

## Port of Los Angeles ADVANCED TRADE CONNECT Program on Exporting

### SERIES 301 – Legal Do’s and Don’ts – Speaker Biographies

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**Jim MacLellan, Director of Trade Development, Port of Los Angeles.** Mr. MacLellan is responsible for trade programs to encourage increased trade through the Port of Los Angeles and the Southern California Gateway, including Trade Connect programs to assist local businesses enter global export markets. Trade Connect was awarded the prestigious Presidential E Star Award on May 20, 2013, for service to the nation's export sector. Mr. MacLellan is also responsible for outreach to trade related associations. He has held this position since January 2007, and previously was Director of Marketing, at which time he directed marketing programs and coordinated activities of the Port's ten international offices. Prior to joining the Port of Los Angeles in 1992, he spent more than 20 years working internationally in the maritime and intermodal shipping business.



**Chris Campbell, Co-Moderator, Law Office of Chris Campbell, Long Beach, California.** Mr. Campbell is a solo practitioner admitted to practice in Maryland and California. His current focus is on civil litigation and civil appeals. He received his BA, MBA, and JD from the University of Maryland prior to relocating to California during early 2001. Chris is currently serving as the president of the Long Beach Bar Association. Over the past few years Chris has obtained multiple judgments in excess of \$1M. (*Massaji v. Rofeh*, (2009) LASC Case No. BS107044 [reversal on appeal of judgment setting aside arbitration award]; *Ahn v. Yao*, (2010) LASC Case No. BC 362109 [jury trial - - unfair business practices, constructive eviction]. Co-trial counsel, *Tellez v. Hilton* LASC Case No. SC101538 [June 2011, jury verdict in excess of \$4M - personal injury].) Prior to that, while an associate at the law firm of Geragos & Geragos, Chris drafted many motions in *People of the State of California v. Scott Lee Peterson* [death penalty case], and *People of the State of California v. Michael Joe Jackson* [child molestation case]. Chris drafted and argued in Los

Angeles Superior Court writs/receivers division an application to prevent publication of a book about the Peterson murder case authored by a former firm attorney.



**David M. Griffith, Co-Moderator, Law Office of David M. Griffith, Long Beach, California.** Mr. Griffith has thirty-four years' experience in counseling a broad cross section of Southern California public and private companies and their officers and directors in the areas of corporate and real estate transactions and litigation, including international business matters. He has served as general counsel to four public companies since 1994: Saba Petroleum (AMEX), MAI Systems Corporation (AMEX), Bridge Technology (NASDAQ) and Endologix, Inc. (NASDAQ). Mr. Griffith was educated at the College of William and Mary (J.D., 1980), where he was a Member of the *William and Mary Law Review*. He received his undergraduate education from Duke University (B.A., 1974), *cum laude*. Mr. Griffith is a member of the State Bar of California, the Los Angeles County (Chair, International Law Section) and Long Beach Bar Associations, and the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. He is the founder of the LegalPorts Conference which focuses on international export and import laws and Vice President of the Long Beach

– Qingdao Sister City Association (LBQA). He recently visited Qingdao, China on behalf of the LBQA for the opening ceremony of the 2014 International Horticultural Expo in conjunction with City and Port of Long Beach officials.

**Mauricio Leon de la Barra, Partner, Martin-Sanchez & Leon de la Barra, LLP, Los Angeles, California.** Mauricio Leon de la Barra is an attorney licensed to practice law in Mexico and California. He concentrates his practice in business and real estate transactions and litigation involving Mexico and US laws. Having practiced law in Mexico and California since 1997 at premier boutique and AmLaw 100 law firms in Mexico City Mexico and Los Angeles California, Mauricio has an unparalleled ability to understand and achieve the client's needs and goals, first-hand knowledge of complex legal matters involving varied deal and jurisdictional contexts, and an extended network of resources throughout Mexico and California. Mauricio is a graduate of the Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico City Mexico), where he obtained a degree in Law (*summa cum laude*) and a degree in Business Administration. In 2006, Mauricio obtained a Master of Law in Dispute Resolution degree from Pepperdine University School of Law, Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution, Malibu, California. He is an active member of the State Bar of California and the Los Angeles County Bar Association, where he has served as Chair of the International Law Section. In 2012, Mauricio was chosen for inclusion in the 2013 Southern California Rising Stars list, an honor reserved for those lawyers who exhibit excellence in practice.



**Paro Astourian, Law Office of Paro Astourian, Pasadena, California.** Mr. Astourian is licensed to practice in Beirut (Lebanon), California and Washington D.C. He has 18 years of experience in the international arena as a business lawyer and consultant. He is familiar with the French civil law legal system as well as other similar Middle Eastern jurisdictions. His practice focuses on international business law and litigation in state and federal courts, as well as before various governmental agencies. He has significant experience representing businesses and business people in negotiations, diverse types of transactions and disputes. He has represented small business owners as well as mid-size and larger businesses in all aspects of business related disputes and governmental investigations by various administrative agencies. He also provides regular counsel on a broad range of business law matters, both local and international, with a focus on the Middle East. He is fluent in French, Arabic and Armenian.



**Robert Lauson, Partner, Lauson & Tarver, LLP, El Segundo, California.** Mr. Lauson, an AV Preeminent® (4.9/5.0) rated attorney, also listed as among "Top Lawyers in California" by American Lawyer Media, 2013, concentrates his practice in intellectual property litigation, including patent, trademark and copyright infringement and defense actions, as well as representing clients at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, licensing and counseling in general as to intellectual property legal matters. He received his legal education at the Southwestern University School of Law, and has undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, B.S. Engineering (with honors), and M.S. Engineering. He is a member of the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association 1992 – present (Board of Directors 2002 – 2004); Los Angeles County Bar Association, South Bay Inns of Court (2004 – present), and the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce (2004 – present).



**Jeffrey Benz, President, BENZ ADR, Los Angeles, California.** Mr. Benz is a leading sports, entertainment, and technology lawyer and arbitrator and mediator, admitted to practice in the United States with a worldwide practice as a neutral, including in the UK and Europe. He is a former General Counsel of the United States Olympic Committee. He is a CEDR-accredited mediator and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and he is a principal mediator and arbitrator with the Agency for Dispute Resolution in Los Angeles. He is an active, appointed, member of several panels of arbitrators and mediators in the United States, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Switzerland, the U.K and internationally, including the American Arbitration Association, Hong Kong International Arbitration Commission, Beijing Arbitration Commission, ICC-USCIB, and Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Jeff is an active member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the London Court of International Arbitration, the American Bar Association, the Swiss Arbitration Association, and the Sports Lawyers Association. Jeff is also an adjunct law professor at Pepperdine University and Madrid-based ISDE. He studied at the University of Michigan and the University of Texas and is admitted to practice before the states courts in California, Colorado, Hawaii, and New York, and a variety of United States federal courts.



**Michael Baker, Law Office of Michael Baker.** Michael Baker has been practicing law in California since 1975 and has specialized in international trade law, international finance, and Customs law. He has had federal licenses as a United States Customhouse Broker and Foreign Freight Forwarder. He works with clients in China and Latin America establishing manufacturing facilities, liaisons and working business plans for companies. In 1991 he began teaching at UCLA. Since that time he has taught 11 different subject classes in international business and trade. He has also taught at the Graduate School of Business at CETYS University in Mexico teaching classes such as 'Legal Aspects of International Business' and 'International Markets.' He also currently lectures and is a trade consultant at the Center for International Trade Development (CITD) at Long Beach.