



## Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

For Immediate Release  
06/18/2003

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### **Ross Harano Announced As New Director Of Illinois Trade Office**

*Brings 30 Years Of Experience To Trade Office*

CHICAGO – Today, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich and DCEO Director Jack Lavin announced the appointment of Ross M. Harano as Managing Director of the Illinois Trade Office, within DCEO. Harano brings to the position more than 30 years of experience assisting private and public organizations with public policy, management and finance.

Harano joins DCEO from the World Trade Center Chicago Association, where he served as president. During his tenure, he was responsible for turning around the struggling organization into a thriving international resource for Illinois companies. Prior to the World Trade Center, Harano served the Office of the Attorney General of Illinois under Neil Hartigan as Equal Opportunity Officer, Director of Advisory Councils and Chief of the Crime Victims Division.

"Ross brings a wealth of experience to the Illinois Trade Office," said Governor Blagojevich. "He will provide new ideas, vision and insight as we look for new ways to increase opportunities for Illinois businesses in the global arena."

Harano will manage the Chicago and Springfield Illinois Trade Offices, as well as the eight State of Illinois international offices. In addition, he will be responsible for working with the business community to increase global awareness.

"Business growth and job creation is about access to markets, especially international markets," said Lavin. "Under Ross' guidance, the Trade Office will work proactively with businesses to assist them in accessing these markets to grow Illinois industries."

Harano was the first Asian American to be appointed as an Illinois Elector for the Electoral College and he was the first Asian American to be slated to run for statewide office in Illinois in 1994.

Harano earned his B.S. in Finance from the University of Illinois and studied Sociology at DePaul University's Graduate School of Sociology. He resides in Chicago with his wife Elizabeth.

[<-- Back to Index](#)

[<-- Close Window](#)