

## Leadership Cabinet

Chairman of the Board

**Blake Christian**

Partner, Holthouse, Carlin & Van Trigt, LLP

Chair-Elect

**Lori Lofstrom**

Managing Shareholder, Holmes Lofstrom, PC

Immediate Past Chairman

**Matthew L. Kinley, esq.**

Partner, Tredway, Lumsdaine and Doyle LLP

Chief Financial Officer

**Pei Pei Wang**

Partner, Windes & McClaughry Accountancy Corp.

Vice Chair of Economic Development

**Jim Eaton**

President, Airdrome Precision Components

Vice Chair of Community Development

**Chris Wacker**

Senior Vice President, Laserfiche Document Imaging

Vice Chair of Membership

**LaDonna DiCamillo**

Director, Government Affairs, BNSF Railway

Vice Chair of Government & Public Affairs

**Joanne Davis**

Chief Financial Officer, Davis Group Consulting

At Large

**Doug Carpenter**

President, Paragon Steel

At Large

**Tom Good**

Director, Sales & Marketing, South West Region,

Matson Navigation Company, Inc.

Legal Counsel

**Robert Stemler\***

Partner, Keesal, Young & Logan

President & CEO

**Randy Gordon**

Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

## Chairman's Message

# Portion of Stimulus Package Finds Way to Long Beach for Job Training and Placement

**Blake Christian**  
Partner, Holthouse  
Carlin & Van Trigt LLP



With the California unemployment rate over 9.3%, and the national rate climbing above 7.6%, it is no surprise that home foreclosures have skyrocketed and sales have plummeted. Even profitable companies have announced layoffs.

Okay—enough of the bad news. On the positive side, the 2009 federal Stimulus Package is projected to allocate nearly \$80 billion to the state and a reasonable portion should find its way to the greater Long Beach region. This will hopefully give Long Beach businesses, residents and area workers a much-needed shot in the arm.

The large number of unemployed or under-employed in Long Beach, combined with very beneficial state and federal hiring tax programs in our region offers local employers ways to reduce their labor costs by up to 50% on many employees they hire. These credits come in the form of the California Enterprise Zone Credits of up to \$6 per hour (over \$12,000/ yr), the new California \$3,000 small business hiring credit, the recently expanded \$2,400 to \$4,800 federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and the \$8,400 Welfare-to-Work credit. These credits have an immediate and lasting effect on employers, the employees and the community.

In addition to the federal Stimulus funds getting allocated to city hall, peripheral project funding in the local ports are expected in the coming years.

One of the more immediate and impactful positives from the federal Stimulus Package is a projected \$5.4 million infusion into the Long Beach based Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network (WIN). These funds are directed primarily at job training and place-

“This pool of ready, willing and able workers is perfect for these tough economic times when businesses are running lean and mean but often need additional short-term and long-term resources...”

ment of local youth, as well as adult workers dislocated by the current economic downturn.

The WIN expects these funds to be allocated within the next month and are already preparing a variety of programs to ensure a very positive impact on our region.

The Chamber is partnering with WIN to promote the “Hire-a-Youth” program whereby local businesses assist with stimulating the local job market by hiring high school students for temporary or longer term assignments.

These students are carefully screened and categorized by skill set, familiarity with software applications and other criteria so they can be matched with the appropriate employer.

This pool of ready, willing and able workers is perfect for these tough economic times when businesses are running lean and mean but often need additional short-term and long-term resources to handle administrative, marketing and other operational tasks.

These WIN employees are generally available to work reasonably flexible hours after school, including weekends during the school year and can work full time during the summer and various holiday periods.

In addition to a large number of high school and college students available through the WIN programs, our region has provided the largest concentration of armed services personnel and reservists, meaning we will have the largest number of returning veterans.

These veterans deserve a break, and a good job is the perfect way to provide them an opportunity to thrive. Employers hiring these veterans will often be eligible for both federal and California hiring tax credits. The federal WOTC credit was liberalized as part of the Stimulus package and any veteran discharged in the last 48 months and who received at least 4 weeks of unemployment insurance, or who received food stamps and has a service-related physical or mental disability will generate a \$2,400 to \$4,800 federal WOTC credit.

By hiring locally and accessing these tax programs, Long Beach businesses can generate a material and sustained economic rebound for our region.

More information on these programs can be obtained at [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov), and [www.edd.ca.gov/jobs\\_and\\_training/Work\\_Opportunity\\_Tax\\_Credit](http://www.edd.ca.gov/jobs_and_training/Work_Opportunity_Tax_Credit).