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ABSTRACT

Author

Dr. Apostolos Anthimos
Attorney at Law
Panelist at the CAC for .eu ADR

T: ++ 30 2310 541 508

F: ++ 30 2310 508 075

A: Essopoustr. 9 - 54627 Thessaloniki - Greece

E: apostolos@anthimos.gr

W: http://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=100040685&trk=tab_pro

Title of the paper

A digital Quartet for Greek Civil Proceedings – Onward to e-litigation

Greece is experiencing a revolutionary time in civil proceedings. Since 2011, the Code of Civil Procedure has been thoroughly amended twice, whereas other modifications of a minor calibre are to be found dispersed in other recent laws. Following the groundbreaking introduction of e-justice provisions in law 3994/2011, a series of presidential decrees ensued between 2012-2014, creating new electronic tools for litigants and their lawyers in the course of civil proceedings. The aim of this paper is to present the stages of evolution, the present status, and the future perspectives in Greece. Initially, the paper will focus on the situation before the reforms made in 2011. A short elaboration of presidential decrees 25/2012 (on the electronic filing of claims), 142/2013 (on videoconferencing in civil proceedings), & 150/2013 (on the electronic filing of pleadings and pertinent documentation in civil proceedings) will follow. The paper will focus on the repercussion of the recent reforms in terms of efficiency and practicability. It will also tackle with the expected amendments on the electronic service of process, which are in the final stages towards promulgation. Finally, it will conclude with the adaptability of the domestic system in light of contemporary demands towards digitalization, both in legal and administrative aspects, i.e. in terms of compatibility with existing procedural law and infra-structural capacities.