



U.S. Presidential Election Countdown and Beyond

October 21, 2024 | 13:00hrs



Jon Decker

White House Correspondent
Senior National Editor, Gray Television

Jon Decker is the award-winning White House Correspondent and Senior National Editor for Gray Television, America's second-largest television broadcaster with 113 television stations. He has been a member of the White House Press Corps since 1995. He is also the White House Correspondent for iHeart Radio, owner of 860 radio stations in 126 markets. In 2015, he was elected by his colleagues to the Board of the White House Correspondents' Association. Jon serves on the faculty of Georgetown University, GW Law and the UCLA School of Law where he is an Adjunct Professor. He also serves as a Media Fellow at the McCain Institute. Jon, a member of the Washington, DC Bar and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, is the only lawyer in the White House Press Corps. Previously, Jon served as the White House correspondent for Fox News Radio, Reuters Television and SiriusXM Radio; Washington correspondent for PBS Television's "Nightly Business Report"; the host of PBS Television's "This Week in Business"; business reporter for the NBC affiliate in Washington (WRC); and field producer for NBC in Miami. He has served as a Media Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and was also an aide to the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. Jon, who was born in Washington, DC, received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees with Honors from the University of Pennsylvania and received a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School (recipient of the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Fellowship). He also studied international law at the Sorbonne in Paris. Jon has covered the Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden Administrations, as well as 28 State of the Union Addresses, 8 Presidential elections and the Impeachments of both President Clinton and President Trump. He has been in the Supreme Court to cover some of the most important cases of the past two decades - including Bush v. Gore, NFIB v. Sebelius - which challenged the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, and Windsor v. United States - the landmark civil rights case concerning same-sex marriage. Jon has also covered all four tennis Grand Slams and has served as a Commentator on the Tennis Channel. He also serves as a Board Member of the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation and on the Board of Governors of the International Tennis Hall of Fame. In the past two decades, Jon has reported from Athens, Amsterdam, Brussels, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Geneva, The Hague, Stockholm, Warsaw, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the West Bank, Luxembourg, Madrid, Rome, Puglia, Milan, Montreal, Hong Kong, Beijing, Taipei, Hiroshima, Bali, Singapore, Seoul, the DMZ, Sydney, Melbourne, Mexico City, Panama, Buenos Aires, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Havana and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Columbia Journalism Review has called Jon "refreshingly self-aware-for-a-reporter." In his spare time, Jon enjoys playing tennis, traveling, and spending time with his wife, Caroline.

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Yannis Palaiologos

Correspondent-at-large
Kathimerini Newspaper

Yannis Palaiologos (b. 1979) is a correspondent-at-large for Kathimerini newspaper and the investigative website inside story (www.insidestory.gr), a correspondent in Greece for the Wall Street Journal and the co-editor-in-chief of the "Sustainable Cyclades" journalistic project, covering the consequences of over-tourism in the Aegean archipelago. Between January 2020 and mid-2022 he was EU and NATO correspondent for Kathimerini and SKAI TV & Radio. He is the author of "The Thirteenth Labour of Hercules", a book on the Greek crisis, first published in September 2014 by Portobello Books in London, with an expanded second edition in the summer of 2016. He has written op-eds for The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post and The Financial Times. He has also reported on Greece for the websites of Time magazine, Politico, Politico Europe, The New Republic and The American Prospect. He has commented on Greek issues for the BBC, CNN, NPR, Al-Jazeera and other international outlets. Between 2009-2012, he was the editor-in-chief of Free Sunday newspaper and between 2006-9 he was the special supplements editor of City Press newspaper. He got his start in journalism in London, notably doing work experience stints at the foreign desk of The Times and The Independent (both in 2004). He is a 2015-6 Marshall Memorial fellow for Greece, and the recipient of the Greek Citi journalistic excellence award (in 2012, the first time the competition was held in Greece). Outside journalism, he co-authored a play, "Mama Ellada2", which ran from 2009-2010 in Athens. It was a satire about Greek corruption and the alienation of youth, which attracted strong reviews and widespread international attention, including from the BBC, The Economist, a number of German media, and many others. He was educated at Athens College and Oxford University, where he received a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (first class honours) and a B.Phil. (postgraduate degree) in Philosophy.

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Elias Spirtounias

Executive Director
AmCham Greece

After graduating from the School of Mathematics of the University of Athens, Elias Spirtounias completed his graduate studies at the School of Electrical Engineering (M.Sc. degree and pre-Ph.D. studies) at Boston University. During his residence in the United States, he participated as a Research Engineer in several research programs in co-operation with other organizations and companies such as NASA, MIT, UNH in the fields of analog and digital electronics, circuits design and applications. He returned to Greece in 1992 and after completing his military service in 1994, he held the position of Technical Director for the subsidiary of the Italian company Citec SpA., a company specialized in the design, production and application of voice and image processing systems. From 1997 until February 2009, he worked for the Foundation of the Hellenic World, a major Greek private non-profit cultural organization, starting as a Construction Supervisor and continuing as a Managing Director of the brand new then Cultural Center, Hellenic Cosmos an innovative, based on new technologies, theme park. During his tenure, he contributed significantly to the expansion, development and operation of the Center and its establishment as one of the most known technology-driven cultural theme parks in Greece and abroad. From March 2009, he holds the position of Executive Director of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. Along with his colleagues and in cooperation with the Board have managed, in the midst of the economic crisis, to increase significantly the number of activities, undertake important initiatives, retain in high level the memberships, foster the advocacy level, expand further the presence of the Chamber in US and contribute to the evolution of the Chamber into one of the leading dynamic and reliable business organization in Greece. Since January 2022 he served as Treasurer and since January 2024 as Vice Chair of the American Chambers in Europe (ACE) Executive Committee.

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