

We pride ourselves on assisting our clients to protect their Greek investments and on ensuring that our clients plan for the future of those investments.

We therefore provide our clients with up to date information on changes in real estate, inheritance, tax and administrative laws which may affect their property and business interests in Greece.

We firmly believe that it is imperative for our clients, and in particular our clients who reside abroad, to fully understand and agree to legal services which they can expect to receive as well as the conditions under which those services will be provided by our firm.



“Our experience from handling countless inheritance cases...has shown that many members of the community are unaware of the intricacies of Greek Inheritance law.”

## *An Introduction to ADL!*

Arsinoi Lainioti is a Greek-American-Brazilian attorney with offices in Athens, Greece. She was born, raised and educated in the United States and has been practicing law in Greece since 1996. She currently practices before the Courts and Administrative Bodies of Greece and Europe [European Court of Human Rights, European Patent Office (Professional Registration No. 09003220), Office for the Harmonization in the Internal Market Trademarks and Designs (Representative No. 40398)]

Arsinoi D. Lainioti is a member of the Athens (Greece) and the Massachusetts (U.S.A.) Bar Associations and is included on the Attorney List of the Embassy of the United States of America in Athens, Greece as well as on the Legal Professional List of the Embassy of the Brazilian Republic in Athens, Greece. She is a member of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce.

As an expert in real estate, inheritance, citizenship and commercial law, she has assisted countless people of Greek decent who live abroad as well as U.S., Brazilian and Portuguese companies to resolve complex legal issues in Greece since 1996.

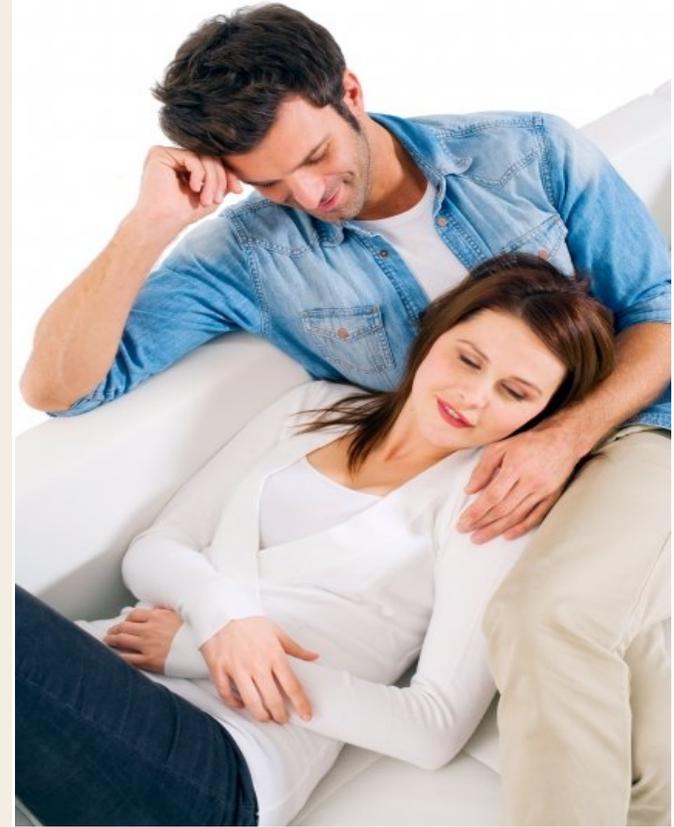
Arsinoi D. Lainioti served as in-house counsel for the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games Athens 2004 from 2003 to 2005, advising on Greek, European and cross-border legal matters.

Contact us at  
**+30.693.702.8630**

or on the web at [www.lainioti-lawoffices.com](http://www.lainioti-lawoffices.com)

Law Office: Vryoulon 1, Ano Pefki, 15121, Athens, Greece  
Mailing Address: Box 67626, Pefki, 15121, Athens, Greece

The Law Office of Arsinoi D. Lainioti  
Athens, Greece



Answering Your Questions on:

## *The Intricacies of Greek Inheritance*

The Law Office of Arsinoi D. Lainioti  
Athens, Greece



## Let's Talk about Greek Inheritance Issues

Our experience from handling countless inheritance cases has shown that many members of the international community are unaware of the intricacies of Greek inheritance law.

### Recommendations >>>

While we strongly recommend that qualified attorneys and accountants be consulted as soon as an inheritance matter arises and well prior to any related action or inaction, we offer the following general information on this topic.

Greek Assets may be inherited through either a valid US or Greek Will or by virtue of Greek Intestate Succession Laws.

In the absence of a valid Will, the laws of Greece stipulate specific heirs and the percentages inherited thereby based on the relationship of those heirs to the person whose estate is being inherited. The list of potential heirs includes the following:

- Spouse and children
- Spouse, parents, siblings
- Spouse, grandparents, their children and grandchildren
- Spouse and great grandparents
- Spouse exclusively
- The Greek State

It is important to note that, under Greek law, a Will may be invalidated if any of the "mandatory heirs" is excluded from inheriting under the Will. By law, the "mandatory heirs" include the descendants of the person making the Will, the surviving spouse of that person or the parents thereof, in the event that there are no descendants and/or surviving spouse. A forced heir is entitled to receive one half of the share which he/she would have received if he/she were inheriting under the law, in the absence of a Will.

It is also important to note that, according to Greek law, the decedent's estate passes to the heir with all of that estate's advantages and burdens. As a result, upon explicitly or implicitly accepting his/her inheritance, an heir becomes personally liable for the debts of the inherited estate. In order to avoid assuming an indebted estate, an heir may choose to renounce the inheritance by filing a related declaration before the court located in the area of the decedent's place of domicile. The deadline for renouncing an inheritance is within four months of learning of the potential inheritance or within one year of learning of the potential inheritance (if either the decedent resided abroad or the heir learned of the potential inheritance while residing abroad).

### Did You Know that...

- Under Greek law, a Will may be invalidated if any of the "mandatory heirs" is excluded from inheriting under the Will and by other circumstances.
- Greek Law designates heirs and inherited percentages, in the absence of a Will.
- Heirs are personally liable for debts of the estate.
- Strict Deadlines apply for the Inheritance Procedure.

**The Law Office of Arsinoi D. Lainioti  
Can Help Answer Your Questions.**

### Deadlines >>>

A person who stands to inherit property in Greece should be aware that numerous significant deadlines are entailed. For example, an heir is obligated to file an Inheritance Tax Declaration within 6 months (for residents of Greece) or 12 months (for residents abroad) from the date of death or the date upon which a will was probated.

