

H.E. Gerald M. Zackios
Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United States of America



Biography

Ambassador Gerald M. Zackios started his civil service in the RMI in 1985 when he was hired as the Fiscal Officer for the Division of Aging, in what was then the Ministry of Social Services (now the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Culture and Women). He worked there for two years before returning to school. He completed his Bachelor of Law degree in 1989 at the University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby.

Ambassador Zackios returned after completion of his university studies to the RMI and was engaged as an Assistant Attorney General from 1990-1992, RMI Attorney General's Office, Ministry of Justice. During this period, he also attended the IMO International Maritime Law Institute in Malta and received his Masters Degree in International Maritime Law in June 1992. He was promoted to Deputy Attorney General following this accomplishment. He served as Deputy Attorney General from 1992-1995, including serving as Acting Attorney General until his appointment as Permanent Attorney General in January 1996.

Ambassador Zackios served as Attorney General until he won a seat in the *Nitijela* (Parliament) in November 1999. He was selected to serve in President Note's Cabinet, first as Minister in Assistance to the President (2000-2001) then as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2001-2007). He served in the *Nitijela* until 2012. He was appointed Vice Speaker of the Nitijela from September 2011 to January 2012. During his tenure in the *Nitijela*, Ambassador Zackios chaired and served on various Committees such as the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Chair), Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Relations and the Committee on Public Accounts (Chair). He was

the Chief Negotiator for the Compact of Free Association between the RMI and the United States during its renegotiations in 2001-2004. He also served as Vice Chairman of the U.S. RMI Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee (JEMFAC), and Vice Chairman of the U.S. RMI Trust Fund Committee in 2003-2008. Ambassador Zackios has recently been appointed to Chair the Compact Technical Re-Negotiation Team.

Ambassador Zackios started his own law firm in 2012. He practiced law from January 2012 until July 2013 when he assumed his post as the Regional Director for the Pacific Community (SPC) in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. He held that post until his appointment as the RMI's Ambassador to the United States of America in 2016.

Ambassador Zackios is a member of numerous civil society organizations and has served on many school Boards, including the Assumption Schools, Majuro CO-OP School, Chairman of the College of the Marshall Islands Board of Regent and a Co-Opted Member of the Council of the University of the South Pacific (USP). He served on the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority Board of Directors and the RMI Judicial Services Commission.

Ambassador Zackios is a member of the GLISPA Board and the National Student Leadership Foundation's Honorary Board of Advisors. Ambassador Zackios has a Management Certificate from the ADB Institute, and is an alumnus of the Asia Pacific Center for Asia Pacific Studies in Honolulu.

Ambassador Zackios is married to the former Viola Milne. His hobbies include fishing, gardening, and sports (tennis and basketball).

