. I have been honoured in several literature competitions.

I was involved for 25 years with programmes of religious Enlightenment in countries of eastern Europe. I was president of the Akanthou refugee club and the women's union of the Tamassou Metropolis as well as a Leader in many women's spiritual camps.

I am married to Sotiris and have five sons.

What is perfect happiness for you?

To spend happily and constructively my time with the whole of my family.

What is your greatest fear?

Problems in my family and the existence of mental and health problems.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Eleni Foka, the teacher who dedicated her life to our occupied lands and the enclaved children.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

The virtue of justice that is not seen by everybody objectively but as any-one feels.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

«My love», «Glory to God», «Don't be afraid», «We shall overcome», «I'm here for you», «God will provide», «Lord show me the way to go on».

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Not to be so sensitive to failure, or other people's ingratitude and hard criticism.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

As a mother, to combine bringing up five sons, at the same time with my studies, the writing of books and my civic duties.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Enthusiasm, vision, creativity, inspiration, co-operation, effectiveness, love.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty, gratitude, kindness, politeness, patience and morals.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Saint Paul for his writing, actions, endurance, persistence, faith and his absolute fixation to his aims.

What is your motto?

«Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want» Psalm 23.





Soula MOURETTOU

/ MAYOR OF THE OCCUPIED MUNICIPALITY OF LAPITHOS

/ Date of office appointment
2024



God is great.



/ I was born in Lapithos and studied at the Hellenic Gymnasium of Lapithos. I married fellow Lapithian Giorgos Mourettos and we had three daughters.

In Lapithos, I coordinated the workers who harvested lemons from our orchards for export.

In 1974, I was displaced from my hometown and settled in Nicosia after several hardships.

In 1986, we Lapithians founded the Refugee Association "LAPITHOS", in which I participated until 2007, when I was elected Municipal Councillor of the Municipality of Lapithos.

In 2011, I was re-elected and became the first female Deputy Mayor, serving until June 2024. In the June 2024 elections, I was elected the first female Mayor of the Municipality of Lapithos.

What is perfect happiness for you?

For my family, relatives, friends, acquaintances, and fellow villagers to be well.

What is your greatest fear?

The unknown future.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I cannot name just one person.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Love for everyone.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Be well" – "All the best".

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To be more assertive.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My three children and being elected Mayor.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I have never been a businesswoman.

What do you most value in people?

Sincerity and kindness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

In my opinion, I think it's very egotistical to identify with a historical figure.

What is your motto?

God is great.





Myria PILAKOUTA POLYDORIDES

/ MUNICIPAL SECRETARY OF NICOSIA MUNICIPALITY

/ Date of office appointment
2019

“*When there is a will there
is a way.*”

/ As Head of Nicosia Municipality, Mrs. Pilakouta leads with a vision for excellence, overseeing municipal operations and ensuring the delivery of high-quality services to the city. Her leadership drives collaboration and innovation, offering strategic support to the Mayor and Municipal Board. A fellow of the ACCA and MBA holder, she brings 29 years of experience from the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation. Passionate about empowering others, she is a role model for women in leadership, demonstrating that with expertise and determination, positive change is achievable in both public service and professional growth.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness is the moments of joy and contentment from little things like happy family gatherings, the company of loved ones and good friends.

What is your greatest fear?

When my children were much younger my greatest fear was leaving them while they still needed me. Nowadays it's the fear of losing loved ones.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Looking back, I can now say I admire my parents for the hardships they went through to raise three children after the invasion.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Charity, as it sadly does not always derive from pure intentions.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

OMG and OK! In this time of sharing and reacting through social media it's nice to take a pause and make space for more meaningful conversations.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Choosing just one is a challenge! Well, being physically more active and fitter is still on my agenda and I also wish I did not analyze people's behavior as much.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Giving birth to and raising two wonderful young people.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I am always loyal to the organization I work for, with hard work, high work ethic and determination.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty, kindness and integrity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I admire quite a few but I wouldn't say I could identify myself with them.

What is your motto?

When there is a will there is a way. But some advice I wish to share is don't be afraid to start all over again in your career as you may like the new story better.





Eirini KOKOTI

/ MUNICIPAL SECRETARY OF KYRENIA MUNICIPALITY

/ Date of office appointment

2003

“ *Let them.* ”

/ Born in Australia by displaced parents who were forcibly uprooted from their hometown Kyrenia, due to the Turkish invasion in 1974.

Their decision to return to Cyprus 12 years later was pivotal, as I was forced to assimilate on an island which, although integrated in our upbringing, was completely foreign.

Moving to New York for my tertiary studies was intricate, as the nostalgia and Hellenic pride abundant through the diaspora, enhanced my love for Cyprus and my passion to return and support any efforts to transfer the agonised appeal of our displaced and their right to return home, free of the occupation, in complete safety.

As Municipal Secretary of the Municipality of Kyrenia, I have had the opportunity to do this through lobbying in international forums, meeting and cooperating with extraordinary “freedom fighters” both in Cyprus and abroad, who have shaped their countries, both culturally and politically, but most importantly, by supporting each Mayor of Kyrenias’ efforts to visit as many classrooms as possible in order to support and reinforce the next generations’ right to return to their homeland.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Surrounded by familiar laughter.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing my loved ones both literally and figuratively.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My mother for her ability to repeatedly rise from the most difficult of situations, always moving onwards and upwards. My father for his immense compassion and ability to make people laugh.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Temperance.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"I love this song!"

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Impatience.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Moving to New York for an academic and social education.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Structure.

What do you most value in people?

Open heartedness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I would say that I admire, rather than identify with, Elenor Roosevelt as a progressive diplomat and activist who refused to submit to "the norms" of the time.

What is your motto?

Let them.





Emily KARAISKOU

/ MUNICIPAL SECRETARY OF KARAVAS MUNICIPALITY

/ Date of office appointment

2011

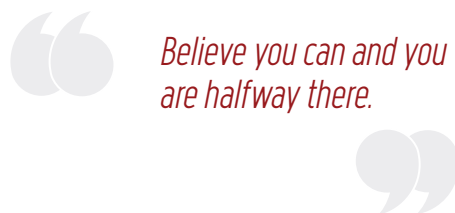
/ Emily Karaiskou was born in Nicosia.

She holds a BA in English Language and Literature and an MA in Translation, paired with extensive teaching and translation expertise and complemented by accounting certifications (LCCI Levels 1-3).

She is currently serving as the Municipal Secretary for Karavas and has over a decade of experience in administrative management.

She is adept in utilizing MS Office and other educational tools, with proficiency in Greek (native), English (excellent), Spanish and French (good). Recognized for strong organizational skills, meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to fostering collaborative environments. Passionate about education, problem-solving, and continuous learning.

She is married and has two daughters.



*Believe you can and you
are halfway there.*

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness for me is being in a state of total fulfillment in every aspect of life, that is, being healthy, maintaining a good work-life balance, spending time with my loved ones, travelling the world and exploring new places and engaging in activities that bring me joy.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing my loved ones.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

There are many people I admire, who have made a positive impact in the world. If I had to choose one, I would pick the Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, for advocating for the rights of women and children to education, or Dr. Jane Goodall for her inspiring work on protecting wildlife and the environment.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Selflessness, because if you always put others first and neglect your own needs you will end up feeling unhappy and unfulfilled.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Be positive".

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I have the tendency to overthink and overanalyze things. One of my personal goals is to work on this area and reduce the unnecessary stress it causes.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Business-wise, my greatest achievement was securing the position I hold today. Education-wise, it was receiving one of the highest university entry marks to study what I wanted. Lastly and on a personal level was creating a loving family and maintaining lasting and meaningful relationships.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My strong work ethics. I am committed to working hard, being resilient and managing multiple responsibilities at the same time.

What do you most value in people?

I value honesty, because it is the basis of building strong, and healthy relationships with others. It also enhances communication, problem solving and aids personal growth.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I could identify with someone who valued honesty, kindness, hard work and resilience like Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was known for his just and firm principles, his incorruptible integrity and ethics. His numerous achievements during his presidency are acknowledged by all, and that is why he is regarded as one of the greatest leaders in American history.

What is your motto?

Believe you can and you are halfway there, by Theodore Roosevelt.





Valentina MICHAEL

/ MUNICIPAL SECRETARY OF KOURION MUNICIPALITY

/ Date of office appointment

2022

*If you believe in yourself
anything is possible.*

/ She was born in Limassol and is originally from Famagusta. She is married with three children. She graduated from Laniteio High School and later studied Administration and Economics at Thessaloniki Technological Educational Institute (ATEI). She holds two masters' degrees, one in Public Administration from the Cyprus International Institute of Management (C.I.I.M.) and one in Environmental Management and Protection from the Open University of Cyprus. With nineteen (19) years of experience in the public sector, most of which were as an employee at the Limassol District Office and the Department of Environment, she currently serves as the Municipal Secretary of Kourion Municipality.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Good health and a harmonious balance between work and family life. The ability to maintain this equilibrium brings a sense of fulfillment and internal peace, allowing me to appreciate both work achievements and precious moments with my family.

What is your greatest fear?

I would say fear, from a human perspective, is about losing connection with others or not being able to be of assistance when needed. I also fear the loss of the people I care about, especially when there's no way to change the outcome.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

The living person I most admire is my mother because of her strength, compassion, and dedication. She has always been there for me, guiding me with values and love.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

The morality of self-proclaimed moralists is the most overrated virtue.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"You've done an amazing job, and I'm really proud of you".

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I am hypersensitive to certain issues, although it is a feature of mine that has helped me through a lot of situations.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Raising a family is the most meaningful achievement of my life.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Crisis management and adaptability.

What do you most value in people?

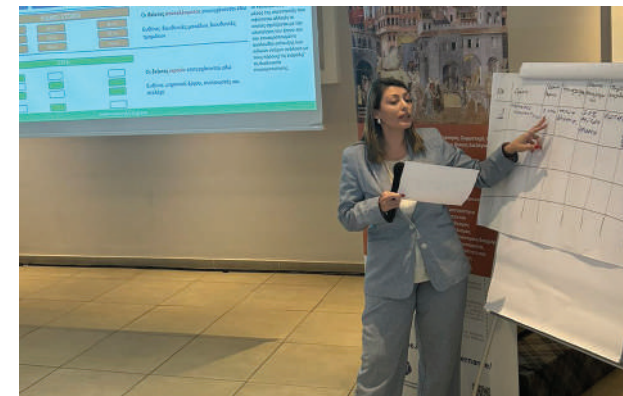
Kindness, honesty, and integrity.

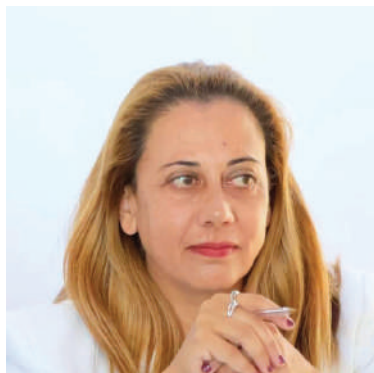
Which historical figure do you most identify with?

There are many. No single one stands out more than any other.

What is your motto?

"If you believe in yourself anything is possible".





Elena STAVROU

/ MUNICIPAL SECRETARY OF AMATHOUNTA MUNICIPALITY

/ Date of office appointment

2018



Never waste a crisis.



/ 2018 - Until present: Director, Amathounta Municipality

Administrative Officer:

2017 – 2018: Cyprus Gaming and Casino Supervision Commission (Head at CEO's Office),

2014 – 2017: Presidency, Unit of Administrative Reform (cutting Red-Tape Projects),

2013 – 2014: Commissioner's Office (Civil Service Reform),

2010 – 2013: Secretariat of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

2012 Logistics Unit,

2008 – 2010: Limassol District Office, Deputy District Officer

2003 – 2008: Department of Town Planning and Housing (Structural Funds Unit).

What is perfect happiness for you?

Having family and true friends around me. In times like these, I feel blessed.

What is your greatest fear?

Not living my life to the fullest.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Anyone who is bravely fighting a serious illness, autistic people who strive to navigate the world.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Empathy.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"It's only those who do nothing, that make no mistakes".

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Stop overthinking.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Feel free to ask me again when I'm 80.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Adaptability.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty, Integrity, Graciousness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, for saying: "Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things that matter".

What is your motto?

"Never waste a crisis".





Doxa ECONOMIDOU-VARDA

/ MUNICIPAL SECRETARY OF POLIS CHRYSOCHOUS MUNICIPALITY

/ Date of office appointment
2021

/ Doxa is a skilled professional in the public sector management with 20-year experience and expertise in the local government. She was born and raised in Yeroskipou (Paphos) with origins from Katokopia (Morphou).

She holds a BA degree in Political Science and French from the University of Virginia (USA) with a CASP scholarship, and an MSc degree in Public Policy and Administration from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK) with a Chevening scholarship.

Her professional background includes traineeship at the Committee of the Regions (European Union) in Brussels and administrative positions at the Ministry of Interior (Limassol District Office) and the Municipality of Pafos. She has been a lecturer of Public Administration at the City Unity College (Nicosia).

Her leadership positions feature membership of the Pancyprrian Coordinating Student Committee (PSEM), membership at the Pafos Municipal Youth Council, Vice Presidency at the Yeroskipou School Board (Ephorate) and various memberships in the board of directors of organizations, associations and social groups.

She is married with one child.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Freedom. Without freedom, you are restricted to act within certain boundaries, thus limiting your potential and dreams. On the contrary, when free, you express yourself and make choices without fear and oppression, pursue your goals without interference and achieve personal growth, social advancement and innovation in a framework of self-respect and democracy. This is for me the meaning of happiness, thus peace. Thomas Jefferson's legacy on freedom, being the 3rd president of the United States, architect of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and founder of my University in the United States, has determined my life stance.

What is your greatest fear?

Destiny. I strongly believe that a person's destiny is not fixed but shaped by our actions and virtues. Most of the times, we can change realities and frame our presence and future. However, there are certain incidents in life that we cannot avoid or control. The fatal ones, are the ones I fear the most, because they are inevitable, uncontrollable and predetermined. It is then when we confront and realize our weaknesses and limitations as human beings.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My sister. She is a living warrior. During her doctoral studies in Austin, Texas she had a car accident remained in a coma for several months and handicapped ever since. However, with her personal strength, internal power, passion for life and strong will and support from family and friends, she managed to 'pick up the pieces' and restart her life on a wheelchair. Sofi is for me an everyday reminder to be grateful for the various blessings in my life and face the small everyday 'turbulences' with patience and optimism.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Perfectionism. Although often considered an indication of high standard and quality, I believe that as a virtue is often misleading. That is to say, if perfectionism is pursued blindly, it can lead to high levels of stress,

control and anxiety. Adaptability and acceptance of different courses or frameworks, can lead, in my opinion, to faster and better results.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Follow up and timetables. These words are a daily routine. Without them, you miss opportunities, minimize trust from others and lose accountability. Progress is not achieved as things remain stagnant.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Balance. I often find myself in a state where my work and personal life and standards are not in perfect balance. My anxiety to do things right, on schedule and meet multiple timetables, inevitably affects my effective contact with others and personal well-being. Therefore, I regularly remind myself to devote quality time to myself, colleagues, family and friends, that matter for me substantially.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Our son. Raising a child with my husband who embodies the virtues of empathy and love for others is, for me, a remarkable accomplishment in a world focused on individualism and self-interest.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Entrepreneurial spirit. Being adaptive and focus on result, innovation, and progress. At the same time, being proactive and not reactive in our everyday matters.

What do you most value in people?

Trustworthiness and Integrity. Rare values in our times; values that inspire confidence and respect.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Indira Gandhi. Despite her faults, she possesses certain characteristics which I admire. She was a visionary woman of strong and decisive leadership, that stood out in a male dominated world when women rights were

yet to be acknowledged. She had the ability to pioneer at times of crisis, such as India's war with Pakistan, and become the symbol of resilience and progress.

What is your motto?

'Never, never, never give up'. No matter how difficult a situation becomes, one should never give up or stop trying. For as long as we are alive, wake up in the morning to see the sunrise, there is always hope and a path ahead of us. These words of Winston Churchill have guided and inspired me perseverance, determination and resilience during challenging times in my life.



A portrait of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an elderly woman with short grey hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a dark blue judicial robe with a white lace collar. She is seated in a chair with a patterned backrest. The image is in grayscale with a semi-transparent dark overlay at the bottom where the text is located.

WOMEN BELONG IN ALL PLACES WHERE DECISIONS
ARE BEING MADE. IT SHOULDN'T BE THAT WOMEN
ARE THE EXCEPTION.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States



Natasa GEORGIU

/ MUNICIPAL SECRETARY OF ATHIENOU MUNICIPALITY

/ Date of office appointment
2004

*If there is a will, there is
always a way.*

/ I am a dedicated and experienced professional with over 20 years of service in both the public and financial sectors. Since 2004, I have held the position of Municipal Secretary of Athienou Municipality, where I am responsible for a wide range of administrative functions, working to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural development of the local community.

I work closely with elected officials, citizens, and external stakeholders to ensure that municipal services are effective, inclusive, and aligned with the evolving needs of the community. I also play a key role in budget planning, crisis management, public relations, and inter-municipal cooperation, constantly advocating for sustainable development and innovation in public administration.

Prior to this position, I built a solid foundation in the banking and investment sector through my work at Euroinvestment & Finance Ltd in Nicosia. From 1999 to 2004, I held positions as Loan Officer and later Supervisor of the Investors Finance Department, gaining valuable experience in financial services sector.

Academically, I hold an MBA from the University of Cyprus, where I participated in a group Applied Business Project titled “Promoting the Concept of Shared Value in Cyprus through the Development of Clusters in the Renewable Energy Sector.” Our project was recognized and awarded as the best Applied Business Project of 2016. I also hold a Bachelor’s degree in Business and Public Administration with a concentration in Finance, also from the University of Cyprus.

Fluent in Greek (native) and English, I bring strong leadership, communication and negotiation skills, deep knowledge of legislative procedures, experience in public presentations, and a proven ability to manage multidisciplinary teams. Also, I am confident in digital environments. My work is also guided by high emotional intelligence, adaptability, and a deep commitment to public service and continuous growth—both personal and professional.

What is perfect happiness for you?

The concept of happiness is complex and undoubtedly defines a state which is not or cannot be permanent. For me, happiness is defined as a state in which a person is healthy enough, physically and mentally, to be able to develop personally and professionally, through a constant effort and no complacency. Happiness for me is being able to contribute to society improving the quality of people's lives. I feel grateful doing this, through my professional capacity, which is consistent with one of the most fundamental purposes in my life. Servicing humanity.

What is your greatest fear?

Our era is unfortunately characterized by intense insecurity due to the ongoing conflicts in the region. The loss of normal living conditions in our country and the adverse impact on Cyprus and its people, from a possible influence or even our involvement in a war, frightens me.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Without any hesitation, my mother. At the age of 36, my father died in a car accident and she raised four children by herself, with admirable patience and effort. She raised us with the non-negotiable principles of justice and honesty which are the basis of my existence.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Loyalty. It is undoubtedly important for me to be clearly dedicated to my goals, to my family, to my relationships, to my ideals, to my responsibilities, to my desires. However, I make a constant effort to maintain balance in any of the above, without being "burdened" with excessive stress, by setting priorities.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Everything will be done with patience". In spite of the power that patience has, sometimes I make allowances or compromises that may harm challenges.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To be able to control my inner harsh judge. Although self-criticism is a tool for self-development and self-improvement, when self-criticism is too harsh, the individual does not reward themselves for what they have achieved and for what they have conquered. This usually results in a constant search and effort. I do constantly evaluate myself in order to improve but I wish I could control my inner harsh judge.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

From my personal life, my two daughters.

From my professional career, the effective management of an extraordinary and unexpected crisis that erupted within the Municipality, which if not dealt promptly and successfully, would have had a chain of unpleasant consequences within the organization I lead.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Integrity. The need and ability to be able to respond adequately and successfully to the multiple and demanding responsibilities of the position I have, requires various characteristics such as discretion, trust, team spirit, cooperation and others. I consider the integrity of a character, the highest value. That's why I preserve it.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty. People who do not possess or act with honesty remain out of my life.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Aristotle, one of the most important ancient philosophers, an important figure in Greek and world civilization. He was the embodiment of the right measure in all the manifestations of his life, with an innate kindness and tenderness of soul, characteristics that are part of my life and actions.

What is your motto?

If there is a will, there is always a way.



Despina
PANAYIOTOU THEODOSIOU

/ MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF OEB

/ Date of office appointment
2016

“
*Opportunities aren't
given; you create them*
”

/ Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou is the Joint CEO of TOTOTHEO GLOBAL, a leading provider of satellite telecommunications, IoT, AI-driven analytics, and maritime services.

She serves on the Executive Committee of OEB, the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Shipping Chamber, and is President of the Association of Cypriot Professionals in Greece.

From 2021 to 2024, she was President of the Electricity Authority of Cyprus, and from 2017 to 2022, President of Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA International).

Despina has been featured on Lloyd's List Top 100 Most Influential People in global Shipping for six consecutive years.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Happiness, for me, is a combination of fulfilling work, meaningful relationships, and the excitement of new opportunities. It's not about everything being perfect, but about finding fulfillment in both the successes and the journey along the way.

What is your greatest fear?

Heights, without a doubt. It's not just the height itself but the lack of control in those moments that unsettles me. Anything like bungee jumping or skydiving is my absolute worst nightmare!

Which living person do you most admire and why?

There isn't just one person—I admire those who lead with integrity, resilience, and a clear sense of purpose. People who push boundaries and create opportunities, and stay true to their values while making a real impact—whether in business, leadership, or personal life—are the ones I find most inspiring.

What do you consider the most underrated virtue?

Patience. While patience is valuable, progress—whether in technology, society, or science—often requires urgency and a willingness to challenge the status quo. Meaningful change happens when we question, adapt, and push boundaries rather than simply waiting for the right moment.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I definitely overuse the word “amazing.” Someone pointed it out to me recently, and I hadn't even realized how often I say it. Whether describing an idea, an event, or someone's work, it's my go-to for enthusiasm—probably time to switch it up a bit!

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

If I could change one thing about myself, it would be learning to say no more often. I tend to take on a lot, whether out of responsibility or eagerness, and it can sometimes spread me too thin. Setting better boundaries would help me focus more on what truly matters.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

We'll have to revisit this in a few years—I haven't achieved it yet! But looking back, I take pride in the journey so far—the challenges I have overcome, the lessons I've learned, and the continuous drive to push boundaries, create impact, and shape the future of the industries I'm involved in. Every step forward is part of the path toward something even greater.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I am very competitive. Whether it's navigating industry shifts, driving innovation, or achieving strategic goals, I thrive on competition—not just with others, but with myself—to always aim higher and deliver the best possible outcomes. Over time, I've also learned that true success isn't just about winning; it's about evolving, adapting, and continuously refining my approach.

What do you most value in people?

Integrity, resilience, and a proactive mindset. Integrity because trust is the foundation of any meaningful relationship, resilience because challenges are inevitable, and a proactive mindset because those who take initiative and seek solutions drive progress and innovation.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I wouldn't say I fully identify with any one historical figure, but I resonate with those who were visionary, determined, and unafraid to challenge the norm.

What is your motto?

“Opportunities aren't given; you create them.” Success isn't about waiting for the perfect moment or relying on luck—it's about taking initiative, being proactive, and shaping your own path. I believe in pushing boundaries, turning challenges into stepping stones, and creating opportunities through effort, vision, and determination.

What do you most value in people?

I value integrity and accountability in people, in both business and personal relationships. I respect those who are honest, take responsibility for their actions, and follow through their commitments. I appreciate individuals who are not afraid to speak the truth, own their mistakes and continuously strive to improve.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I could identify with Eleanor Roosevelt. She was an advocate of social justice, human rights and equality – values I deeply resonate with. Like her, I believe leadership is about lifting others, challenging the status quo and creating lasting and positive change.

What is your motto?

My motto is “Lead with Purpose”. This reflects my belief that leadership should be driven by a clear sense of purpose, whether it is empowering your teams, solving complex problems or making a positive impact.





THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT WE,
AS WOMEN, CAN ACCOMPLISH

MICHELLE OBAMA



Andri YIANGOU

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment

2023



*Everything is possible if
you put your mind to it.*



/ I graduated from Pagkyprio Gimnasio in Nicosia in 2003. I started working at my father's company, where I was in charge of the accounting office, preparing offers, collecting payments and being responsible for the payroll. Over the years, I became more involved in the technical department, managing various projects both on-site and in the factory. In 2017, I became a member of Pasyvex and in 2023, I was elected as a Vice President a position I hold to this day. As a working mother of two, I strongly believe that women can achieve anything with hard work, dedication and love for what they do. I am currently Director of Achilleas Yiangou & Sons Ltd.

What is perfect happiness for you?

The perfect happiness for me is maintaining my inner peace even in the most challenging situations.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is losing someone I love.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

The people I admire the most are my parents because they have achieved so many things but through many difficulties. I also admire my husband for his quiet strength.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

The most overrated virtue for me is jealousy. We often compare ourselves to others saying that "We are not good enough".

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

The two phrases I use the most are: 'Everything is possible' and 'There is a solution for everything.'

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

If I could change one thing about me it would be to have more time for myself. We often make our everyday lives so hard that we forget that we are important too.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievements are that we manage with my father and my brother to make a great and successful business and as a mother that I have two wonderful kids that are both strong and independent.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My marked business characteristics are positivity and that I try to make everything to be organized.

What do you most value in people?

I value on people honesty and integrity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Oprah Winfrey. She started as a television host and she managed to build a multimedia empire becoming one of the richest and powerful women on earth.

What is your motto?

My motto is "Everything is possible if you put your mind to it".





Anna MOUSKIS

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment
2022

Never take anything for granted.

/ Anna Mouskis is the Marketing Manager of MUSKITA Aluminium Industries, a leading company in the design and manufacture of aluminium systems. Since 2016, Anna has been instrumental in driving growth, spearheading marketing initiatives, and enhancing the company's brand while also shaping operational strategies to streamline processes and improve efficiency.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Psychology from NYU, graduating Summa Cum Laude, and a Master's degree in Management from the University of Cambridge, offering a strong foundation in market dynamics and operations.

Anna is a member of OEB and actively supports charities promoting social welfare and environmental protection.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Deep, uncontrollable laughter.

What is your greatest fear?

Running out of time.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire many people for different reasons, but Malala Yousafzai comes to mind. Her courage to stand up for what she believes in, even in the face of danger, is inspiring. She not only fought for her right to education but continues to empower and uplift women around the world.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

'You know,' 'like'—all the usual fillers that make me sound less articulate.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I wish I read more books and knew how to play a musical instrument!

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I'm still working on it—hopefully, my greatest achievement is yet to come.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Curiosity.

What do you most value in people?

People who are judgement-free and can accept others without criticism or bias.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I identify with explorers, travelers, and those who are relentlessly curious—people who seek to understand the world, push boundaries, and never stop learning.

What is your motto?

Never take anything for granted.





Dr Antonia
MICHAEL

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment
2022



Lead with Purpose.



/ Dr. Antonia Michael is the General Manager of IBM in Cyprus since 2021. She graduated from the University of London in Computer Science B.Sc. with first class honors and holds an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence with merit from Imperial College London.

She worked in the Business Consulting unit of IBM Greece and then Cyprus for over 20 years and is leading this unit in Cyprus since 2015. She has extensive knowledge and experience around Digital Transformation Strategies, Business Automation, Systems Integration and Artificial Intelligence. She has contributed in the automation of the Cyprus Public, Healthcare and the Banking sectors.

What is perfect happiness for you?

For me happiness is a sense of fulfillment and balance, knowing that I am growing, making an impact and chasing the simple everyday moments that matter. Happiness is not about perfection or constant success, but rather about feeling aligned with my values, both professionally and personally. Ultimately, happiness is about appreciating where I am, while staying excited on what lies ahead.

What is your greatest fear?

As a leader, I don't let fear dictate my decisions, but if I had to identify one thing, this would be the fear of not making a meaningful impact. I strive to lead with purpose, whether in my organization, my team or my family. On a personal level, I also fear not being present enough for my family. Balancing high-responsibility career with personal life is always a challenge for me.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire Ginni Rometty, former chairman and CEO of IBM. She is a powerful example of a visionary leader and innovator, who believes that how we work and lead is as important as what we achieve. She drove record results in diversity and inclusion and supported the explosive growth of an innovative high school program to prepare the workforce of the future in more than twenty-eight countries.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

I think perfectionism is the most overrated virtue. While striving for excellence is important, perfectionism can be paralyzing. In leadership, I've learned that progress is more valuable than perfection. The ability to adapt fast, learn from mistakes and move forward with confidence is what truly drives success.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

One phrase I often use is "Let's focus on the solution". Challenges are con-

stant and I always push my team to move past problems and find actionable ways forward. I believe in making decisions with purpose, so I often bring conversations back to the bigger picture, to ensure we are not just reacting but thinking strategically in finding the best solutions.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

If I could change one thing about myself, this would be learning to enjoy the journey and be more present in the moment. As a leader, wife and mother, I'm constantly balancing multiple responsibilities, always thinking about the next goal, the next challenge, or the next opportunity. While this drive has helped me succeed, I sometimes wish I could pause more often to reflect and fully appreciate the present.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is building a fulfilling career while maintaining a strong, loving family. Rising to a leadership position in a male dominated industry like Technology required perseverance, resilience and continuous growth. I am proud of the impact I've made so far, driving innovation and fostering an inclusive workplace. At the same time, I consider raising two wonderful sons alongside my husband just as significant. Balancing career and family hasn't been always easy, but knowing that I've set an example for my children feels like my most meaningful accomplishment.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My most marked characteristic is strategic resilience, my ability to navigate challenges with a long-term vision, while adapting to change. In the fast-paced world of Technology, disruption is constant, and success depends on staying ahead of trend, making bold decisions and embracing innovation. I'm known for resolving difficult challenges and taking decisions with intuition, fostering strong teams and maintaining composure under pressure. I focus on solutions, empowering my team and ensuring we all learn and improve over time.



Christiana IACOVIDOU

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment

2024

“
*Seize the day –
Carpe Diem*”

/ I was born in Nicosia, Cyprus. After graduating from Acropolis Lyceum I began my studies at Surrey University in UK where I received a degree in BSC (Hons) Hotel and Catering Management. I continued my studies at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University at Bloomington where I received a degree in MBA Finance and Marketing. I have worked at Stakis Glasgow Grosvenor Hotel at Glasgow in the UK, at Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company at Louisville Kentucky in USA and since 2000 I am the General Manager of Cleopatra Hotel in Nicosia, Cyprus. Since 2009 I am member of the board of the Cyprus Hotel Association and I am the President of the Nicosia District. In 2024 I have been appointed Vice President at the Cyprus Ports Authority. I am also member of the board of the Cyprus Employers and Industrialists Federation, the Nicosia Tourism Board and the Cyprus Health Services Promotion Board. I was also member of the board of the Higher Hotel Institute and I have been a member of the Inner Wheel Club Nicosia Lefkothea and the Business Professional Women. I participated as speaker at the European SME Assembly Conference in Cyprus and in Graz Austria. I have had an active role in different charity organizations.

What is perfect happiness for you?

For me happiness is the ability to cherish people, moments and personal/ professional growth.

What is your greatest fear?

The fear not to fear! It is so unrealistic not to fear death, illness, losses...

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire different virtues and capabilities from more than one living person. But what stands above them all is my father's wisdom and my mother's fighting spirit.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

If it is called a 'virtue' then there is no argument on whether it is overrated or not. After all any virtue is entitled to be considered grand!

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I might be using the words "maybe" too often as this gives the opportunity to wonder and give more than one option to questions or dead ends, and also the phrase "lets do it" as I have learned in my life to be a doer whether an easy or a difficult challenge.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Well, accepting my whole as it is and nourishing my inner philosophy with only positive thoughts while exhibiting uncompelling energy and my eternal love for life, I gladly declare that I have nothing to denounce.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My lovely daughter, Angela.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Getting to the bottom of problem solving, being decisive whether easy or difficult situations and confident to changes. Also being creative, enthusiastic and prudent to any decision making.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty, their sense of respect and hard work.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Margaret Thatcher. She truly inspires!

What is your motto?

Seize the day – Carpe Diem. Lead by example.





Christianna DIOGENOUS

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment

2023

*Be your authentic self
and have no fear!*

/ Christianna holds a B.Sc in Social Psychology from the London School of Economics and an MBA from INSEAD. She began her career at PwC UK then returning to Cyprus managed HR, Marketing, and PR at P.M.Tseriotis Group. At Unicars she advanced from Marketing Manager to Marketing Director and then became Managing Director at Tseriotis Consumer Goods and later Diapo, driving evolutions including the creation of Unilever Tseriotis Cyprus and the merger forming Tryfon Tseriotis. She is now CEO of Unicars. She serves on multiple boards and industry associations including the P.M.Tseriotis Group companies, Vice-President of the Cyprus Motor & Electric Vehicles Importers and Cyprus Germany Business Associations and is an Honorary CIM Fellow. She has two children and enjoys swimming, skiing, yoga and music.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Sharing special moments with my loved ones.

What is your greatest fear?

Something bad happening to my children.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire Mikaela Shiffrin, an exceptional athlete and the Greatest Alpine Skier of All Time. She holds the record for the most World Cup wins in history and is a triple Olympic champion and 14-time World Champion. Remarkably, at 29 years old, she remains at the peak of her performance, overcoming multiple setbacks including serious injuries and personal loss. I deeply admire her perseverance, strength of character, and determination. Despite her incredible success, she remains a role model who exemplifies sportsmanship, humility and positive values.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Patience.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Let's do this; Customer service; Teamwork; Values; The data is essential; We need to develop a plan;

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Sometimes I am too patient!

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is raising my children. Professionally, I take pride in using my position to serve as a positive role model and, through our business, making a meaningful contribution to society—particularly by supporting Cypriot athletes and the growth of Cypriot sports.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

According to my team: Integrity, Vision, Drive and Resilience.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty, Integrity, Emotional intelligence, Passion and Humour.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Queen Elizabeth I (r.1558-1603). Her political acumen, diplomatic approach, and ability to navigate complex situations resonate with my leadership style. Her vision for economic growth through innovative policies and strategic expansion mirrors my commitment to driving growth. Her resilience in adversity and strategic thinking reflects my belief in the need to stay adaptable and focused when facing challenges. Additionally, her skill in fostering loyalty and building support aligns with my focus on cultivating a motivated, cohesive team. Her legacy as a trailblazer in a male-dominated world inspires me to lead with confidence, break barriers and encourage others to reach their full potential.

What is your motto?

Be your authentic self and have no fear!



Demetra KARANTOKIS

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment

1985



Together we can.



/ Demetra Karantokis is the Executive President of the Karantokis Group (Construction, Hospitality and Real Estate).

She is the Vice President of STEK (Cyprus Tourist Association) member of the Council of OEB, member of the Labour Advisory Board at the Ministry of Labour & Social Insurance, member of Women Bi-Communal Coalition and Trustee of the Cyprus Institute (CYI).

She has served at the Cyprus Broadcasting Council and Council for Women's Rights, was Vice President of the Electricity Authority (EAC) and member of the Council of TEPAK.

She is the recipient of the KEVE Business Leader Award 2021.

What is perfect happiness for you?

To love and be loved.

What is your greatest fear?

I never think about it.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Yuval Noah Harari – for his thorough and thoughtful analysis in his books. (Homo Sapiens, Homo Deus).

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Solemnity.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Give me a break!

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Nothing at all. If you change one thing it will never be you again.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

The fact that back in 1979 when we got in the Hotel Business, we introduced some of the “first” in the industry such as 24hr service, all rooms with TVs and mini-bars and a la Carte Menus that didn’t exist on the island at the time and gave a push to others to follow. That in Construction we have introduced a new method in road Building Reinforced Earth that the PWD later introduced to their tender specifications. Finally, the fact that though we are not one of the biggest groups, we are one of the solid and reliable ones for decades.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I want things to be done asap. I am a team player and a leader.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty and Intelligence.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I do not consider myself as belonging to this elite category.
50 None!

What is your motto?

Together we can.





Eleni MARANGOU

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment
2021

“
*Fight for your dreams,
make them a reality.*”

/ With a background in industrial production planning, my career began in personnel and production management in Cyprus and later in Greece after the events of 1974. Upon returning to Cyprus, I joined MEMRB, the country's first market research company, where I advanced to Associate Director. In 1994, leveraging years of experience and a strong entrepreneurial drive, I established CYMAR Market Research Ltd.

I am a founding member and the first President of the Association of Polling and Public Opinion Companies in Cyprus (SEDEAK), where I currently serve as President. Further contributions include serving on the boards of the Strovolos Schools Association, the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority, the Cyprus Stock Exchange, and the Committee on Journalistic Ethics. At present, I am also a board member of OEB.

What is perfect happiness for you?

To be able to harmoniously combine my family and professional life while selflessly offering help to those in need.

What is your greatest fear?

The persistent political instability in Cyprus and the concern that future generations may be deprived of the chance to live in lasting peace and harmony on the island

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Dr. Kypros Nicolaides who has transformed maternal and fetal healthcare through pioneering advancements in fetal medicine. His dedication to education and mentoring ensures his innovations continue to inspire future generations in medicine.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Righteousness, especially when I see it on the international stage being employed by those who have power, as a justification for serving their own interests.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

'Did you hear me?'

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Less stress.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is raising my children to be dependable, responsible members of society, with a strong moral compass.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Open-mindedness, a capacity to listen to other opinions and form collaborative decisions, and a strong drive to share my experience with those around me.

What do you most value in people?

The understanding and respect they show toward others.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Melina Merkouri.

What is your motto?

Fight for your dreams, make them a reality.





Evi ROSSIDOU ANTONIADOU

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment

2021

*“Never give up on your
dreams and live life
without regrets, choosing
joy!”*

/ Holds a BA in Accounting and Finance from Manchester University and is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

She started her career as an accountant first at Wagner and Partners London and subsequently at PWC Cyprus.

She has 22 years of Banking and Corporate lending experience which is her passion. Between 1999 and 2007 she was with Bank of Cyprus, holding various positions in the Corporate Department. In 2007, she joined Piraeus Bank Cyprus, now AstroBank. Over the last 15 years she has held various managerial positions and since June 2022 she is an Executive Director of the Board of Directors, and Head of Corporate, SME and Shipping at AstroBank. She is also the Chairwoman of the Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) Steering Committee of the Bank.

She is a member of the Board of the Association of Cyprus Banks and of the Employers and Industrialists Federation.

She is also active in various CSR initiatives including Red Cross and Europa Donna Cyprus.

She is married and has two daughters.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Perfect happiness for me is the blend of a number of elements that bring me joy and fulfillment. My notion of perfect happiness includes the health and wellbeing of myself and my family, personal fulfillment and a sense of purpose and growth in my career and community contributions. Also maintaining meaningful relationships, finding joy in everyday moments and have the freedom to travel and enjoy life.

What is your greatest fear?

In general, I am not afraid of many things, especially for myself. I am resilient and I rise after each fall. I would say that my greatest fear is losing loved ones.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire Oprah Winfrey because despite the challenges of being a black woman, with a difficult childhood, she has had a remarkable journey and has managed to become a role model for success, leadership and creating a positive impact. I admire her dedication to philanthropy, her role as an advocate for important social issues and her ability to inspire and empower others.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

I consider success as the most overrated virtue because society often equates success with wealth, status and power which are not a guarantee for personal fulfillment, happiness and well-being.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

I tend to use positive reinforcement phrases, such as Great! Thank you! Together we will make it happen! Every day is a new beginning! Think positively! Never give up! See every problem as an opportunity!

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Growing older has helped me accept myself as I am, including my flaws, embrace my authenticity and celebrate my individuality. Self-acceptance has helped me built resilience, be more confident and improve my relationships with other people without the fear of judgement.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

I consider one of my greatest achievements is having a career and various leadership roles in the banking sector which I am passionate about. A career in the banking sector involves having an impact and driving growth in the economy by managing funds, facilitating customer financing needs and driving investments. It also involves navigating challenges and complex economic landscapes, building and empowering strong teams, embracing diversity, driving innovation, promoting ethical practices and contributing positively to society. Additionally, I am the proud parent of two extraordinary adult daughters, whose achievements and growth fill me with immense pride. They continue to inspire me every day with their authenticity, courage, and positivity.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

I always aim for leadership integrity which encompasses upholding high ethical standards in all dealings, a customer-centric focus, employee empowerment, adaptability, risk management and visionary thinking. Leadership integrity allows me to inspire my team, increase sales and customer satisfaction and reinforce AstroBank's reputation and resilience in an increasingly competitive and fast-paced economic environment.

What do you most value in people?

I greatly value honesty and integrity, respect and kindness for other people, passion for work and life, diligence, accountability, and open-mindedness.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I identify with Amelia Earhart (1897-1937) who was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Earhart is celebrated for breaking gender barriers and for her adventurous spirit which encourages women to pursue their passions fearlessly, irrespective of societal constraints.

What is your motto?

Never give up on your dreams and live life without regrets, choosing joy!



Lilian PETROU

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment

2023

“
*Every day is a new
opportunity to make a
difference.*”

/ I graduated from Pancyprian Gymnasium in 1996 and subsequently pursued a degree in European Studies with French at the University of Kent, where I also had the opportunity to spend a year abroad, in Switzerland. Upon completing my studies, I gained professional experience at FBME Bank before joining the family business as Accounts Manager. Since 2020, I have held the position of Deputy CEO at Staroil (Cyprus) Ltd.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Watching my girls grow.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing loved ones.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

The living person I most admire is my father George Petrou because of his leadership skills and his accomplishments throughout his career.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

I believe empathy is the most overrated virtue as it can sometimes lead to irrational decisions and favoritism.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Thank you and please.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Be less emotional.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Balancing career and family life.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Fast decision-making.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Eleanor Roosevelt as she believed that the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

What is your motto?

Every day is a new opportunity to make a difference





Louisa
NEMITSA PETEVI

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment

2017



You never want a serious crisis to go to waste, use it as an opportunity to do things that you think you could not do before.



/ Returning from Germany, where she studied economics, she worked as a trainee at the KEMA offices of George Vassiliou, who was one of the key mentors in her life. There, she met her husband, with whom she had two children, Takis and Daisy.

She worked for 20 years in the then-family-owned Nemitsas Industry, where in 1992, she was appointed Chief Financial Officer, overseeing production costing. She held this position until 2006 when her father decided to close the company.

In 2007, at the age of 48, she started anew, founding a new company, today's L. Nemitsas Ltd (www.nemitsas.eu), together with her husband, Kikis Petevis, and with the support of a small team of people who placed their trust in her during this challenging new beginning. The company is now engaged in commercial engineering activities as well as the repair and maintenance of the machinery and equipment it represents.

She considers it an honor to have continued the family name "Nemitsas" as the fourth generation. She sees balancing her professional and personal life as one of her greatest achievements and is proud of her children, who will be taking over the company's leadership within the year.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Happiness for me is living in accordance with your values and being able to practice gratitude on a daily base.

What is your greatest fear?

Not to take a decision on time.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire George Vassiliou, because he was always ahead of his time and can think outside the box which makes him a great mentor and leader. He has amazing interpersonal skills and strong dedication to his cause.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Low profile.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Whatever you handle, your priority is the security of the company.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To be able to hide better my thoughts and emotions when needed.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My two children.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

The creation and implementation of effective, fair and practical procedures.

What do you most value in people?

Being true to oneself/authenticity.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Maria Callas.

What is your motto?

"You never want a serious crisis to go to waste, use it as an opportunity to do things that you think you could not do before".





Maria VARKARI

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment
2018

“
*Enjoy the journey till you
reach your own Ithaca
and above all have faith
in God.*
”

/ Graduated from the English School Nicosia, in June 1990.

Gained a BBA degree with major in marketing from Ohio University, USA

Since graduation I have been working in the furniture family business. Currently Sales Manager at HH Furnishings Ltd.

Further, I have been working with Blum Austria the leading furniture fitting manufacturer in Europe.

Lastly, I have been the president of PASYVEX for the last three consecutive terms.

I love reading books, sports and travelling.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Being with my children and seeing them grow with the right values and norms.

What is your greatest fear?

Letting the people I love down.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

My father—he laid the foundation I continue to build on.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Perfection.

5. Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

ΔΟΞΑ ΤΩ ΘΕΩ (Thank God)

to be or not to be

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Worrying less.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Successfully leading our family business.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Turning obstacles into growth.

What do you most value in people?

Honesty and dedication.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

General Makriyiannis – honest, faithful, strong and resilient.

What is your motto?

Enjoy the journey till you reach your own Ithaca and above all have faith in God.





Theodosia MASOURA

/ MEMBER OF OEB'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/ Date of office appointment

2025

*All good things require
effort.*

/ Theodosia Masoura holds a degree in Sociology and Education from the University of Lyon, as well as a Master's degree in Education. She is the Managing Director and owner of Felicita Kindergarten in Nicosia, where for more than 35 years she has been effectively applying and implementing innovative early childhood education practices. In addition to her role, Theodosia collaborates with universities across Europe and Cyprus to advance early childhood teaching methodologies. Deeply passionate about supporting educators, she has also mentored new teachers, helping them develop their skills and expertise. With a strong commitment to fostering the development and well-being of children, Theodosia continues to lead and inspire in the field of early childhood education. She is currently President of SIPEK (Cyprus Private Kindergarten Association), having also served as treasurer, secretary and Vice President.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Wide-ranging happiness for me stems from the love and joy I provide, as well as the love and joy I receive through my daily activities. It is seeing my closest people and loved ones doing well, whilst maintaining inner peace and gratification in my daily life.

What is your greatest fear?

The fear of losing the people I love and the possibility of not having made the most out of the opportunities that were presented to me in my life.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

I admire those who work with integrity and contribute to society. I particularly admire my mother for her dignity, as well as the perseverance and patience she demonstrates when it comes to overcoming tough challenges whilst maintaining her focus to reach her highest goals.

What do you consider the most underrated virtue?

Perfectionism and generally the pursuit for absolute perfection, though often perceived as a positive trait, often hold us back, inducing stress and preventing us from enjoying the journey.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Well done, you're a star," "I love you," "We can do this," "Try," are phrases that demonstrate the support and appreciation I always want to instill to those around me.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Being able to relax more, spending less time pursuing perfection in the things I do, giving myself more space to breathe and enjoying the moment.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is my ability to maintain a reasonable balance between my professional and family lives. Despite the challenges and risks that come my way, I have stayed true to my values, pursuing successful outcomes in both areas without compromising who I am.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

My determination, combined with the ability to inspire and lead teams, whilst prioritizing discipline and organization, which enables me to manage projects and challenges effectively. These traits allow me to approach tasks methodically whilst managing time efficiently, ensuring that every detail is addressed with focus and persistence.

What do you most value in people?

I deeply value honesty, authenticity, kindness, and consistency. These qualities are essential for building true, genuine relationships and fostering mutual trust. When people embody these traits, it creates a foundation for strong connections and meaningful interactions.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

I identify with strong female leaders who made significant contributions during challenging times, such as Marie Curie and Helena Glykatzis-Arveler. Both women paved the way for future generations and their perseverance continues to inspire me.

What is your motto?

"All good things require effort."





Tasia YIANNARA YIALLOURIDES

/ PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN CYPRUS

/ Date of office appointment

2022



You can do this!!



/ With studies in linguistics in Germany, she was infused with the passion for communication from the very start of her career, beginning as a copywriter. She is one of the most well-known and influential figures in the field of communication in Cyprus, with her strong attributes being strategic thinking and consultancy.

Tasia is regarded as one of the most knowledgeable and effective professionals in the field, particularly in image building and crisis management. She invests in new trends, and new business models, and her passion lies in empowering and nurturing talents.

Since May 2022 and until 2025, she was the President of the Cyprus Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW Cyprus). Through this role, she focuses on empowering, mobilizing, and advancing women in the professional and business arena. Her emphasis is on ensuring equal participation of women in decision-making centers and promoting their presence in the business and political hierarchy.

What is perfect happiness for you?

Travelling to new and different places around the world with my family.

What is your greatest fear?

The loss of communication in humans. When people stop talking and listening to each other, isolation, selfishness, and chaos take over.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Jacinda Ardern. For leading with empathy, authenticity, and clarity in times of crisis. She showed the world that compassionate leadership can be strong, decisive, and deeply human.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Loyalty. I believe it's a virtue that has almost disappeared from our lives. We are no longer loyal to others, to greater causes, or even to ourselves. We live in constant pursuit of something else, often undefined.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"How can I help?"

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

My bad habit of procrastination.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Empowering and nurturing talent through my agency, building a meaningful career in communications, and contributing to the advancement of women's equality through BPW Cyprus.

What is your most marked business characteristic?

Being a game changer. I continuously challenge myself and my team to think forward, act boldly, and deliver above-benchmark, innovative solutions for our clients.

What do you most value in people?

Their urge to move forward. I admire people who don't stand still, who go out into the world and excel in both small and big ways.

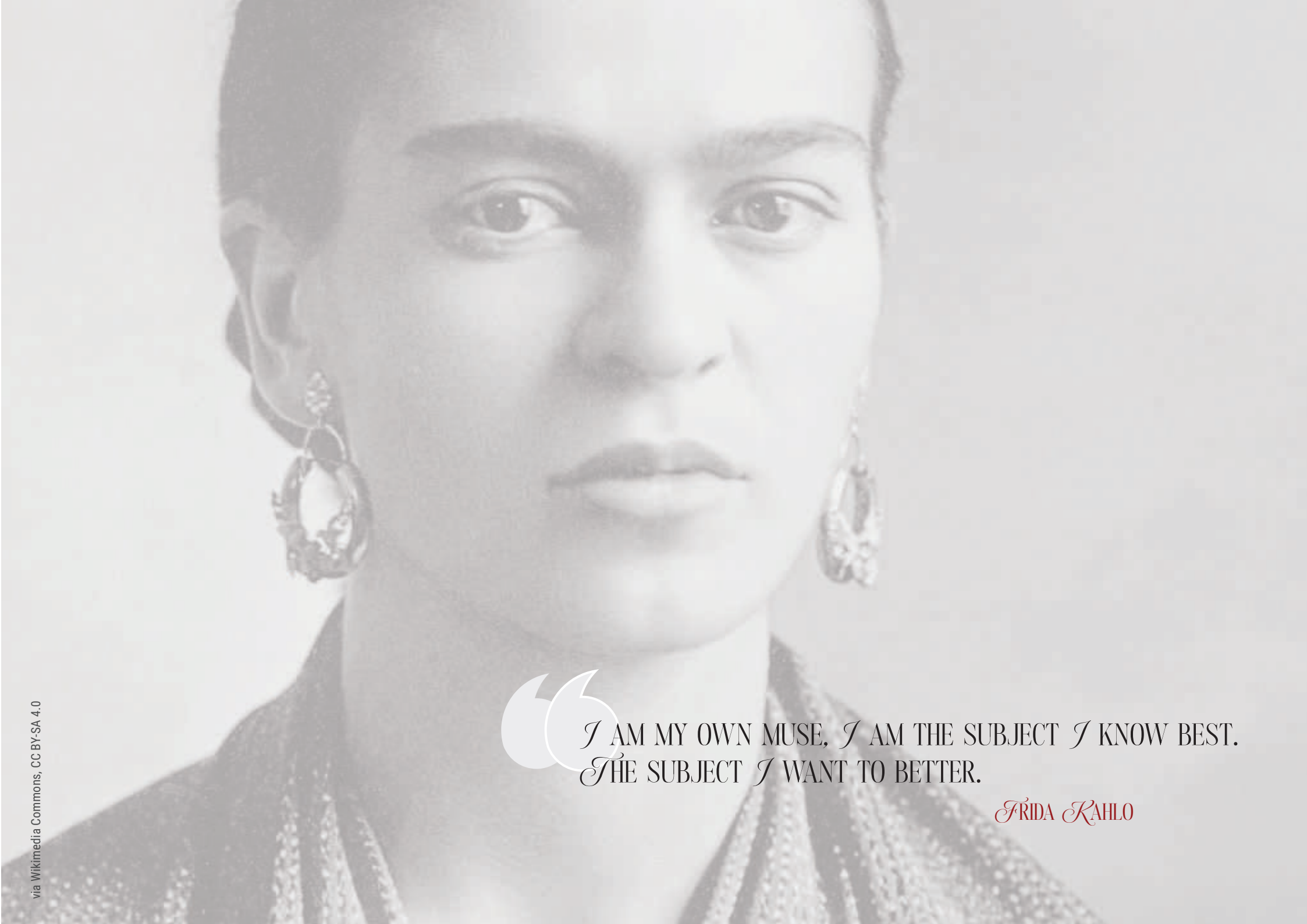
Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Eleanor Roosevelt. She broke norms, advocated fiercely for human rights and women's roles in leadership, and never stopped using her voice for change—even when it was uncomfortable.

What is your motto?

It depends on the challenge, but this one guides me every day: You can do this.





*I AM MY OWN MUSE, I AM THE SUBJECT I KNOW BEST.
THE SUBJECT I WANT TO BETTER.*

FRIDA KAHLO

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ISBN 978-9925-8121-5-8



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