

**Having handled many matters for the Turkish Republic, Larry Kaye is one of the most active board members at the ATS**

*By Zeynep Guven*

Only a few people can compete with Larry Kaye when it comes to work for Turkey's benefit. Kaye, one of the most active board members of The American Turkish Society, has worked on many matters for the Turkish Republic and pressed the country's claims for return of its stolen cultural treasures in American courts. He is the man who won the law war and recovered the "Croesus Treasure / Karun Hazinesi" from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, bringing it to the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. After this success, Huseyin Unver, then the president of the ATS, invited Kaye to join the board of the Society.

A question emerges in your mind: Why and how did the Republic of Turkey hire Larry Kaye, as attorney?

**FIRST INSTANCE EVER**

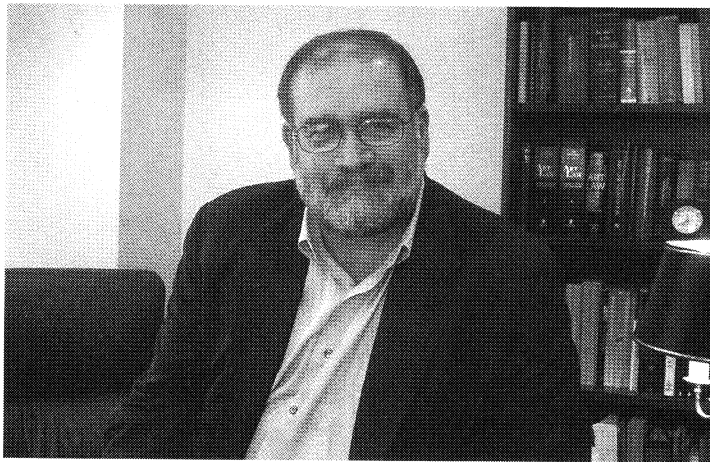
The story goes back to 1983, when Larry and his colleagues, now at Herrick Feinstein LLP, won a lawsuit to recover two Albert Dürer paintings stolen by American G.I.'s in the waning days of World War II from a castle in Schwarzburg, Germany where they had been stored for safekeeping by the Weimar Art Museum. The paintings eventually surfaced in Brooklyn, and both Germanys sued to get them back. Kaye and his colleagues worked on behalf of what was then East Germany and

the case ended successfully. Kaye believes it may have been the first instance in which a sovereign nation successfully recovered important stolen artworks from the United States, using American courts.

This event, of course, was noticed and covered by the press. The New York Times published a front page story about the lawsuit.

artifacts without court action in 1987 Larry Kaye and his colleagues became involved and filed a lawsuit on behalf of Turkey. The legal war took 6 years. Finally in 1993 the Metropolitan relented and agreed to return the Lydian Hoard to Turkey. The lawsuit was dropped and the artifacts were sent to Ankara.

## Lord of the Antiquities



Shortly after that, Turkey was after her Lydian Hoard (also known as the Croesus Treasure), one of the greatest archaeological finds of the century, a collection of gold, silver and glass from the time of Croesus (560-546 B.C.). In today's Turkey there is still a phrase, "Rich like Croesus" to define a very rich person.

The Croesus Treasure was illegally excavated by villagers near Usak in the Central Anatolia region of Turkey in the 1960's. After passing through the hands of shady middlemen, the items were purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

After failed attempts to recover the

Since November 1993, they have been displayed in Turkey, first in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, and then at the museum in Usak.

**OUR WAY IS GOOD**

"I have to admit that I didn't know a lot about Turkey before 1987. This is the case with many Americans" Larry Kaye says. For him, learning about Turkish culture and people is one of the greatest benefits of this kind of work. Despite the fact that he has never lived in Turkey, his visits to Turkey from 1987 to the present are countless.

He says wonderful words about the country: "Turkey is a fascinating, beautiful country, with extraordinary resources, wonderful food and a rich cultural history. I find the people warm, friendly and interesting. Another benefit over the years, I developed many friendships both here and there."

Who can say that he is less warm, friendly, and interesting than the Turks he knows? Larry Kaye has worked for years on another platform for Turkey's good.

That platform is The American Turkish Society. As a board member he has contributed to the past and upcoming events of the ATS, both intellectually and financially. He sees great promise in the future of the ATS:

"I think over the last years the Society has made extraordinary gains. Its programs are very very valuable. There are more programs offering interesting and informative discussions and presentations on the Turkish economy, culture, education, and like topics. One area I would like to see developed more is to have a greater base of membership and attract more people to the society."

### Who is Lawrence Kaye?

Lawrence Kaye was born in the Bronx, New York in 1945. He received a B.A. Degree in History from the University of North Carolina in 1967, and in 1970 a J.D. Degree from St. John's University School of Law, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the St. John's Law Review. He is married to Joan Kaye and they have three children, ages 10, 18 and 21. Lawrence Kaye lives in Manhattan on the Upper East Side. He is Senior Partner in Herrick, Feinstein LLP where he specializes in international and art law matters.

**Visit the NEW ATS Website**  
**[www.americanturkishsociety.org](http://www.americanturkishsociety.org)**  
**your gateway to news, ideas, information and enjoyment**