



For Immediate Release:

Friday, March 27, 2026

Contact:

Darbi Keltner

217.827.9736

dkeltner@ilchamber.org

Jimmy Clayton Named President and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that Jimmy Clayton will become the new President and CEO of the Chamber on April 1, 2026. Clayton was selected by the Chamber's Search Committee and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

"The Illinois Chamber of Commerce has a rich history from 1919 of advocating for Illinois Business of every size, sector, and region," stated Dan Wagner, Chairman of the Board and Senior VP of Government Relations at The Inland Real Estate Companies. "Jimmy Clayton is exactly the right person for the CEO position," Wagner offered.

Clayton previously served for over 15 years in many advocacy and lobbying positions with the Illinois REALTORS. "Clayton's lobbying experience, reputation, coupled with his work ethic and innovative ideas while balancing attention to detail are qualities that the Chamber was looking for in our new CEO," stated Search Committee Chair Tony Reinhart, Ford Motor Company.

"I am honored to be joining the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and look forward to building our membership and rekindling the strong history of the Illinois Chamber's position and stature in service to Illinois businesses," Clayton said.

Clayton resides in Springfield with his wife and two young children.

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