

Gene Barr
President & CEO
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry



Gene Barr is the President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the state's largest broad-based business advocacy association. He oversees all operations of the PA Chamber and its for-profit subsidiary, PA Chamber Insurance.

Barr joined the PA Chamber in February 2003. He served for more than eight years as Vice President of Government and Public Affairs prior to being elected president in October 2011. During his tenure, Barr has worked on a large number of significant legislative and regulatory efforts critical to Pennsylvania's business climate.

Barr has more than 35 years of experience in various facets of government and public affairs activity, as well as business operations. He worked for BP America (the U.S. subsidiary of British Petroleum) for more than 12 years. His career included assignments in refining at the company's Marcus Hook, PA refinery, retail marketing at the U.S. headquarters in Cleveland, OH, and in state government affairs in BP's Atlanta, GA regional office, where he had responsibility for all legislative activities in six states.

In 1992, he joined the Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania, the state office of the American Petroleum Institute, as Associate Director. This office is responsible for all legislative, regulatory and media activity affecting the major oil companies. In 1997, he was named Executive Director of APIP.

In 2000, he joined the law firm of McNees Wallace Nurick, the largest Harrisburg-based law firm, to start a government relations practice.

He previously served as a local elected official in the Philadelphia area for almost 10 years. He graduated from St. Joseph's University in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Barr is chairman of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council. He is also a member of the Council of State Chambers, U. S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, and the U.S. Chamber's Public Affairs Committee. Mr. Barr was appointed to the PA Early Learning Investment Commission in 2008. He is also a board member of Foundation for Free Enterprise Education, the Pennsylvania Heritage Society, the Bridge Foundation, campaign cabinet member of the United Way of the Capital Region and board member and former chairman of the National Civil War Museum. In addition, Gene has been a guest lecturer at the annual Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College and is a member of a number of historic preservation organizations.

Barr most recently served as a member of Gov. Tom Corbett's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission, and has served as a board member and chairman of the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board and as a board member of Preservation Pennsylvania.