

Colonel Matthew Bogdanos

Colonel Matthew Bogdanos is a homicide prosecutor for the New York County District Attorney's Office. Raised waiting tables in his family's Greek restaurant in Lower Manhattan, he is a former amateur middleweight boxer who joined the U.S. Marine Corps at 19. Leaving active duty in 1988 to join the D.A.'s Office, he remained in the reserves, leading a counter-narcotics operation on the Mexican border, and serving in Desert Storm, South Korea, Lithuania, Guyana, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kosovo.

Losing his apartment near the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, he was recalled to active duty and joined a counter-terrorism task force in Afghanistan, receiving a Bronze Star for actions against al-Qaeda. He then served in the Horn of Africa followed by three tours in Iraq, where he led the international investigation into the looting of Iraq's National Museum. The first to expose the link between antiquities trafficking and terrorist financing, he has presented those findings in 27 countries, in venues including the United Nations, Interpol, British Parliament, the European Union, the Peace Palace in The Hague, and the U.S. Congress. In 2005, he received a National Humanities Medal from President Bush for helping recover more than 6,000 of Iraq's treasures in eight countries. In 2009, he deployed to Afghanistan for his 6th post-9/11 combat tour.

Returning to the DA's Office in October 2010, he continues the hunt for stolen antiquities. Since then, he has led the recovery of thousands of priceless antiquities—totaling more than \$150 million—stolen from Greece, Italy, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Thailand. In 2017, he was named Chief of the U.S.'s first Antiquities Trafficking Unit. He still boxes for wounded veterans— with an 10-3 record since his 40th birthday, and co-founded an annual charity boxing event, Battle of the Barristers, that has raised more than \$750,000.

He holds a classics degree from Bucknell University; a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College; and, from Columbia University, a law degree, a master's degree in Classics, and a Recognition of Achievement in International Law. In addition to dozens of military decorations, he received the 2004 Public Service Award from the Hellenic Lawyers of America, 2007 Proclamation from the City of New York, 2009 Proclamation from the City of Philadelphia, 2011 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, 2016 International Giuseppe Sciacca Achievement Award from the Vatican, and was Grand Marshal of the 2010 Greek Independence Day Parade. Published in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and military, archaeological, legal, and international journals, all royalties from his book, "Thieves of Baghdad", are donated to the Iraq Museum.

