

Speakers



Timo Rehbock, Partner, Chair European Practice Group, Supply Chain, Logistics and Transportation Co-Chair, Barnes & Thornburg

Timo is a seasoned legal adviser who focuses on domestic and international corporate and commercial matters. He brings over a decade of experience representing clients in complex cross-border transactions, mergers and acquisitions, private equity and venture capital investments, restructurings, financings and strategic alliances.

Fluent in English, German, French and Spanish, Timo is recognized for his ability to bridge cultural and business gaps, guiding multinational

companies through the intricacies of U.S. and international markets. His client portfolio spans various industries, including automotive, food processing, renewable energy, logistics, manufacturing and technology. He represents startups, middle-market enterprises and publicly traded companies, often serving as their primary legal counsel. As quantum technologies gain global traction, Timo also advises multinational companies and technology firms on cross-border investments, strategic alliances, and regulatory considerations for quantum-driven initiatives, particularly navigating international trade regulations and foreign direct investment restrictions.

Timo's deep understanding of global compliance, U.S. market entry strategies and commercial contract negotiations positions him as a trusted adviser to businesses expanding into the U.S. and beyond. He has successfully led both buy-side and sell-side teams on high-stakes transactions across Europe, Latin America and Asia, providing pragmatic, business-focused solutions tailored to his clients' needs.

Beyond his legal practice, Timo is a sought-after speaker on U.S. business law. He frequently presents at global forums, including chamber of commerce and U.S. Business Partners events, offering insights on corporate structuring, compliance, U.S. market entry and expansion strategies. His reputation for strategic thinking, emotional intelligence and problem-solving makes him highly valued in the business and legal communities.



Dennis Yen-Feng Lei, Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago

EDUCATION

- MA, Public Management, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore (2012)
- Fellow, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (2012)
- Diplomat Training Programme, Oxford University, England, UK (2000-2001)
- Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), Paris, France (1998)
- Diplomacy and International Law, National Chengchi University, Taipei, ROC (Taiwan) (1997-2000)

- BA, American and English Literature, National Central University, Taoyuan, ROC (Taiwan) (1994)

EXPERIENCE

- Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago (2023.7)
- Director, Visa Office, Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport, Bureau of Consular Affairs, MOFA (2022-2023)
- Assistant Director-General, Department of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, MOFA (2020-2022)
- Assistant Director-General, Department of International Organizations, MOFA (2020)
- Deputy Counselor, TECO in Australia (2017-2020)
- First Secretary, TECO in Australia (2014-2016)
- Secretary, Department of Policy Planning, MOFA (2013)
- Section Chief, the Third Division, Department of International Organizations, MOFA (2010-2012)
- Section Chief, Division of Special Task Forces, Department of International Organizations, MOFA (2010)
- Second Secretary on Home Assignment, Minister's Office, MOFA (2009-2010)
- Third and Second Secretary, Political Division, TECRO in Washington DC (2004-2009).
- Third Secretary, Consular Division, TECRO in Washington DC (2003-2004)
- Desk Officer, Department of International Organizations, MOFA (2001-2003)



Christy George. President and Chief Executive Officer, Illinois Economic Development Corporation

Illinois EDC is a public private partnership focused on global business development for the State of Illinois. She oversees all aspects of the organization, including marketing, sales, financing, and personnel. Most recently, Christy served as Executive Director of the Chicago 2024 Host Committee for the Democratic National Convention. In this role, she oversaw the Host Committee's successful fundraising and civic engagement efforts and served as the primary liaison between the

Democratic National Convention Committee, the City of Chicago, and the State of Illinois to create a world-class experience for all convention attendees and residents.

Before leading the Host Committee, she served as First Assistant Deputy Governor for Budget & Economy in Illinois Governor JB Pritzker's office. During her time in the Governor's Office, she spearheaded the state's business attraction and engagement efforts, led on workforce development priorities, crafted the Reimagining Energy & Vehicles (REV) Act, and oversaw the operations of multiple state agencies, boards, and commissions. Before joining the Governor's Office, George served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Commerce Commission and several roles at the City of Chicago including Deputy Budget Director for Public Safety, Assistant Commissioner at the Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection, and Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Department of Law.

Christy obtained her J.D. at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and her undergraduate

degree from Ohio Wesleyan University. A native Californian, she currently lives in the Beverly-Morgan Park neighborhood of Chicago with her husband and daughters.



Kristin Richards, Director, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

Kristin Richards oversees DCEO's mission to create a positive economic climate to attract job creators, support Illinois' skilled workforce, and bolster communities to provide opportunities for all Illinoisans.

As Director, Richards has partnered with the Office of the Governor and state legislature to pass sweeping enhancements to state incentives that support business attraction and development. She helps invest in programs that support Illinois' position as the #1 state for workforce in

the Midwest, and co-chairs the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board. Richards has grown DCEO's footprint during a period of unprecedented economic vitality for the State.

Richards has spent more than two decades in government where she has held various leadership roles in the executive and legislative branches. Richards is known for solving complex issues and working closely with stakeholders to forge strong coalitions.

Richards was raised in Belleville, IL and resides in Chicago.



Robert Karr, Partner, Barnes & Thornburg

Robert Karr is a partner in the Corporate and Government Services Departments and co-chair of the firm's Quantum Technology Industry (QTI) Group. He advises stakeholders across the quantum technology ecosystem on technology development, government funding, venture capital, compliance, commercialization, and strategic transactions, including joint ventures, partnerships, and mergers and acquisitions.

In 2025, in partnership with the Chicago Quantum Exchange, he led a team of attorneys and industry experts to create the Quantum Law Navigator — a first-of-its-kind resource that maps the U.S. policy, legal, and regulatory landscape shaping the quantum industry. The report provides clear, practical analysis of four cross-cutting challenges — national security, funding, workforce, and supply chain—to help organizations translate complex rules into actionable strategies.

In addition to his work in the quantum technology industry, Bob has deep experience representing manufacturers across sectors and through mergers and acquisitions, joint venture, financing, and strategic alliances. He regularly advises on matters involving real estate, construction, intellectual property, compliance and risk management, human resources, and government relations, bringing a practical, business-oriented approach to complex commercial objectives.



**Ming-Che Wang Ph.D., International Affairs Officer
Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), CEO
ITRI International Inc.**

Academic Background

- Ph.D. Biomedical Engineering, Rutgers University, Joint degree with UMDNJ- Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Jersey, USA, Ph.D.
- M.S. Materials Science, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA, M.S.
- B.S. Material Science and Engineering, National Tsing-Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, B.S.

Expertise

- Medical device research and development, project management, quality system, design control
- Novel medical devices clinical trials, regulatory pathway
- Government biotechnology project review and consultation

Work Experiences

- Deputy General Director, BDL, ITRI
- General Manager, NaviFUS Corporation
- Chief Operating Officer, Director of Regulatory Affairs, BDL, ITRI
- Director, Division of Medical Devices, Center for Drug Evaluation, Taiwan
- Senior Product Development Engineer, Integra LifeSciences Corp
- Assistant professor, National Tsing-Hua University
- Assistant professor, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University



Dr. Wan-Thai Hsu, Chief Technology Officer, Soundskrit

Dr. Wan-Thai Hsu is a semiconductor entrepreneur with 30 years of experience. He received a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and an MBA from the University of Michigan. Over the past 30 years, his work in micro-electro-mechanical system has been recognized globally, earning him prestigious awards, such as the *EE Times* ACE Innovator of the Year Award (2007), *Wall Street Journal* Innovation Award (2007), and IEEE CB Sawyer Award (2015). He has held key positions from startups to publicly traded companies, including CTO of Discera, CTO at Micrel (now Microchip), CTO of TXC, and Chairman of the Board at Stathera. He brought and chaired two major IEEE technical symposium in Taiwan in 2014 and 2024.

- Currently, Dr. Hsu is the Chief Technology Officer at Soundskrit, which aims to develop bio-inspired audio systems not only to capture sound with high quality, but also to

distinguish sound localization. Under his leadership in innovation, Soundskrit was named the top 100 startups to watch by *EE Times* in 2023 and 2024 consecutively. He often says, “the process of converting pure ideas to something that people can benefit from is exciting and rewarding.”



Dr. Brian DeMarco, Professor of Physics, University of Illinois-Champaign

Dr. Brian DeMarco is a professor of physics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His research group uses atoms and light to advance the frontier of quantum science and technology, including quantum computing and networking. Brian is the Director of the Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology center (IQUIST), which supports the expansive portfolio of quantum research at UIUC. He also leads one of the five National Science Foundation quantum leap challenge institutes created by the 2018 National Quantum Initiative Act. Brian has a commitment to service to the field and has served as chair of the American Physical Society policy committee. He has won several awards, including the NASA Group Achievement Award for visioning the next decade of the NASA quantum science space program. Most recently, Brian helped to launch the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park and now serves as the Chief Technology Officer.