

Professor Elias Krispis (1917 – 2012)

He was born in Chalkida, where he completed his school studies.

From an early age he was interested in reading and writing. He was an avid reader of the children's literary magazine "Diaplasia ton Paidon" and in 1930, he won a prize for his contribution.

He obtained his Degree in Law from NKUA in 1940 and he started working as Attorney-at-Law in Athens (1941), at the Law Firm of Professor Christos Pratsikas, Georgios Mavros, the politician, and Themistoklis Makris. He established a Law Tutorial School, which operated until 1948.



Law School final year students with their Professor Yeorgios Rammos, 1940. Elias Krispis is depicted in the second line at the centre.



Elias Krispis as a teenager. Donated by A. Samara – Krispi.



The young student Elias Krispis with his literary pseudonym "Soul Tear" and press clipping with the prize winners. Donated by A. Samara – Krispi.



Elias Krispis when he was a first year student at the NKUA Law School. Donated by A. Samara – Krispi.

Elias Krispis' fellow students at the School of Law were: Mihalīs Kyrilopoulos, Judicial Counsel at the National Bank of Greece, Konst. Kakouris, European judge, Ath. Tsoutsos, Vice President of the Council of the State, the NKUA Professor Marina Goudi and Yagos Pesmazoglou, Professor and politician.



The Law degree of Elias Kripsis, 1940.
Donated by E. Kripsis.



Elli Nikolettou – Kriski,
oili on canvas by Thaleia Flora-
Karavia. Donated by E. Kripsis.

At the NKUA Law School, Elias Kripsis will meet his first wife, Elli Nikolettou – Kriski, who will become the first woman professor of Law in Greece.

He pursued post-graduate studies at the University of London (1948-1950), in Public and Private International Law and in 1950 he was awarded a PhD from the NKUA Law School in Private International Law.

In 1961, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Private International Law and since 1964, he served as Professor at the same chair.

He was appointed, ex officio, by the Law School and the Senate, Director of the Legal Studies Institute (Nomiko Spoudastirio) of the NKUA (1955) and as Legal Advisor of the University (1982).

He also served as a Dean of the NKUA Law School during the academic year 1974-1975.



The Professor Elias Kriski in "Saripolon" Auditorium at the Law School building, January 1963. Donated by A. Samara – Kriski.



The University administrative authorities and deans during the academic year 1974 – 1975. The Dean Elias Kriski second on the left. Donated by A. Samara – Kriski.

In his capacity, as a Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as Professor of International Law, he represented Greece in numerous cases before international organisations, United Nations, NATO and other international fora in general.

Professor Elias Krispis has also regularly participated in meetings of International Organisations, being appointed each time by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representing Greece, either as a member of the Greek Delegation, or as its Legal Advisor. He developed multidimensional legal action in the 6th Legal Committee of the United Nations Organisation, participating in 26 Convocations.



The Professor Elias Krispis, oil on canvas by K. Kerestetzis. Donated by A. Samara – Krispi.

Elias Krispis' most important missions in particular were the following:

In 1976, as an Attorney for Greece before the Hague International Court, in a case involving Turkey.

In 1958, in Geneva, at the Conference on the Law of the Sea, when he was elected as vice-president (until 1982).

In Stockholm, when the World Intellectual Property Organisation was founded.

In Bucharest, concerning the International Commercial Agency Treaty.

In Hague, for the Convention on International Adoption.

In Washington, for the Convention on International Testament.

In New York, for the Convention on Limitation Period for Civil Claims.

In Vienna, for the Convention on the Sale of Tangible Movable Goods.

In Ottawa, Canada, for the Convention on the Prohibition of Use of Anti-personnel Mines.

In three sessions of The Special Hague Conference, which drafted the Treaty for the Law of Minors.

In the Special Committee, for two years, for the drafting of the Charter of the Hague International Criminal Court.



The Professor Elias Krispis representing Greece in the United Nations General Assembly, 1965. Donated by A. Samara – Krispi.

He was also the Director of the legal magazine "Themis" (1953-1955).

He has been awarded by the Greek State with the medal of the Commander of the Phoenix, in recognition of the long representation of Greece in a number of international organizations (notably the UN) and in international meetings, e.g. for the Cyprus Issue (United Nations and Switzerland).

He has also been, for many years, member of Hellenic and foreign scientific associations, like the Academy of Political Sciences, New York, the International Law Association, etc.

Elias Krispis wrote a large number – more than 25 – of textbooks, studies, monographs and other books on various aspects of law.

He was an honorary legal advisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Public and Private International Law issues until his passing.

In 1999, he founded with his wife Dr. Anastasia Samara – Krispi the Foundation for International Legal Studies Foundation (www.krispisfoundation.gr).

On August 26th 2012 he passed away in Athens.