



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

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## **L.A. AREA CHAMBER PRESENTS THE STANLEY T. OLAFSON AWARD AT ANNUAL WORLD TRADE WEEK LUNCHEON**

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce presented Carlos Valderrama of Carlsmith Ball, LLP with the prestigious Stanley T. Olafson award today at the Foreign Trade Association's World Trade Week luncheon at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel.

The Stanley T. Olafson award is given to those who have greatly contributed to the trade community beyond their job requirements. The award honors Olafson's vision and guidance in international trade. The former international trade department manager at the L.A. Area Chamber, Olafson helped conceive World Trade Week in 1926, which was declared a national observance in 1935.

"We are pleased to present Carlos Valderrama with this distinguished honor," said Chamber President & CEO Gary Toebben. "We need vocal advocates for international trade in our region and beyond, and Carlos has proven time and again his commitment to this cause."

As director of Latin American Operations for Carlsmith Ball, LLP in Los Angeles, Valderrama is responsible for developing strategic alliances and business relationships between U.S. and Latin American firms. Valderrama was the 2006 World Trade Week chair, a former Foreign Trade Association of Southern California chair, served on the advisory board to Mayor James K. Hahn's Office of International Trade and is currently a board member of the L.A. Area Chamber.

Valderrama was appointed by and represented Governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson as the California trade representative in Mexico. He also served as the director of the Office of Export Development with the responsibility of managing programs promoting California products and services worldwide.

"Throughout his career, Carlos has freely given his time to many international causes," said Chamber Senior Vice President David Eads. "He has advocated for international trade issues at both the state and federal level, and has been a fierce advocate for educating the next generation on international trade."

Past Stanley T. Olafson award recipients include Captain Karsten Lemke, FuturePorts; Leslie Cazas, Nissan North America; Marianne Venieris, Center for International Trade & Transportation; and Marian Duntley, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

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*The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit [www.lachamber.org](http://www.lachamber.org).*