



INTERNATIONAL  
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## *Media Release*

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### **Jeffrey Finkle announced as Honorary Guest at Flax Trust/America Annual Event**

**WASHINGTON, DC (November 3, 2009)** - Jeffrey Finkle will be an Honorary Guest at this year's Flax Trust Washington DC Event. The Flax Trust/America event will be a Carvery Reception with Music held on Wednesday, November 18 at The Hay-Adams, Lafayette Room from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Other Honorary Guests include; George Stephanopoulos, ABC News' Chief Washington Correspondent, Terence O'Sullivan, General President of Laborers' International Union of North America and Dr. John J. DeGioia, President Georgetown University.

This is Flax Trust's 19th Annual Washington DC Event. The event honors those who make significant efforts to promote business and trade between the U.S. and Northern Ireland. "Since the foundation of the [International] Economic [Development] Council, Mr. Jeffrey Finkle has been a very serious and committed supporter of the Flax Trust and has helped in every way available to promote business and trade promotion between the U.S. and Northern Ireland," said Father Myles Kavanaugh, Chairman of The Flax Trust.

In the 1990s in Belfast, when the 'troubles' were at their height with daily shootings and bombings, the Flax Trust was running two business incubators. Seeking to scale up the trust's incubation efforts, Father Myles Kavanaugh, the trust's chairman, connected with Jeff Finkle in his role as President of the International Economic Development Council. That relationship resulted in a program to identify small U.S. businesses interested in getting their products into Europe, eventually developing 35 new businesses in Northern Ireland through technology transfer. Finkle also worked to establish relationships for organizational partners of IEDC and entities supported by the trust.

In addition, he arranged for a member of IEDC's Advisory Services department to work at the trust for one year, providing technical assistance to groups in the community. Finkle has served on the Flax Trust/America board of directors for seven years. Finkle's commitment to the trust and his role in promoting business and trade between the U.S. and Northern Ireland earned him the honor, according to Father Kavanaugh. Jim Griffin, executive director of the Hornell, N.Y., Industrial Development Agency and co-chairman of IEDC at its inception, was similarly honored by the Flax Trust in 2007. "I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of this award," said Finkle. "This is also an honor for IEDC, its members and their work."

Flax Trust is one of the largest and longest established development trusts in Ireland. It is a registered charity formed in Belfast in 1977. For over 25 years it has been committed to the "reconciliation of a divided community through economic and social development, bringing peace to communities, one person and one job at a time".

From its inception, the Flax Trust has promoted and practiced with absolute focus reconciliation through economic development. Over the last three years in identifying a strategy for the 21st century it has broadened its focus to expand and energize the work of reconciliation through the arts, especially the performing arts, education, business incubation, entertainment, social action, sport and technology.

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the premier membership organization dedicated to helping economic development professionals create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities and improve the quality of life in their regions. Serving more than 4,600 members, IEDC represents the largest network of economic development professionals in the world. IEDC provides a diverse range of services, including conferences, certification, professional development, publications, research, advisory services and legislative tracking. For more information about IEDC visit [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org).

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