

Clayton Harris III, Executive Director, Illinois International Port District at the Port of Chicago



Clayton Harris III is the Executive Director for the Illinois International Port District at the Port of Chicago. In this role, Clayton and the Illinois International Port District are committed to developing and maintaining a world-class port that operates as a modern, strategically driven facility and is focused on generating and expanding economic activity and employment for the benefit of the City of Chicago and State of Illinois.

Clayton was formerly the Director of Government Affairs for the Midwest United States with CH2M HILL, a global engineering design/build consulting firm.

After earning his Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Technology and while working at the Pentagon in Combat Systems Engineering in the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization Clayton attended law school full time while continuing to work full time at the Federal Aviation Administration then at the United States Department of Agriculture as an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Specialist. Once he graduated from Howard University's School of Law he moved to Chicago to become a Cook County Assistant States' Attorney.

Subsequently, Clayton was tapped by Mayor Richard M. Daley to help work his legislative agenda in Springfield where he focused on crime, environment and labor. Then, in 2006 the State of Illinois tapped Clayton as chief of staff for the Illinois Department of Transportation where he led the billion-dollar reconstruction of the Dan Ryan and Kingery Expressways.

Clayton was once again wooed to come work in a larger capacity, this time the Governor's office called and placed him over all state infrastructure as the Deputy Chief of Staff where he oversaw and managed every capital agency in the state. While working in this capacity, Clayton stepped up during the state's most dire time and ultimately assumed the role and responsibilities as Chief of Staff for the entire state of Illinois and for fifty-one days kept the state afloat until the next Governor was transitioned into office.

Rob Russell, Assistant Vice President, Network & Industrial Development, Union Pacific Railroad



Rob Russell was appointed Assistant Vice President – Network, Economic & Industrial Development effective September 2016. In this role he is responsible for Industrial and Economic Development, Short Line Railroads and Ports, and UP Commercial and Interline Strategy.

Prior to Russell's appointment to Assistant Vice President – Network & Industrial Development, he was the General Director of UPDS Intermodal, a \$550 million Intermodal Marketing Company focused on the intermodal transportation of just in time parts for the production of automobiles throughout North America.

Russell began his career in 2002 in the Union Pacific Finance department. In addition to Finance, Russell also worked in the Operating Department's Crew Management group prior to joining Marketing and

Sales Intermodal group in 2005 where he held several positions including key assignments in strategy development, business development and domestic marketing and product development.

Russell holds a bachelors degree in civil engineering from Rutgers University and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University and is a graduate of Union Pacific's Leadership Development Program. He and his wife, Patty, reside in Omaha with their two boys.