

# **CHRISTOS A. SARTZETAKIS**

**A SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE**

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A SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE  
OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

## CHRISTOS A. SARTZETAKIS

Born in *Thessaloniki* on April 6th, 1929, his father being Cretan and his mother Macedonian, i.e. Greek.

He completed all his *studies*, including university education (Law School), at *Thessaloniki*.

*Lawyer* at the *Thessaloniki Bar* after examinations in October 1954.

He entered the *Judicature* after competitive examinations in November 1955 for his nomination as *Justice of the Peace*, and in November 1956 as *First Instance Judge*.

*First Instance Judge* initially at *Thessaloniki* (1957-1959), at *Agrinion* (1959-1962) and again at *Thessaloniki* (from late 1962 onwards).

*Examining Magistrate* at the notorious case of *murder of the Deputy (left wing) Lambrakis* perpetrated on May 22nd 1963 at *Thessaloniki*. This case and his action were represented by *Costas Gavras* in the well known film «Z».

*Post-graduate studies* in *Commercial Law* and *European Community Law*, on educational leave (state scholarship), in *Paris*, 1965 (*Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Économiques de Paris* and *Centre Universitaire des Études des Communautés Européennes*), where from he was recalled by the *military junta* immediately after the coup d'état of April 1967.

*Dismissed from his functions by «Constitutional Act» of the junta in May 1968*, together with 29 other magistrates. *Twice arrested* during the dictatorship. *The second time he was imprisoned for almost a year* - initially for 50 days at the *Special Interrogating Section of the Military Police (E.A.T./E.S.A.)*, where *he was savagely tortured* - and subsequently at the *Korydallos Prisons*.

*Released* on November 19th, 1971, as a result of the international outcry, mainly of members of the Judicial and Legal profession, those of France in particular, while *the junta never dared to prosecute him before a court.*

***Reinstated in the Judicature*** in September 1974, after the restoration of democratic legality, as ***Judge of Appeal*** at the Court of Appeal of Athens. ***Chairman of the Court of Appeal*** of Nafplion in 1981. ***Justice of the Supreme Court (Areios Pagos, Athens)*** in October 1982.

Author of various, mainly legal and political studies.

Up to the time of his election as President of the Hellenic Republic, he was *Vice-President* of the *Union of Greek Processualists* as well as *member of the Administrative Council* of the Greek Section of the «*Association Henri Capitant pour la Culture Juridique Française*». He was also *member of the Administrative Council* of the *Hellenic Humanistic Society*. He is a *member*, since 1968, of the Paris based «*Société de Législation Comparée*».

**Elected President of the Hellenic Republic on March 29th , 1985 .** He was sworn in the following day, March 30th, 1985., and *assumed these duties* from that day ***until the 5th May, 1990.***

*Member honoris causa* of the High Court of Portugal.

*Doctor honoris causa* of the Democritus University of Thrace (Historical and Ethnological Section)

*He was honored by the highest decorations of many states.*

He is *married* with *Efi Argyriou*, historian-archaeolog. They have a daughter, named *Petroula*.-