



The
American
Turkish
Society
Since 1949

[Press Release]

The American Turkish Society
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The American Turkish Society Announces Inaugural Class of “Young Society Leaders”

- Young Society Leaders (YSLs) are selected for their professional accomplishments, leadership ability, and commitment to shape the future of U.S.-Turkish affairs.
- YSLs represent the fields of business, law, medicine, journalism, academia, and the arts and come from Turkey and the United States.
- YSLs form a powerful network and participate in mentorship activities and special projects.

New York, NY—Monday, September 12, 2011—The American Turkish Society is pleased to announce the inaugural class of "Young Society Leaders," a group of 50 accomplished professionals from the fields of business, law, medicine, journalism, academia, and the arts, with a demonstrated record of leadership ability and commitment to serve the U.S.-Turkish society at large.

“We welcome the Young Society Leaders and are extremely pleased to have an opportunity to convene and recognize these outstanding young leaders who demonstrate the promise to shape the ties between our two countries,” said **Murat Koprulu**, Chairman of The American Turkish Society.

The “Young Society Leaders” program aims to nurture the next generation leaders and to positively impact issues that matter to the American-Turkish community. **Asli Karahan-Ay**, Executive Director at UBS Investment Bank, who has been charged by The Society to launch and lead the group, explains that “the idea is to create a select, diverse, powerful peer network for these young leaders and provide them with mentorship from business, political, and thought leaders in the United States and Turkey.”

This year’s Young Society Leaders include: **Pinar Abay**, Incoming CEO, ING Bank Turkey (Turkey); **Dr. Daron Acemoglu**, Professor of Economics, MIT (USA); **Cenk Angin**, CEO, GittiGidiyor (Turkey); **Asli Aydintasbas**, Columnist, Milliyet (Turkey); **Dr. Gokhan Hotamisligil**, Chair, Department of Genetics and Complex Disorders, Harvard University School of Public Health (USA); **Jay Karahan**, Presiding Judge, Harris County Criminal Court-at-Law Number 8 (USA); **Daniel Lubetzky**, CEO/Founder, KIND Healthy Snacks, KIND Movement and PeaceWorks, Inc. (USA); **Seval Oz**, New Business Development Manager, Google (USA); **Heidi Ueberroth**, President, NBA International, National Basketball Association (USA); **Hamdi Ulukaya**, President & Founder, Agro Farma Inc./ Chobani Yogurt (USA); **Dr. Joshua Walker**, Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States (USA).

One of the participants from Turkey, **Demet Mutlu**, founder and CEO of Trendyol.com, reflected: "I am honored to be selected as a Young Society Leader. I believe this will be a unique opportunity to engage with a community of thought leaders to shape the future of U.S.-Turkish affairs. I am very excited to have

the chance to be a member of this community where leaders reach across the boundaries that divide knowledge and nations.”

According to **Selen Ucak**, Executive Director of The American Turkish Society, “these dedicated individuals will share their leadership skills, professional expertise, academic backgrounds, and networks to strengthen our organization’s impact and sustainability.”

Young Society Leaders will have opportunities to interact with peers and mentors throughout the year and engage in projects that enhance mutual understanding between Turkey and the United States. They are selected for a term of three years, with a new class added each year. While the initial cohort of Young Society Leaders has been identified by The American Turkish Society, future classes will be selected following nominations from the public at large. Detailed information regarding the nomination process and selection criteria for next year’s class will be available on www.americanturkishsociety.org in the coming weeks.

Notes to Editors:

For a full list of the inaugural class of Young Society Leaders, please click [here](#).

More information about the Young Society Leaders Program, please click [here](#).

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About The American Turkish Society: www.americanturkishsociety.org

Founded in 1949, The American Turkish Society is the oldest American institution dedicated to enhancing business, economic, political, and cultural ties between Turkey and the United States. The Society convenes leaders in government, business, and civil society to discuss and advance U.S.-Turkish relations; fosters understanding and cooperation between the two countries through education, cultural exchange, philanthropy, and networking; informs the American public about Turkey’s current affairs, economy, history, and society; and presents and supports programs highlighting Turkish arts and culture through its cultural outfit, Moon and Stars Project. The American Turkish Society is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.