

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

September 2, 2024

The *Illinois International Business Calendar* is published by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC). The *Calendar* is also available on our website: www.itagc.org. It is published every Friday, and available at no charge.

Inclusion Policy: As a public service to the international business community, we publish a listing of **international business events** for which we receive **written** notification, preferably by e-mail (info@itagc.org). Any organization may submit events that would be of interest to **and are open to** the Illinois international business community. There is no charge. All calendar listings are subject to the editor's discretion. Inclusion of an event does not imply endorsement by any of the sponsoring organizations.

Founded in 1978, the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)6 voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms. The ITA/GC provides a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. Members share interests in import and export matters, in international investment, alliance, and licensing opportunities, and – in the broader sense – doing business across the world.

The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

New events, and events with additional/revised information, are indicated in Green.

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAMS

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

- Sep. 25 - **PRACTICAL FORUM ON ADVANCED EAR COMPLIANCE.** Conference sponsored by the American Conference Institute (ACI) in partnership with the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** (ITA/GC). The program will delve into the “how to” aspects of strengthening your program and mitigation intensifying enforcement risks amid the Russia/Ukraine war, China trade and technology tensions, increased cyber risk, and general geopolitical unsteadiness. Confirmed speakers from BIS, Dept. of Treasury, Dept. of Commerce and more. 9:00 a.m., Hilton Chicago Magnificent Mile Suites, 198 East Delaware Place, Chicago. Fee: \$2,195 - \$2,495. Contact the ITA/GC to save 10% on registration. For information and registration, please see: <https://bit.ly/3yUI6J2>.
- Oct. 18 **GLOBAL SUCCESS WITHIN REACH: THE BIGGER PICTURE.** 9th Annual Global Small Business Forum sponsored by Foley & Lardner & Associated Bank and with partnership support from the: **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**; GlobeTrade; Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global; and others. Speakers include: **Laurel Delaney**, President, GlobeTrade.com; **Lori Novak**, VP, Foreign Exchange, Associated Bank; **Ellen Wheeler**, Partner, Foley & Lardner; **Marc Schulman**, President, Eli's Cheesecake; **Donald J. Lloyd**, Senior Vice President & Manager, Capital Markets – Foreign Exchange, Rate Swaps and Commodity Derivatives, Associated Bank; **Angie Kappel**, VP, Foreign Exchange, Capital Markets, Associated Bank; **Adam Wisniewski**, Founder & CEO, EX3 Labs; **Kirk Samson**, Global Business Consultant & Founder, Samson Atlantic LLC; **Yvette Laugier**, Chairman Emeritus, International Housewares Association Board of Directors; **Amy Mills**, Owner, 17th Street Bar Barbeque; **Tami Lange**, Founder, Save The Girls; **Diamond Young**, Assistant VP, Foreign Exchange, Capital Markets, Associated Bank; **Rajiv Khatau**, Founder and Managing Director, LODAAT Pharma. 8:00 – 11:30 a.m., Foley & Lardner, 321 North Clark Street, 30th Floor, Chicago. Fee: \$75; \$600 – ticket & vendor table. For information & registration, please see: <https://globalsmallbusinessforum.com/>.

Of Note:

Recent Developments in International Transport and Insurance Costs: Observed data on merchandise imports with both CIF and FOB valuations remains limited. As of today, only around 30 economies make this information available with the required level of product and partner detail. The OECD has been working to fill this data gap since 2016, when the first edition of the [International Transport and Insurance Costs](#) of merchandise trade (ITIC) database was released. The ITIC database provides detailed information on CIF/FOB margins, interpreted as the proportion of the CIF value of imports that corresponds to international transport and insurance costs.

EXIM Country Limitation Schedule Updated: Effective August 22, the updated CLS is available [here](#).

Transport Strikes...Everywhere: In addition to the Canadian rail strike (August 22nd at 12:01 a.m.), ports in India and Australia are bracing for [disruptions](#) due to impending port strikes. Dockworkers across 12 of India's largest ports have declared an indefinite strike beginning on August 28th. Additionally, there is the prospect of a strike at Western Australia's largest container and cargo port, Fremantle. The strike is currently scheduled to run for 48 hours next week.

China Diversification Framework Report: A recent [report](#) commissioned by The Business Roundtable finds that diversification of production away from China, which the U.S. and other countries have been promoting in recent years as a way to lower supply chain and national security risks, has been limited so far. About a quarter of U.S. and European Union firms are considering or actively moving parts of their manufacturing and sourcing activities out of China, a wide majority are deciding how to reduce supply chain risks from overreliance on China, and China has seen a decreasing share of U.S. imports and foreign direct investment over the past seven years.

State of Illinois 2024 Governor's Export Awards: The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity's Office of Trade and Investment is accepting applications for the Governor's 2024 Export Awards through **August 31**. Illinois companies that achieved excellence in exporting and organizations that provided outstanding export assistance to Illinois businesses are encouraged to [apply](#).

CS Fellowship Program for Graduate Students Announced: The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (USFCS) Pilot [Fellowship Program](#) provides an opportunity for Master's degree students in the fields of International Affairs, International Relations, International Studies, Economics, Business, Trade, Public Administration, or Public Policy, to increase their level of knowledge and awareness of the Foreign Commercial Service (FCS) and its vital role in promoting American exports and facilitating trade and commerce around the world. Individuals who are U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals and are in the first year of an eligible Master's degree program, or will complete their first year in the spring or summer of 2024, at a U.S. accredited institution, may apply.

WTO Issues 2024 Annual Report: The WTO has just published its [2024 Annual Report](#), providing a comprehensive account of the organization's activities in 2023 and the early part of 2024. The Report looks back at key events over the past year, such as the 13th Ministerial Conference, and describes the WTO's work in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing world trade.

2025 Customs User Fees Adjusted: The Customs User Fees for Fiscal Year 2025 have been adjusted, effective October 1st. These adjustments are in accordance with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) as implemented by CBP regulations. The merchandise processing fee ad valorem rate remains at 0.3464 percent. The new fee structure is as follows: Informal Entry Merchandise Processing Fee is \$2.62, Minimum Merchandise Processing Fee is \$32.71, and Maximum Merchandise Processing Fee is \$634.62. For further information, please see the [Federal Register website](#).

WTO Launches New Interactive Tool: On July 31 the WTO issued "[World Trade Statistics 2023](#)," a new interactive tool presenting key data and trends for international merchandise and commercial services trade in 2023. The digital platform allows users to view the latest trends in world trade, in terms of both value and volume, using filters to display the data by economy, region, selected grouping, product group and services sector.

WTO Issues New Edition of World Tariff Profiles: The WTO has issued the 2024 edition of [World Tariff Profiles](#), a joint publication of the WTO, International Trade Centre (ITC) and UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The publication provides comprehensive information on the tariffs and non-tariff measures imposed by over 170 countries and customs territories. Summary tables, providing data by country/territory, list the average "bound" or maximum tariffs each economy can apply to its imports from other WTO members as well as the average tariffs actually applied. Tariffs are listed for both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

Selecting Master’s Program in International Business and Trade: The Hinrich Foundation has launched the [Hinrich Foundation Guide to Master’s in International Business and Trade](#). Backed by insights from senior academics and trade professionals, the guide aims to help prospective students in selecting the ideal master’s program to achieve their career aspirations in trade. It highlights the benefits of master's studies and a career in trade, criteria for high-quality programs, key questions for program selection, marquee master's programs, and career options in global trade.

EXIM Bank Resource: North America Exporting Guide: Exporting opportunities with neighboring countries to the north and south, Canada and Mexico, present promising avenues for U.S. companies to expand their market reach. Leveraging these exporting opportunities with neighboring countries can lead to increased revenue, market diversification, and long-term business growth. This [Guide](#) provides market research, industry opportunities and sales strategies for exporter to Canada & Mexico.

Export-Import Bank of the United States Releases 2023 Competitiveness Report: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) released the annual [Report to the U.S. Congress on Global Export Credit Competition](#) for calendar year 2023, also known as the EXIM Competitiveness Report. This year’s report focuses on the increased support of export credit agency (ECA) activity globally and their expanded roles in global finance.

State of Illinois Celebrates Record-Breaking Export Sales for 2023 and Launches Governor’s Export Awards Application: Illinois continues to lead the Midwest as the top exporting state and fifth in the nation, Governor Pritzker’s office [announced](#) on June 18. Since 2019, Illinois exports have increased by 32%. Mexico, Illinois’ second top export market, was the single greatest contributor to growth, with export sales exceeding 12% growth since 2022 and 39% since 2019. To honor Illinois businesses that contributed to this success, DCEO’s Office of Trade and Investment (OTI) is accepting applications for the Governor’s 2024 Export Awards from June 1 through August 31. Illinois companies that achieved excellence in exporting and organizations that provided outstanding export assistance to Illinois businesses are encouraged to [apply](#).

Global Manufacturing Could See Strong 2025 – 2028: Although the global manufacturing economy is on track for “sluggish” growth of just an 0.6% annual expansion in 2024, that picture is forecast to brighten considerably in 2025, according to a [report](#) from the industrial automation research firm Interact Analysis. Manufacturing output is expected to recover in 2025 and maintain a steady rate through to 2028, despite seeing a slight dip in the growth rate in 2026, the firm said in its latest Manufacturing Industry Output Tracker (MIO). While most territories see optimistic signs of future growth, the global measure of manufacturing production could be hindered by a stuttering economy in China. The report includes a slight downward revision for China compared with the previous edition; from 2.8% to 2.4%.

Hearing on USMCA Automotive Rules of Origin: The U.S. International Trade Commission has scheduled an **October 8th** public hearing for [USMCA Automotive Rules of Origin: Economic Impact and Operations, 2025 Report](#). The deadline for filing requests to appear at the public hearing is **September 24th**.

Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade: In response to growing demand for coherent and comparable data on digital trade, the OECD, WTO and IMF produced the first edition of the Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade in 2019. The Handbook formalized for the first time a statistical definition of digital trade which focuses on the nature of the transaction: “digital trade is all international trade that is digitally ordered and/or digitally delivered.” Building on the first edition, the IMF, OECD, UNCTAD and WTO have produced a second edition of the [Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade](#), published in 2023 which provides clarifications on the concepts and definitions related to digital trade, and to the guidelines on how to operationalize them.

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Sep. 3 ***HOW TO WRITE AN EFFECTIVE EXPORT PLAN.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will describe all the aspects that go into an export plan and how to put them together for success in foreign markets. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/8jwa86v>.

Sep. 3 ***IDENTIFYING EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES WITH ITC MARKET ANALYSIS TOOLS.*** Webinar sponsored by the Organization of Women in International Trade International. ITC experts will demonstrate how three flagship tools – Trade Map, Export Potential Map and Market Access Map – can be used to identify promising export markets. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://owit.org/events/itcmarketanalysisistools/?occurrence=2024-09-03>.

- Sep. 4 ***LET'S TALK LOGISTICS: U.S. INSIGHTS ON GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS WITH HONG KONG.*** Panel discussion sponsored by Loyola University Chicago's Supply Chain & Sustainability Center, Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, and Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Key topics: *The strategic importance of Hong Kong in the global logistics network; Innovations in logistics and supply chain management; How to leverage Hong Kong's infrastructure and services for business growth; Future outlook and emerging trends in logistics.* 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Loyola Schreiber Center, 16 East Pearson Street, 10th Floor, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.luc.edu/supplychaincenter/events/upcomingevents/letstalklogistics/>.
- Sep. 5 - ***GLOBAL WOMEN IN FINANCE LEADING SUMMIT.*** Organized by the Africa Global Chamber of Commerce in partnership with The Career Mompreneur Financial Coaching, this is a high-level finance and entrepreneurship conference and exhibition. The purpose of the Summit is to bring together Women in Finance and global women Leaders to provide their insights on financial empowerment and share their personal and professional experiences to overcome corporate barriers and break the glass ceiling. Hyatt Place Chicago Hotel, 1835 West Harrison Avenue, Chicago. Fees vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://app.glueup.com/en/event/103468/invitation/295818>.
- Sep. 5 ***EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: BEAUTY AND PERSONAL CARE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will describe opportunities in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Jordan & Israel. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk25IF8vMbP3gMYNVHhYUAIHt49h86_cJE9UNVdKVERSVkRWNTQ5MFJYM1MxVIFLRkZQSi4u.
- Sep. 5 ***EXPORT TO SINGAPORE DUTY-FREE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss the opportunities for doing business in Singapore and how to use the Free Trade Agreement. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/gkfex7d>.
- Sep. 5 ***FORCED LABOR IN NORTH AMERICAN SUPPLY CHAINS: WHAT'S NEW?*** Webinar sponsored by Content Enablers. A panel of experts will discuss: *An overview of legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to forced labor in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico; Identification of the main similarities and differences between U.S., Canadian, and Mexican forced labor practices; Due diligence resources and strategies; Forced labor challenges; New developments in U.S., Canadian, and Mexican forced labor practices; Forced labor best practices.* 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$185. For information & registration, please see: <https://contentenablers.com/live-events/webinars/forced-labor-in-north-american-supply-chains-whats-new/>.
- Sep. 6 ***EXPORTING TO KOREA DUTY-FREE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will outline the benefits of the KORUS FTA and how they can help increase your international sales, including qualification and documentary requirements. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/c7hfr3v>.
- Sep. 9 - ***U.S. CHAMBER GREEN 3.0 BUSINESS DELEGATION TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.***
11 U.S. Department of Commerce Certified Trade Mission organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will leverage the Chamber's strong track record of convening U.S. business leaders with top Emirati and U.S. government officials to organize conversations focused on project and investment opportunities for clean energy and sustainable technologies in the UAE. The Business Delegation will have one day of programming and meetings in Abu Dhabi and another day of programming and meetings in Dubai with business networking and optional cultural engagements in each city. For information & registration, please see: https://events.uschamber.com/GreenTechDelegation3_UAE_September2024.

- Sep. 9 **NEW INCOTERMS 2020**. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics of Incoterms including the most recent updates from 2020. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/wxq874z>.
- Sep. 10 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE**. Webinar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, will address: *Japanese communication style; Why Japanese tend to be vague/indirect – how to interpret what they mean; Why Japanese don't give a lot of feedback; Overcoming the language barrier; How to confirm whether you've been understood correctly; How decisions are made in Japanese organizations; Why Japanese avoid risk; How to get your ideas accepted by a Japanese organization; How to make meetings with Japanese more effective; How to build strong working relationships with Japanese; How to behave appropriately at meals and other social situations; What to keep in mind if you travel to Japan for business; What most bothers Japanese about the Americans they work with.* 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-2138634025?resp=on&err=e803>.
- Sep. 10 **VALUE**. Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will discuss different value calculation methods, related-party transactions, and how to document your work so that you're prepared for any questions that might arise. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/value/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=USCS%20Collab%20-%20July%202024&utm_content=USCS%20Collab%20-%20July%202024+CID_dd7dbe418357c341b50a1d84d1bb2913&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20more%20register,
- Sep. 10 **THE IMPACT OF SECTION 301 TARIFFS IN 2024**. Webinar sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Presentation by **Jamie Shookman**, Senior Counsel, Husch Blackwell who will discuss the Section 301 updates and their impact on international trade. 9:00 a.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-5830049/Registration>.
- Sep. 10 **SECURING YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN: MODERN DAY PIRACY**. Luncheon program sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association. Industry experts will provide critical insights into issues like cargo theft, piracy, vendor vetting, and global unrest and provide valuable tools for combatting these challenges. Speakers include: **Sarah Azar**, Executive VP, M.E. Dey; **Bekaah Boettcher**, Director of Global Logistics, Trek Bicycles; **Jen Pino-Gallagher**, Director of Food & Agribusiness Practice, M3 Insurance. 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., M3 Insurance, 828 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI. MITA Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitatrade.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/DgFOx3Nu1CQCW>.
- Sep. 10 **GLOBAL BUSINESS IDENTIFIER**. Webinar, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, Inc., will provide importers a comprehensive overview of the GBI Test and its benefits to the trade community. Speakers include: **Garrett Wright**, Director of Trade Modernization at U.S. Customs and Border Protection; **Junichi Gondai**, Management and Program Analyst (GBI Test Program Lead), CBP; **Caroline Foard**, Management and Program Analyst, CBP. Representatives from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), GS1 U.S., and the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) will also provide demonstrations on how to obtain an identifier and data management tools. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://info.anderinger.com/globalbusinessidentifier?utm_campaign=Webinars&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--UqASrLkSx43z40ddhNno55BlvtMzD8oJPVDVdz5oAV47BQTng7ECKu6XxPraG80NsAtimLxcivNrNFTSqRcOmdv8n8Q&hsmi=322295631&utm_content=322295631&utm_source=hs_email.

- Sep. 10 **10TH ANNUAL CANADA-CHICAGO MENTORING PROGRAM (C2MP) FINAL PITCH DAY.** Event sponsored by PointB, MATTER, and the Consulate General of Canada in Chicago. Over the past six months, four strategically selected Canadian startups were matched with a cohort of PointB mentors to help them refine their business development strategy for the U.S. market. During this in-person closing event, four featured startups – FemTherapeutics, Neuraura, PragmaClin and Strata Health – will present their final pitches and share what they’ve learned over the past six months. After each pitch, audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions. 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., 222 West Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 6-180, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-annual-canada-chicago-mentoring-program-c2mp-final-pitch-day-registration-952853669977>.
- Sep. 11 **HOW TO BUILD A SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL BUSINESS AROUND SUSTAINABLE FASHION PRINCIPLES.** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Alina Lundin**, CEO and Founder, Miharo who will discuss: *Understanding Sustainable Fashion Principles; Building a Sustainable Supply Chain; Navigating Challenges in Ethical Manufacturing; Marketing and Selling Sustainable Products Globally; Impact of Sustainable Practices on Brand Reputation and Growth*. 1:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5890527333777457497?mc_cid=3f9d2e0a15&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Sep. 11 **DEAL MAKING IN THE GLOBAL MARKET.** Private Equity Forum and Luncheon program sponsored by the Association for Corporate Growth Chicago. A panel of middle market leaders will discuss how current global issues are impacting the broader M&A ecosystem. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 110 North Wacker Drive, East Ballroom, 3rd Floor, Chicago. ACG Members - \$100; Non-members - \$125. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/1124bf56-094a-4a24-9907-654504759d89/summary?rp=7b6ccf90-2725-425f-ae17-40a750cd58fa>.
- Sep. 11 **UNDERSTANDING THE U.S. EXPORT FILING.** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will help exporters feel more comfortable with the U.S. export filing process and understand when and how to make a disclosure when inaccurate data is found. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/understanding-the-u-s-export-filing>.
- Sep. 11 **SELLING HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS ON COUPANG.** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and Coupang, South Korea’s e-Commerce marketplace. Hear experts discuss how you can take advantage of this exciting opportunity to access South Korea’s dynamic consumer goods market. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AsiaTeamCOUPANGWebinar-HealthSupplements-9884-1717/>.
- Sep. 12 - 13 **TRADE IN THE LANDSCAPE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND VOLATILE GEOPOLITICS.** 23rd Annual U.S.-China Trade Conference sponsored by the U.S.-China Chamber of Commerce. The event will feature over 20 executives from both the U.S. and Asia, who will discuss various issues in managing their businesses to stay competitive globally. Topics include: *U.S.-China Relations Outlook and Its Impacts on Business; How U.S. Companies Manage Global Operations in the New Era of Technologies and Uncertain U.S.-China Relations; Outsourcing, Resourcing, or Insourcing: Where to Find the Next Low-Cost Producers Close to the Markets; Sustainability and Environment without Compromising Growth and Profitability; Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Global Trade and Logistics; Navigating the Change in Import Tariffs and Compliance; U.S.-China Relations and Its Impacts on Talent Development; Managing Foreign Exchange in the Era of a Stringent Legal Environment; Why and How to Protect Intellectual Property in U.S.-China Trade*. 8:00 a.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. USCCC Members - \$445; Non-members - \$545; Discounts available. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.usccc.org/>.

- Sep. 12 **PRIOR DISCLOSURES.** Webinar sponsored by Braumiller Law Group. Topics covered include: What is a prior disclosure (PD)?; Do you have to do PD?; What if you don't do a PD?; Alternatives to a PD; Contents of a PD; Paying the amount owed. 11:30 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.bigmarker.com/braumiller-law-group-llc/Prior-Disclosures>.
- Sep. 12 **INCOTERMS RULES EXPLANATION, REVIEW AND GUIDANCE FOR GLOBAL LOGISTICS, PROCUREMENT.** Webinar, sponsored by The World Academy, will provide clarification for global trading professionals on best and world class management decisions regarding proper use of Incoterms. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$95. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/product-page/incoterms-rules-explanation-review-and-guidance-for-global-logistics-procureme>.
- Sep. 12 **COUNTRY OF ORIGIN RULES FOR STRATEGIC IMPORTERS.** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will provide an overview of the rules to determine the correct country of origin and marking for non-preferential purposes; also, it will address ways that importers have used origin rules to assess possible strategies to legally reduce or avoid tariffs by changing or shifting portions of the production process to impact the origin of the product. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/country-of-origin-rules-for-strategic-importers>.
- Sep. 12 **2024 MIDWEST BUSINESS CONFERENCE.** Event, sponsored by the Women's Business Development Center, includes an International Trade Resource Hub with representatives from: Illinois District Export Council; Illinois Office of Trade & Investment; U.S. SBA Office of International Trade & Export Finance Programs; U.S. Commercial Service. 2:00 – 6:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency O'Hare. Fee: \$300. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wbdc.org/en/2024-midwest-business-conference/>.
- Sep. 12 **OPERATING IN U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics including how FTZs work, and the benefits and rules for operating in an FTZ, helping your company evaluate the costs and benefits. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6p8fkyy>.
- Sep. 16 **THE U.S.-COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will explain the details of the agreement and how you can take advantage of these opportunities. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6r5n37b>.
- Sep. 17 **EXPORTING & IMPORTING FIREARMS: THE LATEST & GREATEST RULES.** Virtual program sponsored by Partnerships International. Speakers from the Bureau of Industry & Security include: **Steven Clagett**, Director, Nuclear and Missile Technology; **Timothy Mooney**, Senior Export Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division; **Logan Norton**, Export Policy Analyst. Speakers from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives include: **Max Kingery**, Chief, Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch, and **Deanna L. Fetterolf**, Specialist, Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.partneringforcompliance.org/pfcfirearms24.pdf/>
- Sep. 17 **BEYOND INCOTERMS – CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR CARRIAGE.** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association with Braumiller Law Group, will outline the various terms and conditions that need to be considered when signing a contract with a carrier. We will use real terms and conditions and analyze each contract section in detail. We will also point out the wide variety of possible Terms and Conditions available for various types of situations. 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. ICPA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/1a71cc1e-9d22-4009-8091-4596fb6b4033/summary>.

- Sep. 17 ***WHAT EXPORTERS NEED TO IMPLEMENT TRADE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Virginia/DC District Export Council and Morgan Lewis, will look at key agencies and departments, as well as necessary export documentation; a case study will underpin the importance of a company's knowledge-based exporting regime. 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/b07d9fae-6fe9-4c73-83a8-3d94513c8f3e/summary?session=e7c34b76-f347-487f-b7ca-30b36d350933>.
- Sep. 18 ***BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features U.S. Government and private sector experts addressing topics of interest to both new and seasoned export professionals. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/CaribbeanRegionWebinarSeries/>.
- Sep. 18 ***CPTPP FOR APPAREL & ACCESSORIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review the requirements and opportunities for textiles, apparel, footwear, hats, leather goods and travel goods (including bags) traded between CPTPP countries (11 Asia-Pacific countries, including Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand). 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/cptpp-for-apparel-accessories>.
- Sep. 19 ***DUTIES AND TAXES: THE FULL LANDED COST.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will show you how to figure out the HS Codes for your products and will provide resources for calculating the duties, taxes, and other fees that might apply to your international shipment. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/jp7jfc2>.
- Sep. 19 ***U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES MARKET INTELLIGENCE SERIES: BRAZIL.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the environmental technology market in Brazil. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/MarketSpotlightBrazil-9884-1723066050/>.
- Sep. 20 ***EXPORTING TO BRAZIL.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the opportunities and challenges that companies may face in Brazil and will include strategies for entering the market. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/4jhuqv2>.
- Sep. 22 - ***TAIWAN UNCREWED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) AND COUNTER-UAS (C-UAS) BUSINESS***
25 ***DEVELOPMENT MISSION.*** Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the objective of this mission is to advance U.S. national interests and focus on meeting Taiwan market demand for U.S. UAS and C-UAS commercial and defense solutions. Participating U.S. firms will explore market development opportunities, gain market insights, make industry contacts, solidify business strategies, and advance specific projects with the goal of increasing U.S. exports and services in the aerospace and defense sectors. For information & an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/aerospace-defense-trade-mission-taiwan>.
- Sep. 23 - ***EXPORTING HOME LATIN AMERICA VIRTUAL CONNECTION PROGRAM.*** Sponsored by the U.S.
26 Commercial Service, this program will enable the Hispanic diaspora business community in the United States to schedule a week's worth of meetings with potential partners across Latin America targeting best prospect industries in these markets. Quickly build a network of reliable contacts throughout the region as this program: Leverages the leadership of the U.S. Hispanic Diaspora, utilizing cultural, linguistic, and business ties to do business in Latin America; Engage in a week's worth of 40-minute one-on-one meetings with pre-screened, in-country potential buyers and distributors from across the Latin American region; Engage with U.S. Commercial Service and Minority Business Development Agency representatives from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Fee: \$350. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/ExportingHomeVCPLatam/>.

- Sep. 23 ***DOING BUSINESS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will share insights into the organization’s demand for goods and services and will explain how to get started with UN procurement, give tips for winning UN tenders, and provide resources for support. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/edvqzx6>.
- Sep. 24 ***THE HARMONIZED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR EXPORTERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will teach you: The structure of the Harmonized System at the international and country specific levels; How to navigate and search the HTS classification database; The governing principles, The General Rules of Interpretation (GRI), used to classify goods; Real-world examples of applying the GRIs to common exported products. 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/TheHarmonizedClassificationSystemforExports-9884-1/>.
- Sep. 25 - ***AEROMEDICAL TRADE MISSION TO BRAZIL.*** Organized and led by the U.S. Department of
27 Commerce, the goal of the Mission is to introduce U.S. suppliers to the growing aeromedical sector in Brazil, strengthen existing connections between aeromedical suppliers and their Brazilian clients, develop new connections for U.S. companies in the sector, and increase the capacity of Brazilian aeromedical operators, which will lead to additional opportunities for U.S. companies’ exports. The trade mission will connect U.S. companies directly with the public sector (federal police, fire departments, and the defense secretariat) and private sector (aeromedical operators/outfitters, maintenance repair and overhaul companies and local business representatives) to sell goods and services in the identified subsectors of aircraft and helicopter sales, medical equipment needed for conversions of existing aircraft, flight simulators, and training for pilots, doctors, and nurse crews in aircraft. For information and an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/aeromedical-trade-mission-brazil-2024>.
- Sep. 25 - ***PRACTICAL FORUM ON ADVANCED EAR COMPLIANCE.*** Conference sponsored by the American
26 Conference Institute (ACI) in partnership with the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC)**. The program will delve into the “how to” aspects of strengthening your program and mitigation intensifying enforcement risks amid the Russia/Ukraine war, China trade and technology tensions, increased cyber risk, and general geopolitical unsteadiness. Confirmed speakers from BIS, Dept. of Treasury, Dept. of Commerce and more. 9:00 a.m., Hilton Chicago Magnificent Mile Suites, 198 East Delaware Place, Chicago. Fee: \$2,195 - \$2,495. Contact the ITA/GC to save 10% on registration. For information and registration, please see: <https://bit.ly/3yUI6J2>.
- Sep. 26 ***FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS: RULES OF ORIGIN & CERTIFICATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will help you: Learn how Rules of Origin in all FTAs have shared concepts, definitions, and formulas; Understand the central role of HS classification numbers; Apply different qualification methods; Gain a solid understanding of how Rules of Origin operate and how qualification for one might lead to qualification for many; Leave the session with a level of increased confidence and a toolkit of online resources. 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/FreeTradeAgreementsROO/>.
- Sep. 26 ***EXPORT CONTROLS & COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover export controls from the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and State, including Export Administration Regulations, ITAR, and Trade Sanctions. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/tpnepm5>.

- Sep. 27 - **2024 WITA ACADEMY VIRTUAL INTENSIVE TRADE SEMINAR.** Online series of four events, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association in partnership with the Institute for International Economic Policy at George Washington University, is geared toward individuals who want to learn how trade policy is made in Washington, DC. Over three days, speakers help attendees increase their professional knowledge by learning the nuts and bolts of trade policy directly from career trade policy professionals from across government, industry, and law. Series schedule: Sep. 27 – 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT; 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Sep. 30 – 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Oct. 1 – 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. WITA Members - \$200; Non-members - \$300. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/2024-wita-virtual-intensive-trade-seminar/>.
- Sep. 27 **EXPLORE SALES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will describe market opportunities and challenges, including details of the trade agreement and how to sell duty-free to this exciting new market. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/vuec4th>.
- Sep. 27 **SOUTH AFRICA COSMETICS & PERSONAL CARE MARKET OVERVIEW.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features expert private and public sector organizations involved in exporting to South Africa. 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/south-africa-personal-care-opportunities>.
- Sep. 30 **SCHEDULE B AND HTS CODES - CLASSIFYING YOUR PRODUCTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the details of these codes and the general rules of interpretation to give you confidence in classifying your products for export or import. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/a3vdhrrm>.
- Oct. 16 **EXPORT COMPLIANCE ROADSHOW 2024.** Program sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service Chicago and the Illinois District Export Council. Hear directly from USG regulatory agencies and private sector regulatory experts with the knowledge and tools necessary to help you navigate export opportunities and adhere to critical export regulations. These comprehensive programs will provide an introduction to the many facets of USG export regulations and help companies put a regulatory plan into place to effectively mitigate risks and safeguard your products in international markets. Understanding USG export compliance regulations and putting a proactive export compliance plan in place is critical to mitigating risk. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building - Morrison Conference Center, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Fee: \$369. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-commercial-service-chicago-export-compliance-roadshow-2024-tickets-951128861027?aff=oddttdcreator>.
- Oct. 18 **GLOBAL SUCCESS WITHIN REACH: THE BIGGER PICTURE.** 9th Annual Global Small Business Forum sponsored by Foley & Lardner & Associated Bank and with partnership support from the: **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**; GlobeTrade; Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global; and others. Speakers include: **Laurel Delaney**, President, GlobeTrade.com; **Lori Novak**, VP, Foreign Exchange, Associated Bank; **Ellen Wheeler**, Partner, Foley & Lardner; **Marc Schulman**, President, Eli's Cheesecake; **Donald J. Lloyd**, Senior Vice President & Manager, Capital Markets – Foreign Exchange, Rate Swaps and Commodity Derivatives, Associated Bank; **Angie Kappel**, VP, Foreign Exchange, Capital Markets, Associated Bank; **Adam Wisniewski**, Founder & CEO, EX3 Labs; **Kirk Samson**, Global Business Consultant & Founder, Samson Atlantic LLC; **Yvette Laugier**, Chairman Emeritus, International Housewares Association Board of Directors; **Amy Mills**, Owner, 17th Street Bar Barbeque; **Tami Lange**, Founder, Save The Girls; **Diamond Young**, Assistant VP, Foreign Exchange, Capital Markets, Associated Bank; **Rajiv Khatau**, Founder and Managing Director, LODAAT Pharma. 8:00 – 11:30 a.m., Foley & Lardner, 321 North Clark Street, 30th Floor, Chicago. Fee: \$75; \$600 – ticket & vendor table. For information & registration, please see: <https://globalsmallbusinessforum.com/>.

- Oct. 21 - ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION (DENMARK & SWEDEN)***.
24 Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the objective for this mission is to give U.S. companies an opportunity to provide aerospace and defense equipment, technology, and services to Denmark and Sweden. Participating U.S. firms will gain market insights, make industry contacts, solidify business strategies, and advance specific projects, with the goal of increasing U.S. exports and services in the aerospace and defense sectors. The mission will introduce U.S. firms to aerospace and defense stakeholders in the region and assist U.S. companies in developing business in Denmark and Sweden. For information & an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/nordic-trade-mission-denmark-sweden>.
- Oct. 28 - ***DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (D&C) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO SE ASIA***
Nov. 1 (***HONG KONG, TAIPEI, HO CHI MIHN***). Trade Mission, led by the U.S. Commercial Service, will look into D&C subsectors such as safety, sustainable materials, retrofitting and refurbishment, construction robotics, automation, digitalization, Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), recycling, sustainable design and materials, and environmental tech. The mission may include group interactions with government agencies and leading trade associations, and potentially customized one-on-one business appointments with pre-screened potential agents, distributors, partners, and buyers. Networking events may provide introductions to government officials, industry leaders, and senior officials from the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), and the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/DesignConstructionMissiontoSEAsia/>.
- Oct. 28 - ***ACE EXPORTS COMPLIANCE***. Webinar sponsored by the South Florida District Export Council
29 with the U.S. Commercial Service. This virtual program brings together experts from the U.S. Census Bureau, The Bureau of Industry & Security, OFAC and U.S. Customs & Border Protection to provide training on export filing requirements. 11:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$125; discounts available for multiple registrations. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ace-exports-compliance-webinar-tickets-919005298587?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>.
- Nov. 5 ***IMMEX 3.0 - REAL WORLD SCENARIOS***. Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance
Professionals Association, will share different real-world scenarios regarding an IMMEX: *Applying, administering and maintaining an IMMEX program; Benefits vs obligations; Main obligations and associated risks; Best practices; Internal assessment audits; PROSEC, rule 8; Permanent establishment; Virtual transfers; Cancellation and suspension*. 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. Fee: #200. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/dbacfb2-9290-4634-808f-df070efe945f/summary>.
- Nov. 12 - ***INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO THE***
20 ***PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA***. Executive-led mission organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Mission aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between mission delegates and local stakeholders in smart city development, digital ecosystems, and sustainable urban infrastructure. The mission will provide delegates with a comprehensive understanding of the urban infrastructure landscape in the Philippines and Indonesia, fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development opportunities. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/InnovativeTechnologiesforUrbanInfrastructureDevelo/hotsite.php>.
- Nov. 14 ***BUILDING THE COMPANY'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM***. Webinar, sponsored by the Virginia/DC
District Export Council and Morgan Lewis, will discuss the key elements of an export compliance program. 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/b07d9fae-6fe9-4c73-83a8-3d94513c8f3e/summary?session=cc94eec5-bbd3-4d85-afa8-45b4bff8b7cf>.

- Nov. 14 ***FORCED LABOR SUPPLY CHAIN ASSESSMENT, AFFIRMATION AND SUPPLIER VERIFICATIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by The World Academy, will provide updated strategies, explanations, and recommendations for your company’s consideration to meet CBP’s demand for elevated demonstration of efforts of foreign suppliers to provide evidence of prevention measures. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$95. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/product-page/forced-labor-supply-chain-assessment-affirmation-and-supplier-verifications>.
- Nov. 17 - ***GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE (GDEI) TRADE MISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN***
 22 ***REGION.*** Organized by the U.S. Commercial Service, the mission will include the “Opportunities for Minority-Led Businesses in the Caribbean Region Conference” in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on November 17-18. Selected participants will either engage in business-to-business (B2B) meetings in Santo Domingo if approved for the Dominican Republic Trade Mission, or travel to other markets in the region to engage in B2B appointments in those markets. B2B meetings will be conducted with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors or joint-venture partners, in the selected city/market in the Dominican Republic, and/or Barbados/Eastern Caribbean, and/or Guyana, and/or Jamaica, and/or Suriname, and/or The Bahamas and/or Trinidad and Tobago. The mission is horizontal, with various sectors represented, based on best prospects for U.S. companies in the Caribbean region, such as automotive parts and services, consumer goods, construction equipment/road building machinery/building products/infrastructure projects, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, ICT, energy equipment and services, safety and security equipment, hotel and restaurant equipment, franchising, manufacturing equipment, yachting/maritime services/sailing equipment, marine ports, aviation/airports, tourism and related construction, waste management, and water treatment and supply. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/GDEITradeMissionCaribbeanRegion/>.
- Nov. 30 - ***THE ILLINOIS DISTRICT EXPORT COUNCIL (IL DEC) DELEGATE TRIP TO THE MENA REGION.***
 Dec. 18 The Executive Committee of the IL DEC has been putting together a delegation to go to Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, with an add on to go to Israel and back to Qatar. We are looking for 30 participants to go with the Delegation. The trip will be focused on building business, match making and building long-lasting relationships for future cooperation. Key objectives: Mega Infrastructure Projects in Transportation (Rail, Airports, etc.); Construction Alliances / Joint Ventures with Illinois Companies/Organizations; Consumer Goods Opportunities in Beverages, Spirits, and Other Products; The Jordan Valley Gateway Project Opportunities with U.S. Support and Companies for Value Creation; Attending the Department of Commerce, ITA, Global Diversity Export Initiative (GDEI) Trade Mission to Saudi Arabia; Match-Making and business development collaboration in each focus country. For information & registration, please see: <https://illinoisdec.com/event/the-il-dec-delegate-trip-to-the-mena-region/>.
- Dec. 2 - ***2024 U.S. TRADE MISSION TO HONG KONG.*** Mission organized by IBS Global Consulting and the
 6 Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), is being held in conjunction with the 25th Hong Kong Forum, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. With a curated series of sessions throughout the week, participating in the Trade Mission allows U.S. companies to connect with potential business partners and customers in Hong Kong and Mainland China. It is an opportunity to learn first-hand about the business landscape, business practices, and opportunities in Hong Kong through briefings and roundtable discussions with industry and government leaders to gain invaluable market and industry insights to help propel your global expansion. Delegates will also attend a VIP welcome reception and participate in prearranged B2B meetings. For information, please see: <https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-26197955/documents/cd9ee7c482f742fda24c62bb7c698b7d/2024%20U.S.%20Trade%20Mission%20to%20Hong%20Kong%20Delegate%20Information%20Packet.pdf>.

- Dec. 8 - ***GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE TRADE MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA***. Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the mission will offer women-owned, -led, and -operated businesses important market insights and meetings with pre-screened foreign business partners and key decision-makers. Included: B2B matchmaking meetings with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors, or joint-venture partners will provide participants with substantive information on strategies for entering or expanding their business in Saudi Arabia, key contacts with Commercial Service officers and local staff, and networking opportunities to build vital business relationships. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/GlobalDiversityExportInitiativeGDEITradeMissiontoS/hotsite.php>.
- Mar. 2 - ***GDEI TRADE MISSION TO INDIA, SINGAPORE, AND HONG KONG***. Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, this Global Diversity Export Initiative (GDEI) is focused on expanding export opportunities for U.S. businesses that are founded, led, operated, or owned by members of underserved communities from industries with growing potential in India, Singapore, and Hong Kong, but is open to all export-ready U.S. companies. The mission is horizontal, with various sectors represented, based on best prospects for U.S. companies in the region, such as: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector and subsectors; Cybersecurity; Smart City Infrastructure and Technology Solutions; Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing; Finance and FinTech; Healthcare & Biotechnology; Clean Energy; Environmental Technology; and Critical and Emerging Technologies. For information & an application (deadline: **December 4**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/GDEITradeMissiontoIndiaSingaporeandHongKong/>.
- May 19 - ***GENOMIC AND GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES TRADE MISSION TO GREECE, TÜRKIYE AND ITALY***. Mission, organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, is open to eligible U.S. firms working on genomic and genetic technologies. Best prospects include companies engaged in: Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) R&D and test kit development; Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS); Whole Exome Sequencing (WES); Bioinformatics; Proteomics; RNA Therapeutics; Molecular Cytogenetics; Molecular Genetics; Cancer Genetics; Pharmacogenetics; Rare Diseases; Pre-natal Genetic Disorders; and Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT) for In-Vitro Fertilization. Mission participants will have the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the three markets for their products, through hosted networking events and roundtable discussions with key government and industry leaders. Participants will also develop business prospects through vetted business-to-business matchmaking meetings and visits to leading research institutes and genetics labs. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/GenomicandGeneticTechnologiesTradeMissiontoGreeceT/>.

About the ITA/GC

Founded in December 1977, **The International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC)** was incorporated in January 1979 as an Illinois not-for-profit, voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms by providing a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

Annual membership dues are: Individual - \$150; Consular/Diplomatic - \$75 (up to 3 members); Academic/Faculty - \$200 (up to 8 designated faculty members); Student from a participating academic institution - \$25; Regular student - \$50; Associate/Non-resident (more than 150 miles from O'Hare International Airport) - \$50; Retired/Job Transition - \$50; Corporate (up to 8 designated members) - \$300. For a Membership Application, please call 773/725-1106; e-mail: info@itagc.org; or visit: www.itagc.org.

About Barnes Richardson

Barnes Richardson (<http://www.barnesrichardson.com>) has been focused on international trade regulation and customs law since 1919. Our practice is global and includes matters originating both within and outside of the United States. We are a proud member of Meritas, an international group of law firms providing local, reliable, and efficient legal representation all over the world. We have provided customs or trade advice to over one-third of the manufacturers in the Fortune 100.

About MichaelSilver

MichaelSilver (www.michaelsilver.com) provides a full scope of accounting and assurance, tax consulting and compliance, and consulting services to a broad range of clients in a wide variety of industries in the U.S. and internationally. Global clients are served through the Firm's membership in GMN International, an association of legally independent accounting firms. MichaelSilver is committed to exceptional service and provides creative solutions to address the needs and goals of our clients. We continually operate in a manner that reflects our pillars: innovative, trusted, consultative, and energizing.