

# JUSTICE IS DONE!

BY THE PUBLISHER, SPIRO HARALAMBOUS

**A**s the publisher of this most respected newspaper I can tell you now that JUSTICE HAS PREVAILED! Indeed, I take this opportunity to ask of our faithful readership, alongside the entire Greek community, who have read the continuous biased articles about me in THE GREEK HERALD, to indulge me in setting THE TRUTH STRAIGHT and putting forward FACT AND TRUTH. Let us first and foremost put forward some facts allowing a true perspective to this newspaper's reporting style and motives in order to hurt my reputation and the O KOSMOS newspaper.

**Fact:** Late last year Mr. Theo Skalkos requested a meeting with myself and our chief editor Mr George Hagivassilis. Mr Hagivassilis and I cautiously accepted to meet with Mr Skalkos knowing that there is always an ulterior motive that is central to his reporting style in his newspaper. At this meeting which did not last more than 30 minutes, Mr Skalkos was both audacious and naive enough to think I would sell him our paper. He put forward all kinds of unrealistic and desperate arguments as to why I should seriously consider his ludicrous request! My answer was NO!!!

For those who know Mr Skalkos, he did not take no as an answer very well. Since then he has published various articles against me that do not properly depict the full facts and truth.

My strategy always has been to strengthen our newspaper with true, professional and ETHICAL journalism that has come to be recognised as a reputable source of information even by our peers in Greece. We have achieved excellent coverage of all social events in

Sydney, our proactive reporting and exclusivity on current affairs on a local, national and international level have had a positive effect in as far as the circulation of our paper and the unprecedented demand by community leaders and organisations to be represented in our paper. As I have often said: "...O Kosmos is not my paper ... it belongs to the Greek community..."

Mr Skalkos strategy is simple and really has not changed much over the decades. His style is synonymous with defamation, slander - with a long list of successful law suits against him and I would say his most loyal readers are his solicitors. **HE OBVIOUSLY MUST FEEL THREATENED BY THE INTEGRITY OF OUR PAPER**

**Fact:** Mr Skalko's newspaper is the second oldest Greek paper circulating in Sydney, and certainly the preferred paper if you wish to advertise your memorial service. However, this is where his accolades END!

**Fact:** He has been sued and lost defamation cases due to his paper's RECKLESS reporting. All one has to do is historically assess this against the long list of law suits he has lost at a great financial cost.

**Fact:** His reporting style has done nothing for the unity of the Greek community, except to divide and conquer for his own dubious motives.

Must we go on? Let us not forget that the Sydney Morning Herald a few years back in their Saturday Good Weekend Edition did a write up on Mr Skalkos that was VERY ACCURATE AND FAR FROM FLATTERING - which we will republish in the near future, simply to illustrate that he has lost the respect of the mainstream papers too. One would expect the opposite considering the longevity of the

Greek Herald - one of name changes he adopted for his newspaper to avoid litigation. Well done Mr Skalkos what a wonderful resume you have!!!

The Greek Herald recently proudly paraded on its front pages, in the vain attempt to defame me and hurt my reputation, articles relating to my legal matter, that I will explain below.

Any reader would be inclined to question my integrity and not necessarily that of the newspaper O KOSMOS! I now respond to the facts and truth:

Several years ago, I fell victim to a loan scam, I was even trusting and naive enough to go down as borrower and guarantor for a former business associate.

The fact remains that I did signed this paperwork and unknowingly assisted in a loan scam. The main perpetrators are now in gaol for a minimum of 6 years.

I know that there are approximately 80 or so other victims in this circle of deceit, with varying degrees of involvement and implication, but I am unable to make any comment on their matters. I also fell victim to the scam.

I can however, clarify my matter with transparency and accept RESPONSIBILITY for my foolishness and lack of good commercial judgement that has led to this unfortunate predicament. By the way, Mr Skalkos, have you ever been brave enough to publish and accept responsibility for your errors in the past?

Over a year after been charged, the authorities have now dropped two of the 3 charges and resorted to the fact that even the one is a case of "recklessness".

*Quoting the magistrate as he passed down his decision he said the following:*

- "There is NO LOSS to anyone"
- "Mr Haralambous's moral culpability is very low"
- "He committed an honest act in a deceptive process"
- "It is clear he never intended to defraud, as he paid back all monies borrowed long before detection"
- "He has provided significant assistance to the police"
- "This man does not warrant a conviction"

I have had no personal gain, if anything I have had to payback monies that I guaranteed for others and fund the expensive legal process.

The law is FAIR AND VERY CLEAR: IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE. Consequently, as my signature did appear on the documents I had a case to answer and stepping up to face the process and hope for the best was the only thing I could do.

**JUSTICE HAS PREVAILED!**

I have been dealt with a section 10 with NO CONVICTION OR RECORD which serves as a STARK REMINDER to all of us to be more diligent when signing documents and NEVER borrow or guarantee someone else's loan.

The Greek Herald failed to properly and fully provide details of my case, and only mentioned small details which were designed to harm both my character and the my newspaper's reputation.

I thank you all for your patience in taking the time to read this but above all, I thank you for your support and loyalty.

*Spiro Haralambous  
Publisher "O KOSMOS"*

ΚΑΘΕ ΤΡΙΤΗ, ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ

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