



## Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

Contact: Carol Wilber, Marketing Director  
Columbia Economic Development Corporation  
[cwilber@columbiaedc.com](mailto:cwilber@columbiaedc.com)  
518-828-4718

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 6, 2016**

## Bartolotta and Polemis Elected to CEDC Board

**Hudson, NY** - The Columbia Economic Development (CEDC) Board of Directors has elected Russell Bartolotta Jr. and Michael Polemis to the CEDC Board.

Russell Bartolotta Jr. is General Manager of Klein's Kill Fruit Farms, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation family-owned and operated fruit company based in Germantown, New York. Since 1921, the Bartolotta family has specialized in growing, packing and marketing fresh apples, pears, peaches and cherries on their 600+ acres of orchards. A four-season business, the farm ships to a national client base that extends to 30 states. Bartolotta is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He is a former member of the New York Apple Association Board of Directors. Russell and his wife Cathy live in Hudson. Their son attends the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and their daughter is a senior at Hudson High School with plans to attend Marist College in the fall.

Michael Polemis is retired after 41 years in the International shipping business, the last 28 years as President of Pro Bulk (USA) Inc. During his career he worked primarily in New York and London. He managed a joint venture company comprised of 20 dry cargo vessels and provided management for several international clients. In 1986, he became one of the founders of the Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC), which today is one of the most diverse and successful land trusts in the country. He served as CLC board chair from 1995 to 2011, and currently serves as chairman of the CLC governance committee. Polemis is a member of the Land Trust Alliance Board of Directors, a national land conservation organization based in Washington, DC. In addition to his interest in conservation, Polemis is vice chair of the Shelburne Museum Board of Directors in Shelburne, Vermont and serves as chair of the museum's collections committee. Michael and his wife Barbara live in Chatham Center. They have two married daughters living in New York and New Orleans. Michael is an avid fly-fisherman and upland game hunter.

**Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), the leading economic development organization in Columbia County is committed to strengthening the county's tax base through economic development and job creation while maintaining the quality of life so desired by the people who live and work here. For more**

information about CEDC's programs and services, visit our website at [www.columbiaedc.com](http://www.columbiaedc.com).

**PHOTOS:** (left) Russell Bartolotta Jr (right) Michael Polemis



###