

REPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

UNITED STATES SENATE

RELEASED IN FULL

SUBJECT: Ambassadorial Nomination: Certificate of
Demonstrated Competence -- Foreign Service
Act, Section 304(a)(4)

POST: Kingdom of Norway

CANDIDATE: George James Tsunis

George James Tsunis is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Chartwell Hotels, LLC, which owns, develops and manages hotels throughout the Northeast and Middle Atlantic states. He is known for his legal and business acumen – particularly relating to land use and zoning, real estate, corporate law, municipal law and commercial litigation – and strong commitment to public service. A talented leader and experienced negotiator, Mr. Tsunis will bring essential skills to the task of furthering bilateral relations with the Government of Norway, a key U.S. ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Previously, Mr. Tsunis was Of Counsel and Partner (Attorney of Law), Rivkin Radler LLP, Uniondale, NY (1999-2009), Attorney at Law, Goldberg and Cohen, Brooklyn, NY (1998-1999), and Legislative Attorney, New York City Council, New York, NY (1996-1998). He served as Counsel for Dix Hills Water District, Dix Hills, NY (2003-2009) and Town Of Huntington Committee on Open Space Preservation, Huntington, NY (2008-2009). He also serves as Trustee of Brookings Institution Foreign Policy Group, Trustee of Brookings Institution Metropolitan Studies Center, Director of Business Executives for National Security, Trustee of Friends Academy, and on the Arch Diocesan Council, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. He has served as Trustee of Dowling College, Trustee of G. Touro Law Center, and Director, Palisades Media.

Mr. Tsunis earned a B.A. from the New York University, New York, NY in 1989 and a J.D. from St John's University of Law, Queens, NY in 1992. He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Order of Saint Andrew) - the highest ecclesiastical honor that can be bestowed upon a layman by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. He is the recipient of the Dowling College Presidential Medal, the Harry Chapin Humanitarian Award for Long Island Cares, the WLIW Channel 21 Person of the Year Award, Long Island Business News 40 most influential people on Long Island under 40 years old, and the Cyprus Federation's Justice for Cyprus Award. He speaks conversational Greek.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Tumminia, Senior Reviewer