

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis
2500 Steiner Street, Ninth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94115

Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis is a San Francisco business woman, philanthropist and diplomat. From 2010 until 2013, she served as the United States Ambassador to Hungary, appointed by President Barack Obama. During her service, Ambassador Kounalakis received two Meritorious Honor awards, and was nominated by her staff for a the Susan M. Cobb award for distinguished diplomatic service.

Currently, Ambassador Kounalakis holds a non-resident fellowship at the U.S. Department of State. She is a Senior Advisor at Albright Stonebridge Group, and serves as chair of the California Advisory Council for International Trade and Investment. She also serves as a member of the board of the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business, where she received her MBA in 1992. She holds an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the American College of Greece. Ambassador Kounalakis serves on the board of The Hellenic Initiative and is a member of the Association of American Ambassadors.

Previously, Ambassador Kounalakis served as a trustee of the San Francisco War Memorial. She also served as a member of the California State World Trade Commission and The California First Five Commission. An active advocate of interfaith cooperation, she served for ten years as a Trustee of the World Council of Religions for Peace, and in recognition for her service was awarded the Medal of St. Paul, the highest lay honor of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. Committed to the advancement of the understanding of democratic ideas, she currently serves as an advisor to the New York Times annual conference on Democracy, in Athens, Greece. Ambassador Kounalakis lives with her husband and two children in San Francisco.