



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WTC CEO Dominik Knoll Appointed to International Commerce Board

New Orleans, LA- World Trade Center of New Orleans CEO Dominik Knoll has been appointed by Gov. Bobby Jindal to the newly formed 23-member Louisiana Board of International Commerce. The Board, which was created through legislation introduced by Senator Conrad Appel and is housed within the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, will function as the authority on behalf of the state to advance Louisiana's international commerce economic sector.

"I am honored to have been selected by Gov. Jindal to serve on the Board of International Commerce, and commend the state for taking this important step in focusing its efforts to ensure Louisiana remains at the forefront of international competitiveness," said Knoll. "I look forward to working with the other highly qualified appointees to advance the interests of our state and provide a united voice advocating on behalf of our dynamic international sector."

The World Trade Center also extends its congratulations to several appointees with close ties to the organization. Port of New Orleans President and CEO Gary LaGrange serves on the WTC Board of Directors. LaGrange also serves on the WTC Transportation Committee, along with Joel Chaisson, Executive Director of the Port of South Louisiana, Robert Scafidel, Executive Director of the St. Bernard Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, and Jay Hardman, Executive Director of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge; Dan Feibus, CEO of Zagis, USA serves on the WTC Agriculture Committee. Appointees Philippe Gustin, Director of Le Centre International de Lafayette, John Fay, a founding member of Fay, Nelson & Fay LLC, and Greg Rusovich, CEO of Transoceanic Trading and Development Company, serve on the WTC Advisory Board.

The Louisiana Board of International Commerce will work to advance the international commerce sector by attracting foreign and domestic investment and trade related corporate business into the state, and by developing manufacturing, corporate, and service business activity based on Louisiana's trade economy.

For more information, please contact the World Trade Center of New Orleans at (504) 529-1601 or [info@wtcno.org](mailto:info@wtcno.org).

See below for the full list of appointees.

- **Gary LaGrange**, of New Orleans, President and CEO of the Port of New Orleans, nominated by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans.
- **John Fay**, of New Orleans, a founding member of Fay, Nelson & Fay LLC, nominated by the New Orleans Board of Trade.
- **Greg Rusovich**, of New Orleans, CEO of Transoceanic Trading and Development Company, nominated by Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- **Don Sanders**, of Baton Rouge, a Partner of Orion Instruments, LLC, nominated by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

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- **Thomas “Brad” Terral**, of Monroe, Chief Operations Officer for Pinnacle Agriculture Enterprises, nominated by the Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance.
- **Jay Hardman**, of Baton Rouge, Executive Director of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, nominated by the Port of Greater Baton Rouge.
- **Robert Scafidel**, of Chalmette, Executive Director of the St. Bernard Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, nominated by the St. Bernard Port, Harbor, and Terminal District.
- **Walter Sanchez**, of Lake Charles, Managing Counsel for the Sanchez Law Firm, nominated by the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District.
- **Philippe J. Gustin**, of Lafayette, Director of Le Centre International de Lafayette, the Lafayette Consolidated Government’s International Trade Division, nominated by the Acadiana Economic Development Council.
- **Rick Ranson**, of Alexandria, Vice President of Major Employers and serves on the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, nominated by the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance.
- **Dominik Knoll**, of New Orleans, Chief Executive Officer of the World Trade Center of New Orleans, nominated by The World Trade Center of New Orleans.
- **Dan Feibus**, of Lafayette, Chief Executive Officer of Zagis, USA, nominated by the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- **Felicia Manuel**, of Ville Platte, Financial Planner for Ville Platte Iron Works, nominated by the National Federation of Independent Business.
- **Randy Robb**, of Lake Charles, Executive Director of the Chennault International Airport Authority, nominated by the Chennault International Airport Authority.
- **Joel T. Chaisson**, of Destrehan, Executive Director of the Port of South Louisiana, nominated by the Port of South Louisiana.
- **Kevin Blondiau**, of Belle Chasse, a river pilot for the Crescent River Port Pilots Association, nominated by Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District.
- **Marion Fox**, of Jennings, Executive Director of Jefferson Parish Economic Development & Tourist Commission, nominated by the Southwest Louisiana Partnership for Economic Development.
- **Richard Guillot**, of Monroe, President and CEO of Business Alliance Financial Services, nominated by the North Louisiana Economic Partnership.

Other members include the Secretaries of Economic Development; Transportation and Development; Agriculture and Forestry; and Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

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The World Trade Center of New Orleans (WTCNO) is one of the strongest international business organizations in the Gulf Coast region, consisting of 1,000+ companies as well as high profile individual members. This membership base represents a diverse group of industry leaders, companies, professional organizations, and government institutions that include manufacturers, energy, agriculture, maritime, digital media, foreign consulates, and other interests. In 2012, member organizations were able to significantly contribute to the state’s record-breaking exports, the total value of which exceeded \$63 billion. This strong international organization creates a variety of opportunities for its stakeholders with the objective to add wealth to its community as well as create jobs through international trade and related services while fostering business and economic development by engaging in allied activities.