## Mark Jackson ITC Vice President

Honorary Consul General of Japan Chairman/ Chief Executive - BlueDot Global Technologies Chairman - Citizens Trust Alabama Advisory Board

Mark is a native of the Bluff Park Community in Birmingham.

Traveling as a child and as an adult has given him a true global view. He has visited 34 countries. As a successful entrepreneur, he founded a teleconference company in 1996 (Moreson Conferencing) that grew to operate in 65 countries. Having owned Moreson for 27 years, he is currently launching a new global videoconferencing company, BlueDot. The company is entering its capital-raise stage.

Due to his considerable respect throughout Alabama and around the world, the Japanese government appointed him as Honorary Consul General of Japan in 2014. In this capacity, he has enjoyed a close working relationship with Alabama's governors, Commerce secretaries, and elected officials across the state. During his tenure, Japan has become one of Alabama's largest foreign direct investors. Over 80 Japanese companies have located in Alabama and employ almost 10,000 Alabamians. He has fostered governmental, cultural, business, and educational partnerships between Japan and Alabama. He is currently working on a project to connect Samford University with several Japanese universities.

As Chairman of Birmingham Sister Cities Commission, he worked with Mayor William Bell to

connect Birmingham to 18 million people worldwide. He also created the 200<sup>th</sup> Sister City between Japan and the United States. The official document was signed at the Birmingham Japanese Garden on July 3, 2017.

Educated at Jacksonville State University and Auburn University in Montgomery, he received a Doctorate in Politics and International Relations from the University of Hertfordshire (England). He has received Honorary Doctorates from Talladega College and Piedmont International University and holds several diplomas from the Consular Corps College in Washington, DC.

Mark served as Vice President of ITC for several years. He is the past owner of Margaret- the 1964 World's Fair Thunderbird from the Magic Skyway Exhibit. Margaret was on display at the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA following the ITC convention. He enjoyed towing Margaret to the ITC convention in Charlotte, NC and the 2015 All Ford Nationals in Carlisle, PA. Additionally, he was the Master of Ceremonies at the Harrisburg, VA ITC convention and a featured speaker at the ITC convention in Cleveland, Ohio. He has always enjoyed spending time with ITC members and is looking forward to serving as VP again.

A 14<sup>th</sup> generation direct descendant of England's King Henry VIII, he is married to Dr. Allison

Jackson. They have 2 sons, Carey and Jordan, and enjoys camping and traveling.