



Erran Persley - Executive Director, International Affairs and Business Development for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development

Persley was appointed as the Executive Director, International Affairs and Business Development for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development in April 2018. In this role he designs, develops and implements the state's strategy for attracting and retaining foreign direct investment (FDI) in Kentucky. Additionally, he provides assistance, support, and guidance to new and existing foreign owned firms and promotes Kentucky in international markets.

Prior to this appointment, Persley served as the Senior Economic Development Advisor for Kanava International and the Foreign Direct Investment Advisor/Consultant for the U.S. Department of Commerce/SelectUSA. Erran also served as the senior vice president for Africa at Chemonics International Inc., one of the most technically diverse companies in trade development. In 1994, Persley served under Secretary Ronald H. Brown as the International Trade Specialist in charge of the Japanese Official Development Assistance program at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where he assisted American companies in their efforts to bid for the \$11 billion in projects financed by the Japanese government in developing countries.

Persley is an active member of the community. His public service work with youth employment, development programs, and numerous community service activities display his commitment to the reduction of poverty both in the United States and abroad.