

**February 12 &  
February 13**

**2024**

# **Washington International Trade Conference**

**Monday, February 12, 2024**

Via Zoom: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM US/Eastern Time

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

In Person & Via Zoom: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM US/Eastern Time

In Person & Via Zoom: Luncheon Remarks 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM  
US/Eastern Time

**Join the conversation!**

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# WELCOME

Welcome to WITA's 6th Annual Washington International Trade Conference! We're delighted to welcome you online on Monday, February 12, and both in-person and online on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. We're thrilled that at this year's Conference, we are joined by guests from 14 U.S. States and viewers from 13 different countries!

Special thanks to our sponsors for their support of this year's Conference: Amazon, UPS, Trade Data Monitor, the National Pork Producers Council, Business Roundtable, American Apparel and Footwear Association, National Retail Federation, the Aluminum Association, Express Association of America, Trade Center Management Associates, and the International Trade Center.

It is through their support, and the sustained support of all our sponsors throughout the years, that we have been able to grow and adapt to the ever changing trade climate that has faced the WITA membership in recent years.

At this year's Conference, we've decided to lean into that ever changing climate and look at some of the big drivers in international trade policy in 2024. Over the next two days, our speakers will discuss some of the major policy issues facing U.S and global trade leaders, and at some of the major trends impacting trade and the world we live in.

Building on the themes being explored at the Conference, in the months to come, we plan to continue diving deeply into important trade issues facing America and the world, both in-person and online. And through the WITA Academy, we'll be making trade education and career opportunities in international trade accessible to more communities in the United States and around the world. In fact, just last month, the WITA Academy held its first ever World Trade Organization Intensive Trade Seminar with over 400 government officials in attendance from 45 different countries.

Thank you for joining us at the 2024 Washington International Trade Conference. Whether you are joining us online or in-person - or both - we are delighted you could be with us for these two days to talk about important trade issues facing America and the world.

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# AGENDA

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

All Day 1 Sessions via Zoom (all times are U.S./Eastern Time)

### 1:00 PM ET: Update from the WTO on MC13

**Angela Ellard**, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization

 **Moderator: Ambassador Peter Allgeier**, President, Nauset Global LLC; former Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

### 1:45 PM ET: Balancing at the Border – Trade Policies to Close the Pollution Loophole

**Matthew Bolden**, Climate Policy Advisor, Senate Budget Committee for Chairman Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

**Linda Dempsey**, Vice President, Public Affairs, CF Industries

**Christine Harbin**, Energy Policy Advisor, Senator Bill Cassidy M.D.(R-LA)

**Catrina Rorke**, Executive Director, Center for Climate and Trade; Senior Vice President for Policy and Research, Climate Leadership Council

 **Moderator: Maureen Hinman**, Co-Founder and Chairman, Silverado Policy Accelerator; former Director, Environment and Natural Resources, Office of the United States Trade Representative

### 2:30 PM ET: Taking Stock – U.S.– China Trade Relations

**Anna Ashton**, Director, China Corporate Affairs & US-China, Eurasia Group

**Jamieson Greer**, Partner, King & Spalding

**Paul Triolo**, Associate Partner for China and Technology Policy Lead at Albright Stonebridge Group | Dentons Global Advisors

**Jeremie O. Waterman**, President of the China Center and Vice President for Greater China, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

 **Moderator: Timothy Keeler**, Partner & Co-Leader of International Trade, Mayer Brown



# AGENDA



## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12



All Day 1 Sessions Via Zoom (all times are U.S./Eastern Time)

### 3:20 PM ET: Geopolitical Impacts on Supply Chains

**Stefanie H. Ali**, Senior Director, Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel LLC

**Marc Gilbert**, Managing Director & Senior Partner, Boston Consulting Group

**Michelle La Plante**, Director, Risk Management and Resiliency, Enterprise Risk & Security Management, TE Connectivity

**Cheryl Steele**, Vice President of Global Security & Resilience / Chief Security Officer, Starbucks Coffee Company

 **Moderator: Penny Naas**, TradeExperettes

### 4:10 PM ET: U.S. Global Strategic and Trade Priorities

**Heather A. Conley**, President, German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Eric Farnsworth**, Head of the Washington Office of the Council of the Americas and the Americas Society

**Florizelle Liser**, President & CEO, Corporate Council on Africa

**Ambassador Kurt W. Tong**, Managing Partner, The Asia Group, LLC

 **Moderator: Ari Giovenco**, Head, U.S. Trade Policy, Amazon



# AGENDA

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

*In-person with Livestream (all times are U.S./Eastern Time)*

## 8:30 AM ET: Networking Breakfast

Coffee with Assorted Pasteries and Breakfast Items

## 9:05 AM ET: Welcome Remarks

**Michael Mullen**, Executive Director, Express Association of America

**Kenneth I. Levinson**, WITA Chief Executive Officer


## 9:15 AM ET: 20 Trends for 2024

**Robert Moran**, Partner, Brunswick Group

 **Moderator:** Kenneth I. Levinson, WITA Chief Executive Officer

## 10:00 AM ET: Armchair Discussion with Jay Timmons, President and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers

**Jay Timmons**, President & CEO, National Association of Manufacturers

 **Moderator:** **Doug Palmer**, Senior Trade Reporter, POLITICO

## 10:45 AM ET: Coffee Break





# AGENDA

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

*In-person with Livestream (all times are U.S./Eastern Time)*

### 11:00 AM ET: Ambassadors Roundtable: Trade as a Foreign Policy Pillar

**Ambassador Catalina Crespo-Sancho**, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States

**Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragán**, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States

**Ambassador Jovita Neliupšienė**, Appointed Ambassador of the European Union to the United States

**Ambassador Lui Tuck Yew**, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the United States

**Moderator: Ambassador Kristen Silverberg**, President & COO, Business Roundtable

### 11:50 AM ET: Buffet Networking Luncheon

#### Taste of South America

Salad: Pineapple, Cabbage, and Romaine Salad with Rice Vinegar Dressing

Entrées: Peruvian Chicken; Flank Steak with Chimichurri Sauce

Sides: Green Rice; Sautéed Zucchini, and Mushrooms

### 12:15 PM ET: Luncheon Keynote

**Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE)**, Chairman of the House Ways & Means Trade Subcommittee

**Moderator: Stephanie Lester**, Vice President, Head of Government Affairs, Gap Inc.

Monday, February 12

## Panel One

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM ET

Update from the WTO on  
MC13



**Angela Ellard,**  
Deputy Director-  
General,  
World Trade  
Organization



**Moderator:**  
**Ambassador**  
**Peter Allgeier,**  
President,  
Nauset Global  
LLC; former  
Deputy U.S. Trade  
Representative



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# ANGELA ELLARD



***Deputy Director-General,  
World Trade Organization***

**@WTO**

Angela Ellard has served as WTO Deputy Director-General since June 2021.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Ellard had a distinguished career serving in the US Congress as Majority and Minority Chief Trade Counsel for over 26 years. She is internationally recognized as an expert on trade and international economic policy, resolving trade and investment barriers, negotiating trade agreements, and supporting multilateral solutions as part of an effective trade and development policy.

Ms. Ellard has negotiated and delivered significant bipartisan trade policy outcomes and legislation with Members of U.S. Congress and senior Biden, Trump, Obama, Bush, and Clinton Administration officials. Ms. Ellard was also a lawyer in the private sector, specializing in trade litigation and strategy, trade policy, and legislative issues.

Ms. Ellard obtained her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Tulane University School of Law and her Master of Arts in Public Policy also from Tulane. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Newcomb College of Tulane University, summa cum laude. Ms. Ellard is a frequent lecturer at law – graduate, and undergraduate classes. She has received numerous awards recognizing her accomplishments in trade law and policy, including WITA's 2011 Lighthouse Award, honoring an impactful individual in the trade policy community.

# AMBASSADOR PETER ALLGEIER



***President, Nauset Global  
LLC; former Deputy U.S.  
Trade Representative***

Ambassador Peter Allgeier is President of Nauset Global LLC, a consulting firm specializing in international trade and investment issues facing U.S. and foreign businesses. He served as President of the Coalition of Service Industries (CSI) from September 2012 until March 2016. CSI is the association representing the international trade and investment interests of the American service economy. Its membership includes major international companies from the banking, insurance, telecommunications, information technology, express delivery, audiovisual, energy services, and other service industries.

From 2009 to 2012, Ambassador Allgeier was President of C&M International, a trade consulting firm based in Washington, DC. He previously served as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative (2001–2009) and U.S. Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Before his appointment as Deputy USTR in 2001, Ambassador Allgeier served in a series of senior positions: Assistant USTR for Asia and the Pacific; Assistant USTR for Europe and the Mediterranean; and Associate U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere. He also served twice as Acting U.S. Trade Representative during presidential transitions (2005, 2009).

He is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Washington International Trade Association (WITA) and the Woodrow Wilson Distinguished Alumnus Award from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). In 1988, President Reagan presented him with the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award, which is the highest performance honor bestowed on career federal officials.

He has a Ph.D. in International Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; an MA in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University, and an A.B. in International Relations from Brown University. He also was a Rockefeller Fellow at the Harvard Divinity School.



Monday, February 12

# Panel Two 1:45 PM – 2:30 PM ET

## Balancing at the Border – Trade Policies to Close the Pollution Loophole



**Catrina Rorke,**  
Executive Director,  
Center for Climate and  
Trade; Senior Vice President  
for Policy and Research,  
Climate Leadership Council



**Matthew Bolden,**  
Climate Policy Advisor,  
Senate Budget Committee  
for Chairman Sheldon  
Whitehouse (D-RI)



**Christine Harbin,**  
Energy Policy Advisor,  
Senator Bill Cassidy M.D.  
(R-LA)



**Linda Dempsey,**  
Vice President,  
Public Affairs,  
CF Industries



**Moderator:  
Maureen Hinman,**  
Cofounder &  
Chairman,  
Silverado Policy  
Accelerator

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# MATTHEW BOLDEN



*Climate Policy Advisor,  
Senate Budget Committee  
for Chairman Sheldon  
Whitehouse (D-RI)*

**@mattrbolden**

Matt Bolden is a Climate Policy Advisor with the Senate Budget Committee where he covers pollution pricing, carbon border adjustments, and other market-based climate policies for the committee and its Chairman, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).

Prior to this, he was the Chief of Staff and Director of Policy and Government Relations at the Climate Leadership Council. He started his career as a financial analyst at a boutique impact investing firm where he underwrote investments in green tech, real estate, and community development projects.





# LINDA DEMPSEY



*Vice President, Public  
Affairs, CF Industries*

**@CFIndustries**

Linda Dempsey is Vice President, Public Affairs at CF Industries, where she leads the global public affairs function reporting to the CEO and President, Tony Will. She engages with a wide array of governmental and non governmental stakeholders on a broad range of domestic and international policies and activities, from environmental, energy, and sustainability issues to trade and agriculture matters, that support the company's growth, clean energy, and sustainability objectives.

Prior to joining CF, Dempsey was Vice President, International Economic Affairs, at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) where she led efforts to improve the global competitiveness of manufacturers in the United States on international trade, investment, regulatory, and legislative issues. In addition to the NAM and additional work with business associations, Dempsey has also served on Capitol Hill as a senior trade advisor on the Senate Finance Committee and worked as a lawyer in private practice. She also engaged in overseas development activities in the agricultural sector.

A native of Pennsylvania, Ms. Dempsey received her B.A. in Political Science from the Pennsylvania State University and her law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.



# CHRISTINE HARBIN



***Energy Policy Advisor,  
Senator Bill Cassidy M.D.  
(R-LA)***

**@ChrissyHarbin**

Christine Harbin is a Policy Advisor for Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), focusing on climate and energy policy. Previously, she was Vice President of External Relations at Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES) and a board member at the Conservative Climate Foundation. She cultivated strategic partnerships in past roles at the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

She holds bachelors degrees in economics, mathematics, and French from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Wisconsin MBA Consortium.



# CATRINA RORKE



***Executive Director,  
Center for Climate and  
Trade; Senior Vice President  
for Policy and Research,  
Climate Leadership Council***

**@crorke**

Catrina Rorke is Senior Vice President for Policy and Research at the Climate Leadership Council and Executive Director of the Center for Climate and Trade. In her role at the Council, she develops the details of the Baker-Shultz Carbon Dividends proposal, manages the Council's research program, and supports its advocacy and outreach activities.

Prior to joining the Council, Ms. Rorke founded the energy and environment program at the R Street Institute, a free-market and limited government public policy organization where she served as director of energy policy and senior fellow. She also founded the energy program at the center-right American Action Forum, an economic, domestic, and fiscal policy think tank. As a legislative assistant to former U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis of South Carolina, Ms. Rorke helped develop the first Republican-sponsored carbon tax bill. She began her career as a presidential management fellow with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

Ms. Rorke has been recognized for her leadership in energy and climate policy by *E&E News*, *The Hill*, *National Journal*, and *Grist*, and her work has been published in national, local, and trade media. She supports center-right policy work by serving as a board member and advisor to several policy-focused organizations.

# MAUREEN HINMAN



***Cofounder & Chairman,  
Silverado Policy Accelerator;  
former Director, Environment  
and Natural Resources, Office of  
the United States Trade  
Representative***

**@Eco2Sec**

Maureen Hinman is the Co-Founder and Chairman of Silverado Policy Accelerator. Ms. Hinman, a leading policy expert on the intersection of energy, environment, and the economy, most recently served as Director for Environment and Natural Resources at the Office of the United States Trade Representative. At USTR she led a range of multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade policy initiatives focused on the environmental goods and services sector as well as natural resource conservation.

Ms. Hinman previously served as the U.S. Department of Commerce's senior industry trade specialist responsible for international policy development and interagency advocacy for the U.S. environmental technology industry. Prior to entering federal service, Hinman consulted on regional integration and trade policy implementation at Nathan Associates, a Washington-based economic policy consultancy. Ms. Hinman serves as a policy advisor for the Center for Climate and Trade. She was named to Washingtonian Magazine's 2022 and 2023 "Tech Titan" list.





Monday, February 12

# Panel Three 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM ET

## Taking Stock – U.S.- China Trade Relations



**Jamieson Greer,**  
Partner,  
King & Spalding



**Anna Ashton,**  
Director,  
China Corporate Affairs &  
US-China, Eurasia Group



**Paul Triolo,**  
Associate Partner for  
China and Technology  
Policy Lead at Albright  
Stonebridge Group |  
Dentons Global Advisors



**Jeremie O. Waterman,**  
President of the China  
Center and Vice  
President for Greater  
China, U.S. Chamber of  
Commerce



**Moderator:**  
**Timothy Keeler,**  
Partner & Co-  
Leader of  
International  
Trade,  
Mayer Brown



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# ANNA ASHTON



***Director, China Corporate  
Affairs & US-China, Eurasia  
Group***

**@annatashton**

Anna Ashton is the Director of China Corporate Affairs and US-China at Eurasia Group. She examines the business implications of policy developments in China and of U.S. policy toward China. She has significant expertise in China-related trade and economic analysis and advocacy. Prior to joining Eurasia Group, Anna served as a senior fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute and was vice president of government affairs for the US-China Business Council, representing the council in engagements with the policy community, the press, and the public. Anna began her career as an intelligence officer for the Department of Defense and later worked for her home state of Arkansas, recruiting Asian FDI.

Anna holds a doctor of law degree from Georgetown University, a master's degree in East Asian languages and civilizations from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a bachelor's degree in Chinese Studies from Wellesley College. She serves on the Congressional Circle for the US-Asia Institute and is a member of the National Committee on US-China Relations, the Trade Policy Forum, and Women in International Trade. In her free time, Anna enjoys hanging out with her kids and their pets, attempting creative projects, and going to a great yoga or spin class.





# JAMIESON L. GREER



*Partner, King & Spalding*

[@jamiesongreer](#)

Jamieson Greer is a Partner in the International Trade team at King & Spalding. His practice covers trade remedies, trade policy and negotiations, trade agreement enforcement, export and import compliance, and CFIUS matters. He has represented clients in trade remedy litigation before the Department of Commerce, the International Trade Commission, and federal courts. He has also assisted clients with advocacy before senior government officials and agencies with jurisdiction over international trade matters. His clients include manufacturing, technology, energy, pharmaceutical, agriculture, financial and investment services, hospitality, and aerospace and defense companies.

Jamieson has experience developing international trade compliance programs and training client employees, conducting trade-related internal investigations, and advising on international trade aspects of mergers and acquisitions.

Prior to joining King & Spalding, Jamieson was the Chief of Staff to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Ambassador Robert Lighthizer. He worked very closely with Ambassador Lighthizer and senior White House officials on developing and implementing trade policy and advised the USTR on all aspects of the agency's mission. Jamieson was also deeply involved in the Administration's negotiations on the Phase One trade deal with China, and participated in numerous strategy sessions with Ambassador Lighthizer, the President and other cabinet members as part of that process. He was a critical part of USTR's efforts to negotiate and obtain Congressional approval of the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Jamieson participated in every major Administration trade action initiated during his three years at USTR.

Before working at USTR, Jamieson spent several years in private practice focusing on trade-related matters, from compliance with U.S. export controls to transactions subject to CFIUS's approval, trade remedies and antidumping laws.

Jamieson also served in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps, including a deployment to Iraq. He served as both prosecutor and defense counsel in criminal investigations and courts-martial involving U.S. airmen.

Jamieson appears regularly in print and news media, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Reuters, and the BBC.



# PAUL TRIOLO

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***Associate Partner for China  
and Technology Policy Lead  
at Albright Stonebridge  
Group | Dentons Global  
Advisors***

**@pstAsiatech**

Paul Triolo is an Associate Partner for China and Technology Policy Lead at ASG. He advises clients in technology, financial services, and other sectors as they navigate complex political and regulatory matters in China and around the world.

A recognized expert in global technology policy, Mr. Triolo was most recently founder, Practice Head, and Managing Director of the Geo-Technology practice at Eurasia Group. Previously, Mr. Triolo spent more than 25 years in senior positions in the U.S. government, analyzing China's rise as a technology power and advising senior policymakers on a broad set of technology-related issues. At the beginning of his career, he worked as an engineer for a semiconductor testing firm in Silicon Valley.

Mr. Triolo is frequently quoted on technology policy issues in media outlets including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, the South China Morning Post, and others. He speaks regularly at conferences and has authored many journal articles and book chapters on global technology policy and China-related issues. He also serves as a Senior Advisor at the Paulson Institute and is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

He received an M.A. in International Relations from the Catholic University and a B.A. in Electrical Engineering from Penn State University.

He is based in Washington, D.C.

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# JEREMIE O. WATERMAN



*President, China Center,  
Vice President, Greater  
China, U.S. Chamber of  
Commerce*

**@USChamber**

Jeremie O. Waterman is President of the China Center and Vice President for Greater China at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Waterman is responsible for developing and executing Chamber policy initiatives in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mongolia as well as steering the Chamber's policy work in the Asia-Pacific region.

In carrying out the Chamber's Greater China agenda, Waterman directs its trade and investment policy advocacy and initiatives in the areas of investment, innovation, intellectual property rights, financial services, agriculture, health care, energy and environment, and corporate governance and social responsibility. Waterman has pioneered a number of Chamber business initiatives focused on China, such as the U.S.-China CEO Dialogue and the newly created China Center. He is frequently quoted in the media on a broad range of China issues relating to international business and trade policy and is a periodic guest on news programs.

Before joining the Chamber, Waterman worked for five years at the US-China Business Council as director for government affairs. He also served at the Office of the United States Trade Representative in the offices of Congressional Affairs and Africa. Waterman received a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston and is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles. He and his wife have two children.

# TIMOTHY KEELER



***Partner & Co-Leader of  
International Trade, Mayer  
Brown***

**@Mayer\_Brown**

Timothy Keeler is a Partner and Co-Lead of Mayer Brown's International Trade Product Team, as well as heading the firm's Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS) practice. He is also a member of the firm's Public Policy, Regulatory & Government Affairs group.

Tim advises and advocates for clients on high-profile International Trade law and policy, including investigations and tariff actions by the USTR under Sec. 301 of the Trade Act of 1974; safeguard investigations and tariff remedies by the International Trade Commission (ITC) and the USTR under Sec. 201 of the Trade Act of 1974; the consistency of various legal regimes – or proposed laws – with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and other international legal obligations; international trade negotiations in the WTO, Free Trade Agreements, and other arrangements; and WTO and other trade agreement litigation.

Prior to joining Mayer Brown, Tim served in a variety of senior positions in the US Government for almost 12 years. He was the Chief of Staff in the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) from 2006 – 2009, where he oversaw implementation of US policy, strategy and negotiations involving all aspects of international trade and investment matters.

Before working for USTR, Tim spent more than five years at the Treasury Department from 2001 – 2006. He joined the Office of Legislative Affairs in 2001 as a Deputy to the Assistant Secretary for International Issues, where he was responsible for Treasury's legislative strategy on issues including CFIUS, foreign exchange rate policy testimony, appropriations for US funding of the World Bank, and US participation in the International Monetary Fund. He later managed the Office of Legislative Affairs from 2002 – 2006 and assisted on all policy and personnel issues in the Office.

Tim also served on the Presidential Transition Team in 2000–2001 as a policy coordinator on export control and trade remedy policy, handling the Commerce Department's Bureau of Export Administration (now called the Bureau of Industry and Security) and the International Trade Commission (ITC). Earlier in his career (1998–2000), Tim served as a professional staff member for international trade on the US Senate Finance Committee under Chairman William V. Roth (R-DE).

Tim is a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington International Trade Association. He was also an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University in both the School of Law (2010 – 2017)—co-teaching a course on US and WTO law, policy, and politics, and the School of Foreign Service (2018).



Monday, February 12

# Panel Four

## 3:20 PM ET – 4:10 PM ET

### Geopolitical Impacts on Supply Chains



**Stefanie H. Ali,**  
Senior Director,  
Rice, Hadley, Gates &  
Manuel LLC



**Marc Gilbert,**  
Managing Director &  
Senior Partner,  
Boston Consulting Group



**Michelle La Plante,**  
Director,  
Risk Management and  
Resiliency, Enterprise Risk  
& Security Management,  
TE Connectivity



**Cheryl Steele,**  
Vice President of Global  
Security & Resilience /  
Chief Security Officer,  
Starbucks Coffee  
Company



**Moderator:**  
**Penny Naas,**  
TradeExperettes



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# STEFANIE H. ALI



***Senior Director,  
Rice, Hadley, Gates &  
Manuel LLC***

**@stefhausheer**

Stefanie Hausheer Ali is a Director at Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel LLC based in Washington, D.C. where she manages the firm's clients who are interested in expanding their businesses in key international markets such as the Middle East, China, Europe, and Latin America.

Stefanie is a Middle East specialist and worked at the Atlantic Council from 2013 to 2023 before joining RHGM. She was most recently the deputy director of empowerME at the Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East; this initiative focuses on shaping innovative investments to empower entrepreneurs, women, and the private sector in the Middle East. At the Council, Stefanie co-founded and managed the WIn (Women Innovators) Fellowship for women entrepreneurs, a new collaboration between the Atlantic Council and Georgetown University funded by the U.S. Department of State, PepsiCo, and UPS launched in Saudi Arabia in 2022. Stefanie also co-founded and produced the empowerME Conversations podcast featuring top entrepreneurs, business leaders, and government officials in the Middle East.

Stefanie's past work at the Council includes serving as project manager for: the Iraq Initiative; the Middle East Strategy Task Force co-chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley; and the Task Force on the Future of Iraq chaired by Ambassador Ryan Crocker. At the Council, Stefanie planned and managed hundreds of virtual and in-person events in Washington, D.C., Europe, and the Middle East with business executives as well as senior foreign and US government officials. She also staffed VIP delegation trips to Egypt, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

Stefanie was formerly a research fellow with the King Salman Center for Local Governance in Riyadh where she studied the impact of Saudi Arabia's recent higher education initiatives. She was also a graduate research assistant at George Washington University's Institute for Middle East Studies.

Stefanie holds a master's degree in Middle East Studies from George Washington University where she won the Dean's Academic Excellence Award for one of the top GPAs in the Elliott School of International Affairs. She graduated summa cum laude with a dual bachelor's degree in political science and Italian studies from Saint Louis University, where she was a Presidential Scholar. She is proficient in Arabic and Italian.



# MARC GILBERT



***Managing Director & Senior Partner, Boston Consulting Group***

**@BCG**

Marc Gilbert is a Core Member of the Industrial Goods and Consumer practices at Boston Consulting Group and a leader in BCG's Global Advantage and Operations practices. He leads the firm's work in geopolitics and trade impact within the Global Advantage practice. In that role, he has engaged with clients in North America, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia. Marc spends much of his time advancing artificial intelligence (AI) in Canada, including in his role as a board member of SCALE.AI

In addition, Marc is a core member of BCG's Centre for Canada's Future. In that role, he helps move Canada forward by providing insight and expertise on the country's most important issues. The Centre also aims to convene leaders from the business, government, and nonprofit sectors to work together to achieve impact.

Since joining the firm in 1997, Marc has driven and implemented large transformations and global change efforts across all major sectors in North America and Europe. Marc's project work includes large-scale change, growth, organizational redesign, operational effectiveness, competitive benchmarking, and post-merger integration.

Prior to joining BCG, Marc worked at Merck & Co. in its manufacturing division, in process and new product engineering, and in new plant design. He also worked for Merck's specialty chemicals division.



# MICHELLE LA PLANTE



***Director, Risk Management  
and Resiliency, Enterprise  
Risk & Security  
Management,  
TE Connectivity***

**@TEConnectivity**

Michelle La Plante is the Director of Enterprise Risk and Resiliency at TE Connectivity, where she leads geopolitical risk and business continuity strategies. Prior to joining TE, Michelle was with John Deere, where she held roles in international government affairs, global security, and strategic intelligence during her tenure. Michelle also previously served as an economic analyst with the U.S. Department of State at the Embassies in Moscow and Beijing where she worked on trade and investment issues.

Before the State Department, Michelle worked as a project finance lawyer in California, London, and New York, where her practice specialized in automated toll roads. Michelle is fluent in Spanish and earned a B.A. in Communication Studies from UCLA, and a Juris Doctor from UC Law San Francisco. She lives in Arlington, Virginia with her husband and three children.



# CHERYL STEELE

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***Vice President of Global Security & Resilience / Chief Security Officer, Starbucks Coffee Company***

**@cheryl\_steeso**

Cheryl Steele is the Vice President of Global Security & Resilience (Chief Security Officer) at Starbucks Coffee Company, a global fortune 150 company operating more than 35,000 retail locations in over 82 markets around the world. Cheryl oversees safety and security operations, including executive protection, physical security infrastructure, occupational health and safety and supply chain security. Cheryl also leads the company's crisis management and business continuity practice, leveraging a network of intelligence experts to identify and escalate future risks and frame an enterprise-level perspective. Based in Seattle, her team includes partners in Hong Kong, London, and Shanghai.

Cheryl's career spans executive and management roles across the private and public sectors. Her background includes leadership of business development for Fleishman Hillard and directing Booz Allen Hamilton's work at the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and special projects for the U.S. Special Operations community. At Booz Allen, Cheryl contributed to the establishment of the Secretary of State's Office of Global Partnership Initiatives and the launch of the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Cheryl is a former diplomat at the U.S. Department of State with domestic and overseas assignments in the Middle East. She has resided in both Egypt and Jordan and works to maintain her Arabic language skills.

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# PENNY NAAAS



*TradeExperettes*

**@pennynaas**

Penny Naas is the former President of International Public Affairs and Sustainability at UPS. An experienced global leader, Mrs. Naas leads teams in the development and execution of strategies in complex, regulated environments. In her previous role, she led efforts to advance strategies for UPS and its customers on issues including climate change, cross-border trade, and digitalization. She began her UPS career joining as the Head of Public Affairs in the then-EMEA Region.

Prior to joining UPS, she worked for Citigroup in the Global Government Affairs team. She opened Citigroup's first government affairs office in Brussels, where she advanced legislative and regulatory strategies on issues that arose after the 2008 Financial Crisis. She started her career at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where she worked for 13 years in various roles covering global commercial issues. Her final role was to lead the office of Europe, where she oversaw U.S.-European commercial issues. She is an experienced Director on various not-for-profit Board of Directors. Mrs. Naas has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She is a US and Belgian citizen.



Monday, February 12

# Panel Five 4:10 PM – 5:00 PM ET

## U.S. Global Strategic and Trade Priorities



**Heather A. Conley,**  
President,  
German Marshall Fund  
of the United States



**Florizelle Liser,**  
President & CEO,  
Corporate Council on  
Africa



**Eric Farnsworth,**  
Head of the Washington  
Office of the Council of the  
Americas and the  
Americas Society



**Ambassador  
Kurt W. Tong,**  
Managing Partner,  
The Asia Group, LLC



**Moderator:  
Ari Giovenco,**  
Head,  
U.S. Trade Policy,  
Amazon



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# HEATHER A. CONLEY



***President, German Marshall  
Fund of the United States***

**@HConleyGMF**

Heather A. Conley is the sixth President of the German Marshall Fund.

Conley joined GMF after 12 years at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where she most recently served as senior vice president for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic, and as director of the Europe, Russia, and Eurasia Program. At CSIS, she developed the acclaimed Kremlin Playbook series, a dedicated research effort that examined the doctrine and methodology of Russian malign economic behavior and its methodology across Europe. She also is a recognized expert on the Arctic region, focusing on the Russian Arctic, climate transformation, and US policy toward the region.

Conley previously served four years as executive director of the Office of the Chairman of the Board at the American National Red Cross, where she supported the first comprehensive reform of the governance structure of the organization's board since 1947. She worked closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on its policies and programs in the Middle East and elsewhere.

From 2001 to 2005, Conley was deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs with responsibilities for US bilateral relations with Northern and Central European countries. She co-led the US interagency effort to enlarge NATO and secure Senate ratification of an amended North Atlantic Treaty, and she established the Enhanced Partnership in Europe (e-PINE), a forum for senior-level US dialogue with the eight Nordic and Baltic states.

Earlier in her career, she worked at an international consulting firm led by former US Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage.

Conley began her career in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. She was selected to serve as special assistant to the coordinator of U.S. assistance to the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union, and she has received two State Department Meritorious Honor Awards.

Conley frequently appears as a foreign policy analyst and Europe expert on CNN, MSNBC, BBC, NPR, and PBS, among other prominent media outlets. She holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from West Virginia Wesleyan College and a master's degree in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



# ERIC FARNSWORTH



***Head of the Washington  
Office of the Council of the  
Americas and the Americas  
Society***

**@ericfarns**

Eric Farnsworth is Vice President of the Council of the Americas. He is a passionate believer in the strategic importance of the Western Hemisphere. Throughout his career he has helped develop, shape, and interpret US policy across the full range of relevant issues. He is a frequent conference speaker and public commentator, consults widely with senior government and private sector representatives, and has directly advanced the policy agenda by offering Congressional testimony numerous times and publishing often in leading journals and media.

Mr. Farnsworth heads the Washington office of the Americas Society/Council of the Americas, for almost 60 years the premier US institution focused on the region. He is a strong proponent for regional democracy and plays a leading role across a range of issues including trade, investment, and economic relations, energy, healthcare including pandemic relief, and Asia/LAC relations, among others. He is a longstanding, early observer of China's hemispheric engagement and implications for regional development, democracy, and US interests.

In government, he served at the White House, the Office of the US Trade Representative, and the Department of State, working on post-conflict reconstruction in Panama and Central America, NAFTA and related negotiations, and hemispheric policy development, coordination, and implementation during the Clinton Administration. He also served at the US Consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was awarded the Superior Honor Award three times.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Farnsworth was managing director of ManattJones Global Strategies, a Washington and Los Angeles-based advisory and strategic consulting group. He also worked in global public policy at Bristol-Myers Squibb, and, before that, with US Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA) and Congressman John Edward Porter (R-IL). He earned an MPA in International Relations from Princeton and a BA (honors) from Ball State with majors in economics, history, and political science.

Eric Farnsworth is a Truman Scholar, an alumnus of the Leadership America, NATO Alliance, and US-Spain leadership programs, and an invited participant on programs with numerous policy organizations. He has also served as president of the Western Hemisphere Committee of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, a member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy, and a board member of Princeton in Latin America (PiLA). In 2016 he was decorated by the King and Ambassador of Spain for his work to promote bilateral and regional relations. In 2021, he was made an Academic Correspondent by the Uruguayan Academia Nacional de Economia. In 2022 he was decorated both by the Government of Chile and the Government of Colombia with highest honors.



# FLORIZELLE LISER



***President & CEO,  
Corporate Council on Africa***

**@LiserFlorie**

Florizelle (Florie) Liser is the third President and CEO of Corporate Council on Africa. Ms. Liser brings expertise and an extensive network on trade and Africa to her new role, along with a strong track record of working with the private sector to translate policy into action. She is the first woman to lead the Council since its founding in 1993.

Ms. Liser joined CCA from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), where she was the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa since 2003. At USTR, she led trade and investment policy towards 49 sub-Saharan African nations and oversaw implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Previously, Ms. Liser served as Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Industry, Market Access, and Telecommunications from 2000–2003. She also served as Senior Trade Policy Advisor in the Office of International Transportation and Trade at the Department of Transportation from 1987–2000; worked as a Director in USTR's Office of GATT Affairs, and served as an Associate Fellow at the Overseas Development Council (ODC) from 1975–1980.

Currently, Ms. Liser serves as a re-appointed member of the 2023–2024 sub-Saharan Africa Advisory Committee for the Export-Import Bank (EXIM) where she previously served from 2019–2021. Ms. Liser also served as co-chair of the Advisory Council for the Millennium Challenge Corporation and has also served as a Board member for the Women in International Trade (WIIT).

Ms. Liser holds a M.A. in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and a B.A. in International Relations and Political Science from Dickinson College.

# AMBASSADOR KURT W. TONG



***Managing Partner,  
The Asia Group, LLC***

**@tongkurt**

Ambassador Kurt Tong is Managing Partner and member of the Executive Committee at The Asia Group, where he leads consulting teams focused on Japan, China and Hong Kong, and on East Asia regional policy matters. He also leads the firm's innovative thought leadership programs. A leading expert in diplomacy and economic affairs in East Asia, Ambassador Tong brings thirty years of experience in the Department of State as a career Foreign Service Officer and member of the Senior Foreign Service.

Prior to joining The Asia Group, Ambassador Tong served as Consul General and Chief of Mission in Hong Kong and Macau, leading U.S. political and economic engagement with that important free trade hub. Prior to that role, he served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs at the State Department from 2014 to 2016, guiding the Department's institutional strengthening efforts as its most senior career diplomat handling economic affairs. He also served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo from 2011 to 2014, where he played a key role in setting the stage for Japan's entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership and supporting Japan's recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. In 2013, he received the Cordell Hull Award for Economic Achievement by Senior Officers for his outstanding success in advancing U.S. economic interests by reducing trade barriers, increasing market access for American products, and enhancing international cooperation across the Asia Pacific region. He also received Presidential Meritorious Service Awards for 2011 and 2018.

Prior to these positions, Ambassador Tong served as Ambassador for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 2011, leading the U.S. chairmanship of the organization during one of the most productive periods for APEC. As Director of Korean Affairs in the State Department's Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs, he played a leadership role in negotiations with North Korea as part of the Six-Party Talks and in securing the release of captive Americans held there. He was one of the original architects of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement during the Bush and Obama administrations, including while serving as Director for Asian Economic Affairs at the White House National Security Council from 2006 to 2008.

Earlier in his career, Ambassador Tong served as Economic Minister-Counselor in Seoul, Counselor for Environment, Science and Health at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, Deputy Treasury Attaché in Tokyo, and as an economic officer in Manila. He published research on Japanese macroeconomic trends and U.S.-Japan economic diplomacy as a Visiting Scholar with Tokyo University's Faculty of Economics, and before joining the Foreign Service, was an Associate with the Boston Consulting Group in Tokyo.

Ambassador Tong holds a B.A. from The Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and studied economics at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute. He has also studied at the Beijing Institute of Education, Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies in Taipei, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Tokyo, and the International Christian University in Tokyo.

Ambassador Tong is a Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and an Advisor at the Hinrich Foundation and Geodesic Capital. He is Chairman of the National Association of Japan-America Societies and also Chairman of the non-profit International Student Conferences Inc. Ambassador Tong is an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, a member of the U.S. Committee for the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy.

Ambassador Tong speaks and reads both Japanese and Mandarin Chinese. He was born in Ohio and raised in New England. The son of a collegiate athletic coach, Ambassador Tong enjoys tennis, golf and other sports. He is married to Dr. Mika Marumoto. They have three grown children.

# ARI GIOVENCO



***Head, U.S. Trade Policy,  
Amazon***

**@ari\_stefan**

Ari Giovenco is the Head of U.S. Trade Policy at Amazon where he advocates on a wide range of trade and economic issues with the U.S. Government and international organizations. Previously, he was a Senior Director for Congressional Affairs in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, served as a Legislative Assistant for a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and was the Director of Trade and International Policy at the Internet Association.





Tuesday, February 13

# Panel One

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM ET

20 Trends for 2024



**Robert Moran,**  
Partner,  
Brunswick Group



**Moderator:**  
**Ken Levinson**   
Chief Executive Officer,  
Washington  
International Trade  
Association

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# ROBERT MORAN



*Partner,  
Brunswick Group*

**@BrunswickGroup**

Robert Moran is Partner at the Insight Global Lead at Brunswick Insight. He leads Brunswick Insight, our global public opinion, market research and analytics function with research teams in New York, London, Washington, Dubai, Beijing, Hong Kong, San Francisco, Munich and Dallas.

Brunswick Insight provides intelligence for market-moving decisions by combining experienced, data-driven counsel with an emphasis on rapid research and analysis. Brunswick Insight converts research into strategic advice for communications programmes and campaigns.

Robert was previously President of StrategyOne's US operations, Edelman's strategic research consultancy. Prior to that, Robert was Vice President at Fabrizio, McLaughlin & Associates. He began his career at political polling giant Public Opinion Strategies.



# KENNETH I. LEVINSON



***Chief Executive Officer,  
Washington International Trade  
Association***

**@KLev\_DC**

Ken Levinson serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Washington International Trade Association (WITA). WITA is the world's largest non-profit, non-partisan membership organization dedicated to providing a neutral forum for the open and robust discussion of international trade policy and economic issues. WITA and its affiliated groups have over 10,000 members, and more than 160 corporate sponsors and group memberships.

Ken has over 30 years of experience working with companies, associations, NGOs and governments, advocating innovative solutions to complex public policy challenges. Over the years, Ken has worked with clients in the technology, telecommunications, biopharmaceuticals, agriculture and food, financial services, retail, apparel, energy, and consumer products sectors.

Previously, Ken served as Senior Director for Global Government Affairs for AstraZeneca. Prior to joining AstraZeneca, Ken served as Senior Vice President and COO at the Washington, DC consulting firm of Fontheim International. Ken joined Fontheim after spending six years on the staff of U.S. Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV. Ken advised the Senator on foreign policy and national security matters, and served as the Senator's chief advisor on the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, dealing with issues related to international trade and tax policy.

Ken received his Master's Degree from New York University after doing his undergraduate work at the University of Massachusetts, in Amherst. Ken also spent a year studying at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Ken and his wife, the Reverend Donna Marsh, live in Bethesda, MD, with their two daughters.





Tuesday, February 13

## Panel Two

**10:00 AM – 10:45 AM ET**

Armchair Discussion with Jay Timmons, President and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers



**Jay Timmons,**  
President & CEO,  
National  
Association of  
Manufacturers



**Moderator:**  
**Doug Palmer,**  
Senior Trade  
Reporter,  
POLITICO



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# JAY TIMMONS



***President & CEO,  
National Association of  
Manufacturers***

**@JayTimmonsNAM**

Jay Timmons is President and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers and chairman of the board of the Manufacturing Institute, the NAM's workforce development and education affiliate. The NAM is the largest manufacturing association in the United States, representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector.

Since Jay took the helm, the NAM has more than doubled in size, dramatically expanded its issue advocacy and enhanced the organization's influence and mobilization efforts outside of Washington, D.C. He led the NAM to create the NAM Legal Center, acquire the Manufacturing Leadership Council and combine with the Innovation Research Interchange. With manufacturers facing an urgent need for talented and skilled workers, Jay is also a champion for connecting more Americans with rewarding careers in modern manufacturing and for closing the opportunity gap.

The NAM has become the one-stop shop for manufacturers in advocacy, legal action, workforce development, operational excellence and news and insights. Under Jay's leadership, the NAM has also become a trusted resource on the international stage—advocating for manufacturers before world institutions and as trade agreements are negotiated and enforced. The NAM provides a platform for world leaders to work with manufacturers and the broader American business community to address global crises, such as when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke to the NAM Board of Directors in February 2023. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jay guided the NAM as it took on a new role in supporting disaster relief.

With four decades of experience working in state and national government and politics, Jay has built trusted relationships across multiple presidential administrations and with top leaders in both major parties. His previous experience includes serving as chief of staff to Congressman, Gov. and Sen. George Allen (R-VA) and as executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 2004 election cycle.

Jay is recognized as a forceful and effective leader of the business association community, and he has been honored as "Trade Association CEO of the Year" by CEO Update.

He is driven by the values instilled in him by his roots in the manufacturing town of Chillicothe, Ohio, where his grandfather worked at the Mead plant for nearly four decades.

Jay and his husband, Rick, reside in Virginia with their three children and an assortment of rescue dogs and other critters.

# DOUG PALMER



*Senior Trade Reporter,  
POLITICO*

[@tradereporter](#)

Doug Palmer has been a reporter in Washington for more than three decades and has been covering trade for more than 20 years. He has been senior trade reporter at POLITICO since 2013. He helps produce the Morning Trade newsletter each morning, and has covered trade negotiations and disputes with China, the EU, and all regions of the world.





Tuesday, February 13

# Panel Three 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM ET

## Ambassadors Roundtable: Trade as a Foreign Policy Pillar



**Ambassador Catalina Crespo-Sancho,**  
Ambassador of Costa  
Rica to the United States



**Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragán,**  
Ambassador of Mexico to  
the United States




**Ambassador Lui Tuck Yew,**  
Ambassador of the Republic  
of Singapore to the United  
States



**Ambassador Jovita Neliupšienė,**  
Appointed Ambassador  
of the European Union to  
the United States



**Moderator:**   
**Ambassador Kristen Silverberg,**  
President & COO,  
Business Roundtable

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# AMBASSADOR CATALINA CRESPO-SANCHO



***Ambassador of Costa Rica  
to the United States***

**@CatalinaCRE**

Dr. Catalina Crespo Sancho is the Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States. She is a human rights specialist with over 20 years of experience in international development.

In 2018, the Costa Rican Congress elected her for a 4-year term as the Head of the National Human Rights Institution. During that period, the Central American and Caribbean Council of National Institutions of Human Rights also elected her as the 2019–2020 President, where she implemented a regional approach, to deal with the migration crisis.

From 2013 to 2018 Ambassador Crespo-Sancho worked at the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank on development issues in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

At the World Bank, she worked on the prevention of violent conflict where she co-authored the UN/World Bank report, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict*. She has also worked as a gender advisor for governments including the government of Costa Rica and Madagascar. Additionally, she collaborated with the private sector on corporate social responsibility.

Ambassador Crespo-Sancho was a professor at Columbia University and at the University of Georgia, where she taught and conducted research on topics of immigration, gender, and education.

Ambassador Crespo-Sancho holds a Ph.D. in Sociology of Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she attended with a Fulbright Scholarship; she has an MA in International Education from Framingham State University and a BA in Psychology from Universidad de Monterrey in Costa Rica.



# AMBASSADOR ESTEBAN MOCTEZUMA BARRAGÁN



***Ambassador of Mexico to  
the United States***

**@emoctezumab**

Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mexico to the United States of America by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. He was ratified by the Senate of the Republic in February 2021 with 115 votes in favor of 116 attending senators.

He was secretary of public education since 2018. Among his government positions, he previously served as secretary of social development (1998–1999); federal senator of the Republic (1997–1998); secretary of interior (1994–1995); undersecretary of educational planning and coordination (1993–1994) and chief administrative officer (1992–1993) at the Secretariat of Public Education; chief administrative officer at the Secretariat of Programming and Budget (1988–1992); and secretary of administration for the Government of the State of Sinaloa (1982–1987). He was responsible for implementing the autonomy of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (1994).

Ambassador Moctezuma earned a degree in economics by the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He also obtained a Master's degree in economic development from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and completed a course on regional development in Tokyo, Japan. He was awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa degree from the University of Sciences and Arts of Chiapas.

Regarding his career in civil society, he served as Executive President of Fundación Azteca (2001–2018); promoter of the System of Children's and Youth Symphony Orchestras Esperanza Azteca (2009–2018); trainer of Youth of Excellence through the Bicentennial Generation Scholarships (2010–2018); promoter of the program for the conservation of natural protected areas ¡Que viva la Selva Lacandona! (2004–2018); responsible for the campaign Limpiemos nuestro México (2009–2018); member of the Board of Directors at the Mexican Foundation of Health (2004–2018); president of the Board of Trustees of the National Institute of Public Health (2011–2015); assembly member at the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (2013–2017); vice president of the organization "Entrepreneurs in Basic Education" and President of "Social Commitment for the Quality and Equity of Education".

Ambassador Moctezuma has been a columnist for several Mexican newspapers and has written several books.



# AMBASSADOR JOVITA NELIUPŠIENĖ



*Appointed Ambassador of  
the European Union to the  
United States*

**@Jovita\_Pra**

Jovita Neliupšienė became the Appointed Ambassador of the European Union to the United States on January 1, 2024. Before that, she was a Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania from September 2022, where she was responsible for the coordination of European Affairs, European bilateral and regional issues, as well as national sanctions coordinator.

From 2020–2022, she was Vice Minister of Economy and Innovation of Lithuania, tasked with investment and export promotion, international cooperation, including policy coordination of state-owned enterprises, as well as chairing the interagency commission for export control.

In 2020, she held the post of Chancellor and State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. This position included responsibility for staff coordination, legal and consular affairs. Between 2015–2020, she served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the EU. These years were marked by the migration crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

From 2009–2015, she worked as an advisor and chief foreign policy advisor to the President of the Republic of Lithuania Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė. She was responsible for foreign policy coordination, inter-institutional relations, as well as the role of sherpa/EU advisor, and in this respect took a leading position in preparing and coordinating the Lithuanian presidency of the EU Council in 2013. In 2014, she was awarded the State Decoration Order "For Merit to Lithuania" Commander's Cross.

# AMBASSADOR LUI TUCK YEW



***Ambassador of the Republic  
of Singapore to the United  
States***

**@SingaporeEmbDC**

**@USEmbassySG**

Mr Lui Tuck Yew was appointed as Singapore's Ambassador to the United States of America in June 2023.

Mr Lui Tuck Yew was Singapore's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China from November 2019 to April 2023. Prior to this, he was Singapore's Ambassador to Japan from June 2017 to October 2019.

Mr Lui was the Minister for Transport from 2011 to 2015 and concurrently Second Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2012 and Second Minister for Defence in 2015. Mr Lui was Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts from 2009 to 2011. He was first elected as Member of Parliament in 2006 and served as a Senior Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts until 2009.

Mr Lui was a Singapore Armed Forces (Overseas) scholar and served in the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), rising to the position of Chief of Navy in 1999.

Mr Lui was appointed Chief Executive of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore in 2003 and concurrently Deputy Secretary (Land), Ministry of Transport. He joined the Housing and Development Board (HDB) as Chief Executive Officer in 2005.

Mr Lui graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from University of Cambridge, Trinity College United Kingdom in 1983. He subsequently obtained a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from Tufts University, USA in 1994.

Mr Lui was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) (Military) in 1993, the Public Administration Medal (Gold) (Military) in 2000, and the Long Service Medal in 2005.

Mr Lui is married to Madam Teng Soo Fen and they have two children. He enjoys travelling, reading, cricket, baseball and American football.

# AMBASSADOR KRISTEN SILVERBERG



*President & COO,  
Business Roundtable*

**@AmbSilverberg**

Ambassador Kristen Silverberg is President & COO at Business Roundtable. Prior to BRT she was a Managing Director at the Institute of International Finance. She served in the George W. Bush Administration as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union from 2008 to 2009 and as Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs from 2005 to 2008. She also held a number of senior positions at the White House including Deputy Assistant to the President.

Ambassador Silverberg served in 2003 in Baghdad, Iraq for which she received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. She formerly practiced law at Williams and Connolly, LLP in Washington, DC and served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Judge David Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals. She attended Harvard College and the University of Texas School of Law, where she graduated with High Honors.

Ambassador Silverberg also serves on the Boards of Vorbeck Materials, the International Republican Institute, the Forum for American Leadership, and the Vandenberg Coalition, and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Reagan Institute Strategy Group.



**Tuesday, February 13**

# **Panel Four**

**12:15 PM – 1:00 PM ET**

**Luncheon Keynote**



**Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE),**  
Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, United States House of Representatives



**Moderator: Stephanie Lester,**  
Vice President, Head of Government Affairs, Gap Inc.

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# CONGRESSMAN ADRIAN SMITH



***Chairman of the Trade  
Subcommittee of the House Ways  
and Means Committee, United  
States House of Representatives  
(R-NE)***

**@RepAdrianSmith**

Congressman Adrian Smith is the United States Representative for Nebraska's third district and chairman of the Trade Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. A Gering native whose family has called Nebraska home for six generations, Congressman Adrian Smith was first introduced to politics by his grandfather. Adrian's first encounter with government regulations was when he was a child running a snow cone stand, and he realized at a young age what overly restrictive government policies can do to American businesses.

Prior to his election to Congress in 2006, Adrian worked as an educator, real estate agent, and served his hometown as a member of the city council. He then represented District 48 for eight years in the Unicameral.

In his work on Capitol Hill he has demonstrated steady leadership, a commitment to hard work, and dedication to Nebraska commonsense. Adrian has tackled issues ranging from international market access for Nebraska goods to advocating for rural America and opportunities to help feed the world.

Since 2010, he has served on the powerful Ways and Means Committee. Adrian – who is Chairman of Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee – actively promotes market access for Nebraska products in Asia, South America, Europe, and throughout the world. His leadership on trade agreements, such as the United States–Mexico–Canada agreement, continues to open new opportunities for agriculture producers and manufacturers to keep Nebraska's economy strong. He also fought for and delivered tax relief for Nebraska families, ag producers, and small business owners by helping craft the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – the first tax code overhaul to be signed into law in a generation.

In addition to his work on trade and tax issues, Adrian is also a member of the Subcommittee on Health where he is a champion for lowering drug costs, strengthening American innovation, expanding access to telehealth, and giving every American more control over their health care no matter where they live. He also serves on the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare and is a member of the House Democracy Partnership.

A staunch conservative, Adrian has consistently voted against tax increases and government bailouts. He continues to fight for policies to secure the border, defend Nebraskans' Constitutional freedoms, address inflation and our supply chain crisis, unleash domestic energy sources, and promote a strong economy to provide certainty for American families and job creators. He is pro-life.

He and his wife, Andrea, reside in Gering, Nebraska, with their two young children.

# STEPHANIE LESTER



***Vice President, Head of  
Government Affairs,  
Gap Inc.***

**@GapInc**

Stephanie Lester is Director of Government Affairs at Gap Inc. In this capacity, she leads Gap Inc.'s trade affairs portfolio, including trade agreements, preference programs, and capacity building programs to contribute to communities in which Gap Inc. sources by utilizing trade to build sustainable apparel industries. Ms. Lester was previously Vice President for International Trade at the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA). In that role, she advocated on behalf of the largest, most successful retailers on international trade, customs, and product safety issues. From 2001–2006, Ms. Lester served as a professional staff member for the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. In that capacity, she advised members of the Committee on a variety of trade matters including free trade agreements, WTO negotiations on rules and dispute settlement, trade preference programs, U.S. trade remedy laws, and investment. Ms. Lester also worked as an international trade analyst at the U.S. Department of Commerce and later served as the Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

Ms. Lester holds a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Multinational Business from Florida State University, and a Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from American University in Washington, DC. Ms. Lester has served on the WITA Board of Directors since 2006, and currently serves as Vice President.





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1. Protectionism, price swings (inflation in the U.S. and Europe, deflation in China), and geopolitical tensions have created an uncertain environment for trade.
2. There are increasing shipments of vaccines and medical test kits.
3. Manufacturers have diversified their supply chains, consumers aren't buying enough, and tariffs and export restrictions are rising.
4. China wasn't the only Asian country to suffer declining exports. Singapore, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan's shipments dropped too.
5. Supply chains are adjusting away from China, benefitting U.S. and European trade.
6. Germany, China, Belgium, South Korea, and the U.S. are leading the charge in electric cars.
7. Investments in green energy, driven by governments and consumer demand, are propelling new trade flows.
8. The huge boom in Russia-China trade is showing signs of tapering off.
9. There is a healthy boom in regional trade networks, notably the Middle East.
10. While much of the rest of the world is trying to wean themselves from fossil fuels, China is ramping up imports of them, especially coal.



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# REFERENCE: SPEAKER LIST



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2. **Ambassador Peter Allgeier**, President, Nauset Global LLC; former Deputy U.S. Trade Representative
3. **Anna Ashton**, Director, China Corporate Affairs & US-China, Eurasia Group
4. **Matthew Bolden**, Climate Policy Advisor, Senate Budget Committee for Chairman Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
5. **Ambassador Catalina Crespo-Sancho**, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United States
6. **Heather A. Conley**, President, German Marshall Fund of the United States
7. **Linda Dempsey**, Vice President, Public Affairs, CF Industries
8. **Angela Ellard**, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization
9. **Eric Farnsworth**, Head of the Washington Office of the Council of the Americas and the Americas Society
10. **Marc Gilbert**, Managing Director and Senior Partner, Boston Consulting Group
11. **Jamieson Greer**, Partner, King & Spalding
12. **Ari Giovenco**, Head, U.S. Trade Policy, Amazon
13. **Christine Harbin**, Energy Policy Advisor, Senator Bill Cassidy M.D. (R-LA)
14. **Maureen Hinman**, Cofounder & Chairman, Silverado Policy Accelerator
15. **Timothy Keeler**, Partner & Co-Leader of International Trade, Mayer Brown
16. **Michelle La Plante**, Director, Risk Management and Resiliency, Enterprise Risk & Security Management, TE Connectivity





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18. **Florizelle Liser**, President & CEO, Corporate Council on Africa
19. **Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragán**, Ambassador of Mexico to the United States
20. **Robert Moran**, Partner, Brunswick Group
21. **Penny Naas**, TradeExperettes
22. **Ambassador Jovita Neliupšienė**, Appointed Ambassador of the European Union to the United States
23. **Doug Palmer**, Senior Trade Reporter, POLITICO
24. **Catrina Rorke**, Executive Director, Center for Climate and Trade; Senior Vice President for Policy and Research, Climate Leadership Council
25. **Ambassador Kristen Silverberg**, President & COO, Business Roundtable
26. **Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE)**, Chairman of the Trade Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, United States House of Representatives
27. **Cheryl Steele**, Vice President of Global Security & Resilience / Chief Security Officer, Starbucks Coffee Company
28. **Jay Timmons**, President & CEO, National Association of Manufacturers
29. **Ambassador Kurt W. Tong**, Managing Partner, The Asia Group, LLC
30. **Paul Triolo**, Associate Partner for China and Technology Policy Lead at Albright Stonebridge Group | Dentons Global Advisors
31. **Jeremie O. Waterman**, President of the China Center and Vice President for Greater China, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
32. **Ambassador Lui Tuck Yew**, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the United States

# 2024 Congressional Trade Agenda

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM ET

Hybrid: In-person and via Zoom

In-person event in the Rotunda

Ronald Reagan Building

1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, D.C.



## Featured Speakers:

**Sally Laing**, Chief International Trade Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Democratic Staff

**Mayur Patel**, Chief Counsel, International Trade, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Republican Staff

**Josh Snead**, Republican Chief Trade Counsel, Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Committee

**Alexandra Whittaker**, Democratic Chief Trade Counsel; Staff Director Trade Subcommittee, House Committee on Ways and Means

To Register, please go to [www.wita.org/events](http://www.wita.org/events)





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**Hosted by the Washington  
International Trade Foundation**

The mission of the WITA Academy™ is to make trade education and career opportunities in international trade accessible to communities in the United States and around the world, and to make the trade community itself more diverse, equitable and inclusive.

The WITA Academy™ is a program of the Washington International Trade Foundation. Through the work of the WITA Academy, the Foundation will expand what the term “inclusive” means to WITA and the trade community at large. Having diverse points of view on trade means one thing but having a diverse and inclusive trade community means another.

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## NEW WITA ACADEMY PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

In 2024, the WITA Academy is launching a new Pathways to Opportunity program on Careers in International Trade & Law. Law students and undergraduates will hear from law firms and trade professionals about career opportunities in international trade and law.

WITA Academy Pathways programs seek to bring the best and brightest, next generation workforce into the trade policy community – diversifying its network of professionals with new talent that may not have previously sought careers in international trade.

This new initiative will feature both virtual and in-person events in Washington, D.C. The format will be similar to other Pathways events, featuring sessions on public and private sector career pathways. The series will be geared towards pre-law and law students.

A Summer in-person networking social will be hosted to connect law students, summer associates, and young trade professionals in downtown D.C.

In-person events will focus on D.C.-area law schools (Howard, Georgetown, GWU, American, Catholic, etc...). Virtual events will expand the program to law schools and students across the United States who might not have exposure to D.C. law firms and professionals.

*All programs will be free to attend for interested students.*

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- Speaking opportunities at WITA Academy: Careers in International Trade & Law in-person events and webinars
- WITA Academy sponsor recognition at Washington International Trade Association and Foundation events, including annual Trade Conference and Annual Dinner
- Opportunity for logoed contributions ("swag") at in-person WITA Academy: Careers in International Trade & Law events
- Opportunity to host events under the WITA Academy umbrella
- Logo-Link on WITA's website and WITA Academy pages

*For more sponsorship opportunities, please contact Diego Añez at [danez@wita.org](mailto:danez@wita.org)*



**Thank you for  
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