



**Mr. Peter T. MANGIONE, Managing Director and Founder, Global Footwear Partnerships (GFP)**

Mr. Peter Mangione is the Managing Director and founder of Global Footwear Partnerships (GFP) and a recognised authority on the global footwear sector, having served from 1981 to April 2009 as president of the Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA), the largest shoe trade association in the US.

For some 30 years, Mangione has been an acknowledged leader in the US and global shoe sector, and has extensive knowledge and experience in most aspects of the shoe business, including retailing, sourcing, logistics, factory social responsibility, product safety, customs, labelling and government regulation. He also has first-hand knowledge of the key players in the sector and is an expert on the world's leading shoe production centres; he has also served as an official advisor to the US government on international trade negotiations.

As a leading customer, he has visited hundreds of shoe factories in China and Brazil over the past 20 years, and is well connected with the shoe industries in such countries as Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Italy, Spain, Mexico and Colombia, among others.

Mangione is a member of the UNIDO Leather Panel and a regular speaker at all global footwear forums, as well as at most top footwear trade shows. He has also authored the FDRA's monthly news bulletin, which provides industry executives with updates and analysis of government, legal and sourcing developments worldwide as they relate to the shoe manufacturing and distribution sector.

After graduating from Fordham University in 1970, Mangione graduated from Union University's Albany Law School in 1973. He worked at the New York State Legislature from 1971 to 1973, practiced law from 1973 to 1978, and moved to the Associated Merchandising Corporation in Washington, DC as Divisional VP for Government Relations from 1978 to 1981 before joining the FDRA as president in 1981. He founded GFP in August 2009.