



Jimmy Rhee

Special Secretary
The Governor's Office of Maryland
Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs

Jimmy's public service includes extensive international trade/investment and economic development activities with direct nexus to job creation as Cabinet Secretary for Maryland Governor, and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Virginia Governor. Jimmy organized and facilitated trade missions which included meetings with top Pacific Asian political and corporate leaders, recruited international conglomerates, fostered various small business growth programs, and implemented the "National Export Initiative and Entrepreneur Program" in conjunction with the White House.

Jimmy is a key advisor to the Governor on issues affecting Maryland's 600,000+ small businesses. He has direct oversight of the state's procurement programs, sets contracting goals, establishes best practices, and monitors their implementation across 70 state agencies including universities, public service commission and casinos.

Jimmy has over 20 years of private sector entrepreneurial experience in enterprise creation, growth and change management with extensive record of directing turn-around situations ranging from manufacturing to software companies, in addition to identifying new strategic opportunities within the context of evolving macro factors (e.g., shifts in geopolitics, technology, credit policies, etc.) and connecting interdependent factors for economic strength.

Jimmy has consulted various Asian conglomerates and investment firms (Samsung, LG, Asia Pulp & Paper, etc.) concerning the topography of the U.S. market and government sector; and secured capital infusions for startups and middle market M&A deals in energy and bio-medical sectors.

Jimmy is a highly sought-after speaker at business and community events, and serves as a board member on numerous professional, educational and civic organizations such as Salinger Business School of Loyola University, NE Maryland University Research Park, Interprise Investment, etc. He is a recipient of numerous awards from professional organizations and industry leaders including the Korean Presidential Medal for Outstanding Korean American on Economic Development.

Jimmy earned degrees from Johns Hopkins University (MAS/MBA) and the University of Maryland (BS). He holds a professional certificate in sustainable energy from Stanford University Center for Development and is a certified performance improvement coach.

Jimmy is a naturalized citizen, fully bilingual (English and Korean), married and resides in Clarksville, Maryland with his wife Linda. He has a passion for blues music, Tae Kwon Do, geopolitical issues and reinvigorating small local entrepreneurship across America.