



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contact: jsteverson@wtcno.org

World Trade Center of New Orleans announces 2015 Board of Directors

New Orleans, LA- The World Trade Center of New Orleans today announced the organization's board of directors for 2015.

The World Trade Center of New Orleans has appointed Hon. Edward T. Hayes as Chairman of the Board and Mr. Robert G. Evans, Jr. as Vice-Chairman. Four new board members have been appointed to the board; Paul Aucoin, Executive Director, Port of South Louisiana; Tom Cole, President, Republic National Distributing Company; Jason French, Director, Government and Public Affairs, Cheniere Energy; and Stephen Hanemann, Partner, Kean Miller, LLP, its CEO, Dominik Knoll, announced.

Paul Aucoin has served as Executive Director of the Port of South Louisiana since July 2013. The Port of South Louisiana, which stretches 54 miles along the Mississippi River, is the largest tonnage port district in the western hemisphere. A year before Mr. Aucoin's appointment as Executive Director, he was the Port's Legal Counsel. Mr. Aucoin has practiced law since 1970, having his own private practice since 1971. He has affiliations with the American and Louisiana State Bar Associations, St. James Parish Economic Development Board, Louisiana Housing and Community Development Corporation, River Parishes Community College Board, River Parishes Tourist and Visitors Commission, and River Region Chamber of Commerce Board.

Tom Cole has served as President of Republic National Distributing Company (RNDC) since its creation in 2006. RNDC is the second largest distributor of premium wines and spirits in the United States with operations in 22 states plus the District of Columbia. He presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America and its Government Affairs Committee. He is also a member of the New Orleans Business Council and a Director of the Louisiana Highway Safety Council.

Jason French, Director, Government and Public Affairs, Cheniere Energy is responsible for government relations, public affairs, and community outreach at the state and local levels, as Cheniere works to develop LNG Export facilities in Louisiana and Texas. Mr. French joined Cheniere Energy in November 2011. Prior to joining Cheniere, Mr. French was Director of Government and Public Affairs for BP America where he held several key public affairs roles during the Deepwater Horizon Spill Response.

Stephen Hanemann is a partner in the New Orleans law office of Kean Miller. With more than 150 attorneys, Kean Miller is one of the largest full-service law firms in Louisiana, and the largest in the Capital Region. His practice areas include admiralty and maritime; banking and finance; municipal law; oil, gas, and pipelines; NORM defense; insurance coverage; general and commercial litigation; and construction. Stephen was selected by New Orleans *CityBusiness* as a 2012 Leadership in Law Award recipient. He is listed in Louisiana *Super Lawyers*, 2012-2015.

The full board of directors list includes:

- **WTC Chairman:** Hon. Edward T. Hayes, Partner, Leake and Andersson LLP and Honorary Consul of Ukraine
- **WTC Vice Chairman:** Robert G. Evans Jr., President, Con-Tech International
- Dominik Knoll, CEO, World Trade Center of New Orleans
- **WTC Secretary:** Jerry Hingle, President & CEO, International Trade Associates
- **WTC Treasurer:** Tom Spiers, Chief Administrative Officer, Gulf South Eye Associates

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- David Fennelly, Director, Associated Terminals and Turn Services, LLC
- Gary LaGrange, President & CEO, Port of New Orleans
- Sakari Morrison, General Manager, Public Affairs, Gulf of Mexico, Chevron
- Marty Quist, Assistant General Counsel, Tidewater, Inc.
- Michael Olivier, CEO, Committee of 100 Louisiana
- Robbert Vorhoff, Director of Corporate Planning, Laitram, LLC
- Shelby Westfeldt Mills, Vice-President, Westfeldt Brothers Coffee
- Lizette Terral, President, New Orleans Region, JP Morgan Chase
- Charles Smith Jr., Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, S. Cubed Pacorini Logistics
- Scott Howard, President, New Orleans Region, Regions Bank
- Stephen Hanemann, Partner, Kean Miller, LLP
- Tom Cole, President, Republic National Distributing Company
- Paul Aucoin, Executive Director, Port of South Louisiana
- Jason French, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Cheniere Energy
- David Kearney (ex-officio), President, The Kearney Companies
- Corrado Giacona II (ex-officio), President and CEO, Giacona Container Company, Inc.

Board members also serving on a World Trade Center of New Orleans committee are Government Affairs Committee Co-Chair, Hon. Edward T. Hayes; Agriculture Committee Chair Jerry Hingle; Finance Committee Chair Tom Spiers; Legal Committee Chair Stephen Hanemann; International Business Committee Chair Michael Olivier; and Advisory Board Chair Corrado Giacona II.

Other committee Chairs and Vice Chairs include Transportation Chair Billy App, President, J.W. Allen & Co. and Vice Chair Rusty Barkerding, Jr., President, Admiral Security Services, Inc.; Energy Chair Eric Smith, Associate Director, Tulane University Energy Institute and Vice Chair Marjorie McKeithen, Partner, Jones Walker LLP; Agriculture Vice Chair Commissioner Mike Strain, Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, State of Louisiana; Government Affairs Co-Chair John Hyatt, Vice-President, The Irwin Brown Company; and International Business Vice Chair Larry Collins, Director of Business Development, Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

For more information, contact The World Trade Center of New Orleans at (504) 529-1601 or email info@wtcno.org.

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About the World Trade Center of New Orleans

The World Trade Center of New Orleans (WTCNO) is the strongest international business organization 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 2013, member organizations were able to significantly contribute to the state's record-breaking exports, the total value of which exceeded \$63.3 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. For more information, please visit www.wtcno.org.