

How Attorney of the Year Finalist Aliki Sofis Went From 'My Cousin Vinny' Fan to Leading Trial Lawyer

By Marianna Wharry

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For Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan partner Aliki Sofis, becoming a lawyer was never really a question—even early on she knew she wanted to be standing in a courtroom and making her case to a jury.

“I pretty much always had tunnel vision of being a stand-up lawyer in the courtroom,” she said.

The daughter of Greek immigrants, Sofis did not have any lawyers in the family or a direct connection to the profession. What she did have, however, were movies and TV shows. The time she and her family spent watching “My Cousin Vinny” ended up becoming an unlikely foundation to her legal career, she told Law.com.

“If you’re a trial lawyer, you know that’s actually as close as you can to showing a trial in a movie,” she said. “I liked the performative aspect of trial work. You have to take on that role in a way where you can relay your client’s position to various audiences, and you have to substantiate it with a level of credibility when you stand up.”

A native Bay Stater from Worcester, Sofis stayed true to her New England roots and attended Boston College Law School before beginning



Courtesy photo

Aliki Sofis of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan.

her legal career at Ropes & Gray. She made the jump to Quinn Emmanuel in 2018 when the firm opened its Boston office. Its focus on litigation, along with a known standard for trial work, easily drew her attention.

Both joining the firm and becoming the co-managing partner of its Boston location have been inflection points in her career, Sofis told Law.com. The Boston office has multiplied in size since she joined as one its first five attorneys nearly a decade ago. It now houses a full litigation and trial shop consisting of about 50 lawyers plus professional staff.

Her co-managing partner role is her badge of honor, she told Law.com, and added that the firm's vote of confidence in her leadership style has contributed to opportunities in areas like client and talent recruitment.

Quinn Emmanuel partner Anthony Bongiorno echoed similar sentiments about Sofis's leadership qualities. The pair have worked together in the Boston office since Bongiorno joined the firm six years ago, and he told Law.com she excels at the heading the Boston office because she is a natural born leader.

"Aliko is an incredibly talented courtroom lawyer, but you can say that about many lawyers," Bongiorno said. "She is fearless, and she will make the hard decisions lawyers have to make on the spot in a courtroom because she has great instincts. She gets those decisions right, almost without exception."

The Market Basket Case

A crowning achievement of Sofis's past year has been leading a team to represent Market Basket and its board of directors in a contentious battle over ownership of one of New England's most storied and successful grocery store chains.

Sofis and her team sought to enforce the removal of former Market Basket CEO Arthur T. Demoulas. The grocery chain's board suspended Demoulas before he was formally ousted in September 2025 over internal business disputes related to budgets, store openings and board oversight, court filings show.

The pace of the case was relentless, Sofis told Law.com. Since the dispute went from the close of pleadings through trial in the Delaware Chancery Court in about 60 days, the discovery record has to be the trial record, she added. Sofis delivered the closing arguments and was tasked with boiling years of corporate affairs to a 90-minute summation so the vice chancellor could understand the evidence and her team's arguments.

In the end, Sofis and her team's effort paid off, as the court sided with Sofis's clients in a 126-page opinion in April, ending a family's legal saga over Market Basket's ownership.

Sofis represented Jay K. Hachigian, chairperson of the Market Basket board of directors, in the grocery store dispute. As an attorney himself—Hachigian is a founding partner at Gunderson Dettmer in Boston—he said Sofis's strength was how she built her team and managed the each step of the process, despite the little time she had to develop the case,

He called Sofis's approach "bulletproof," and said the result speaks for itself, noting that the deposed CEO did not attempt to appeal the court's decision.

"In my mind, there are two aspects to a big case like this," he said. "One is the command of the substance and how quickly someone absorbs it, and the second is the process. My first impression, since we didn't have much process, was that she picked up on the substance incredibly quickly and drilled down on the most important parts of the case first."