

ATTACHMENT #1
Professional Biography

LUIS E. RAMÍREZ THOMAS, MSFS

Luis is the President of Ramirez Advisors Inter-National, LLC (RAI-N). He has over 29 years of experience on US-Mexico border infrastructure projects, North American relations, international business and negotiations, regional economic development, industrial site selection, government procurement, project management and governmental affairs. Luis has dedicated a considerable amount of time, both personal and professional, to fostering better relations with Mexico and Canada, improving the quality of life for the residents of the border and promoting the economic development of the region.

Before establishing his firm over 13 years ago, Luis was the International Business Advisor for Lewis and Roca, LLP (now Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, LLP), in Phoenix. There he worked with clients from the strategic planning phase of an international business expansion through the implementation and start-up of operations, with particular focus on Mexico. He also worked with various clients on a variety of border infrastructure and industrial projects. Additionally, he assisted on a variety of legal matters including asset recovery and crossborder litigation strategies.

Prior to joining Lewis and Roca, Luis was a Manager with the Corporate Real Estate Solutions practice (Fantus) in the Los Angeles office of Deloitte & Touche, LLP. Luis served as the National lead for Mexico: Location Strategies and Implementation, offering clients a one-stop-shop option that included fully coordinated, cross-functional, binational and bicultural grouping of services designed to assist clients with the business expansions to Mexico. He was also a member in various major site selection efforts for Deloitte & Touche clients in the US and globally.

Luis was also the Regional Director - the Americas, of the Global Market Entry Practice for Deloitte & Touche, where he helped establish the Mexico Advisory Services Group, a multidisciplinary client services team for the firm's Southern California region.

Additionally, Luis was the Bulk Power Marketer for International Markets and a Senior Consultant for Industrial Development and International Programs with Arizona Public Service Company (APS). While at APS, Luis helped develop business opportunities for Bulk Power Services in Mexico and identified opportunities to expand retail sales that enhanced the utilization of APS's existing resources along the Arizona-Mexico border. Luis led the teams that negotiated unique and innovative electric service agreements with five Maquiladoras in San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora. These projects entailed extensive work with Mexican and US Federal regulatory agencies and local and state governments, as well as managing binational legal, consulting, engineering and construction teams.

Luis was recently appointed to the National Advisory Council for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on issues impacting the environment in the United States and North America as it pertains to the US participation in the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). He also recently completed three terms as part of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, its mission being to advise the President and Congress of the United States on good neighbor practices along the U.S. border with Mexico with a special focus on environmental infrastructure in the four states that border Mexico. This board is managed by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Luis also completed a two-year term as a member of the Data Management Improvement Act (DMIA) Task Force, a federal advisory task force designed to advise the US Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security on the design and implementation of an entry and exit control system to and from the US. This system is now called the US-VISIT system.

Luis was also the Executive Director of the Border Trade Alliance (BTA) in 1994-'95 and was the Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the BTA in 1991-'92. He also worked for Joffroy Customs Brokers as an import-export specialist in the Maquiladora department.

Luis served on the Board of Directors of the BTA from 1996 to 2008, where he was also a member of the Executive Committee, Chaired the Immigration Committee and was the Co-Chair of the Public Policy Committee. As a past-Chair of the BTA, Luis was also one of the organization's Ambassadors at Large. In his functions with the BTA, Luis helped structure and implement many of the organization's positions on key issues including those pertaining to Border Crossing Cards, federal inspection procedures at the border, utilization of resources, securing funds for border infrastructure and staffing, and many more. He also represented the organization's key positions such as supporting the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

Luis also served on the Board of Directors of the Arizona-Mexico Commission where he also served as the Chair of the Border Infrastructure and Economic Development Initiative. Luis recently completed a two-year term as a member of the Joint Legislative Review Committee on Transportation between Arizona and Sonora. As one of the three public members of this committee, Luis was involved in the coordination of efforts on Arizona-Sonora transportation issues and making annual reports and recommendations to the Arizona legislature on the environment, transportation infrastructure and safety problems caused by the type and volume of traffic on highways that carry out commercial operations between Arizona and Mexico.

He serves on multiple professional and charitable boards, including the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Citizens Advisory Group for the International Boundary and Water Commission, the Board of Trustees for United Cerebral Palsy and the Isaac Educational Foundation, the Steps of Love Foundation and he serves as President of the Isaac Education Foundation. He has served on multiple boards, including the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade, the West Valley Child Crisis Center, Gateway Community College Incubator Board of Advisors, the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce - California Chapter, the BTA Foundation, Friends of Public Radio Arizona and many more. He has received various Gubernatorial Appointments, including as a member of the Governor's Canamex Task Force. He was recently selected as the Friend of the Border by the Global Chamber of Commerce and the William K. Brooks Award by the Arizona-Mexico Commission.

Luis, born in Mérida, Yucatan, attended High School in Vancouver, British Columbia. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona, cum Laude where he majored in Economics and Political Science and completed extensive coursework in Mexican-American Studies. He was also a member of the University of Arizona Shotokan Karate Team that won the national collegiate championship in 1989. He earned his Master's of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, where he was awarded a Dean's Citation of Service. During his studies at Georgetown, Luis did a special internship with Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), where he served as a North-American Trade Specialist during the ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).