

## IPI/MLDI Defamation Law Seminar – Thessaloniki, Greece, 20 October 2016

Defamation laws are frequently abused by those in power to silence unwanted criticism and scrutiny. In order not to give in to the fear of prosecution or expensive lawsuits, journalists need to know their rights under Greek law and – more importantly – under the principles of the European Court of Human Rights.

This session, led by the International Press Institute (IPI) and the Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI), and joined by Greek legal experts and editors, will provide participants with critical theoretical knowledge and practical tips for producing unflinching journalism on the right side of the law.

All participants will receive a printed copy of the IPI/MLDI manual “Freedom of Expression, Media Law and Defamation” in Greek.

Session I      9:30 – 11:30  
Freedom of Expression and the Right to Reputation: Modern European Standards

**Led by:** Padraig Hughes, Legal Director, Media Legal Defence Initiative (MLDI)

**Language:** English (with simultaneous translation into Greek)

**Participants will gain:** Overview of journalists’ rights when covering allegations of wrongdoing, based on principles of the European Court of Human Rights.

**Key questions:**

Is there a “right to reputation”?

Can a true statement be defamatory?

How far can opinions and satire go?

What do politicians have to put up with in a democratic society?

Are journalists responsible for the statements of people they quote?

Can parliaments and states be “insulted”?

Session II      11:30 – 13:30  
Practical Workshop: Hard-Hitting Journalism on the Right Side of Ethics and the Law

**Led by:** Nikos Frangakis, Managing Partner, Nikos Frangakis & Associates  
Petros Fragkiskos, Partner, FNG Law

**Language:** Greek (with simultaneous translation into English)

**Participants will gain:** Broad overview of Greek legislation (criminal and civil) related to defamation and insult.

With the help of practical examples, tips to take when covering allegations of corruption, abuse of power and other forms of wrongdoing so as to maintain standards of fairness and avoid legal trouble for defamation.

**Key concepts:**

Civil and criminal defamation laws in Greece

Crafting a “fair and balanced” story

Sticking to the public interest

Gathering facts and sources

Separating fact and opinion

Using the right language