

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we put this issue of the *Milken Institute Review* to bed, we are also putting the final touches on our biggest event of the year – the Milken Institute Global Conference in Los Angeles, now in its 7th incarnation.

As the conference has grown in size and stature, it has become a significant meeting place for business, financial, academic and public policy leaders. They not only get a chance to hear new thinking on current issues, but also to interact with an incredibly diverse and accomplished group of individuals.

Bringing such a rich mix of people together is one of the hallmarks of the Institute. As an independent, nonpartisan think tank, we work hard to ensure that all voices – from the left and the right, from a wide spectrum of occupations and industries – are heard at our events. By the same token, both our research and the contents of the *Review* reflect our commitment to a wide range of viewpoints.

Such diversity can set off a wonderful intellectual chain reaction of original thinking. And that's just what we want. This cross-fertilization of ideas is important as we deliberate some of the tremendous challenges and changes facing us – from the growing economic clout of China to the bitter debate over outsourcing and jobs.

Recent work here at the Institute, and many of the sessions now being planned for this year's Global Conference, focus on the touchstone issues of the day. They include questions of coping with terrorism, of maximizing technological innovation while minimizing the negative side effects, of the job skills gap that has widened income inequality, of speeding medical research, of the social and fiscal impact of rapid population aging, and of increasing the efficiency of capital markets both to maximize economic growth and to open business to minorities.

Which brings me back to the *Review*. This issue captures many of these debates, as well as our effort to encourage a thoughtful discussion of these policy concerns. As with every issue, this one offers fresh views on a host of topics – everything from the long-term impact of religion on economic growth, to the prospects for the dollar, to the possibility of fiscal bankruptcy in the United States.

Enjoy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Klowden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Klowden, President and CEO