

**February 10 &  
February 11**

**2025**

# **Washington International Trade Conference**

**Monday, February 10, 2025**

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

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

In Person & Via Zoom: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM US/Eastern Time  
(includes luncheon)

**Join the conversation!**

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# WELCOME

Welcome to the 2025 Washington International Trade Conference!

We're delighted to welcome you online on Monday, February 10, and both in-person and online on Tuesday, February 11. We're thrilled that at this year's Conference, we are joined by guests from from 15 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, Coupang, National Retail Federation, Trade Center Management Associates, and the International Trade Center. It is through their support, and the sustained support of all our sponsors, 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're looking at the world as it is and how trade policy is being reshaped. In thinking about trade policy in 2025, we're reminded of what former U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld once said: there are "things we know that we know. There are known unknowns...but there are also unknown unknowns." Over the next two days, we'll try to sort out what we know from what we don't know and perhaps begin to glimpse a way forward into the "unknown unknown."

In the months to come, WITA will continue to dive deeply into important trade issues facing America and the world. 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. We are also re-launching our Trade on the Hill series, events for our Embassy and Ministry Network, and expanding WITA International's global programming.

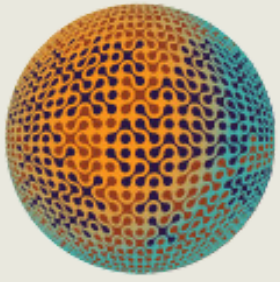
Thank you for joining us at the 2025 Washington International Trade Conference. Whether you are joining us online or in-person, we are delighted to welcome you to this vital conversation.

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# AGENDA



## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10



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

### 1:00 PM ET: The Trade Reporters: Update on the First 21 Days

**Iana Dreyer**, Founder & Editor, Borderlex

**David Lynch**, Global Economics Correspondent, The Washington Post

**Doug Palmer**, Senior Trade Reporter, Politico

**Ana Swanson**, Trade and International Economics Reporter, The New York Times

 **Moderator: Everett Eissenstat**, Partner, Public Policy Practice Group, Squire Patton Boggs


### 1:45 PM ET: Renewing U.S. Global Leadership on Technology and Trade

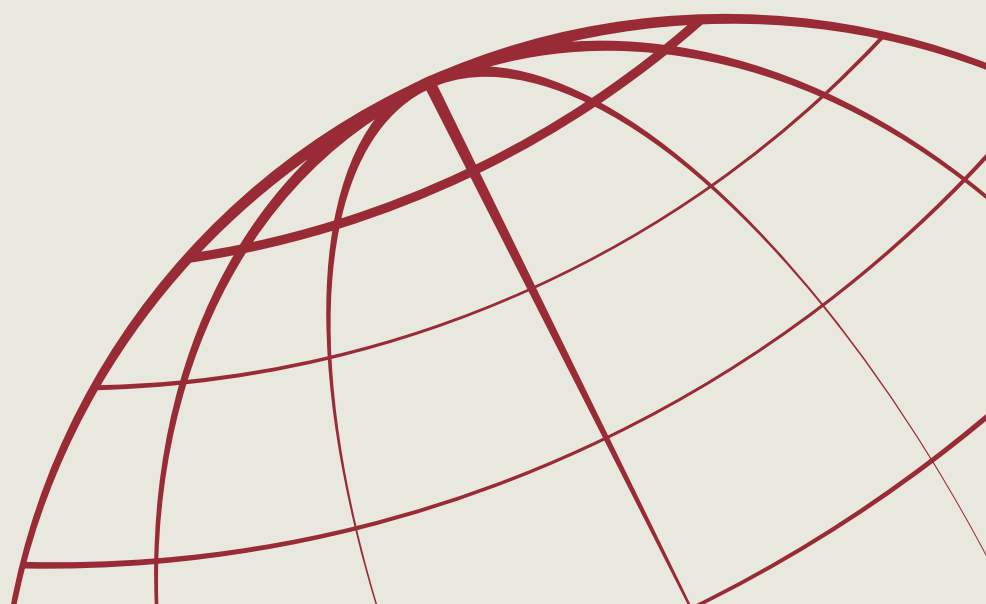
**Jason Oxman**, President & Chief Executive Officer, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

**Ambassador Tan Hung Seng**, Permanent Representative, Singapore Mission to the WTO

**Kate Kalutkiewicz**, Senior Managing Director, McLarty Associates

**Olivia Walch**, CEO, Arcascope

 **Moderator: Jake Colvin**, President, National Foreign Trade Council



# AGENDA

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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

### 2:30 PM ET: Hot Button China Issues – National Security, Technology and Cybersecurity

**Andrew Grotto**, Director, Stanford Program on Geopolitics, Technology and Governance; William J. Perry International Security Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

**Peter Harrell**, Non-Resident Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

**Melanie Hart**, Senior Director, Global China Hub

**Dr. James Mulvenon**, Chief Intelligence Officer, Pamir Consulting

 **Moderator: Nova Daly**, Senior Public Policy Advisor, Wiley Rein LLP;

### 3:15 PM ET: USMCA Six Year Review

**C.J. Mahoney**, Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Cloud + AI, Microsoft; former Deputy United States Trade Representative

*(C.J. Mahoney is joining us in his personal capacity, as the former lead U.S. official who oversaw the USMCA negotiation. Nothing he says today should be construed as speaking on behalf of his current employer.)*

**Kenneth Smith Ramos**, Partner, Agon; former Mexican Chief Negotiator for the T-MEC/USMCA, Office of the Secretariat of the Economy

**Steve Verheul**, Principal, GT&Co Executive Advisors; former Special Advisor, Trade Policy, Canada's Deputy Minister of Finance; formerly Canada's Chief Negotiator for CUSMA/USMCA

 **Moderator: Nasim Fussell**, Senior Vice President, LotSixteen; former Chief Trade Counsel, U.S. Senate Finance Committee

# AGENDA

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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

### 4:00 PM ET: Reimagining Trade in a Fragmented World

**Ted Alden**, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; Ross Distinguished Visiting Professor, Western Washington University; author of *The Future of Trade in an Era of Disruption*

**Aranca González**, Dean, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po; former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain; author of *The Next Five Years: How strong economic and trade alliances can prepare the EU for a post-America world*

**Todd Tucker**, Director, Industrial Policy and Trade, Roosevelt Institute; lead author of *The New US Trade Agenda: Institutionalizing Middle-Out Economics in Foreign Commercial Policy*

**Stephen Vaughn**, Partner, International Trade, King & Spalding; former General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

 **Moderator: Wendy Cutler**, Vice President, Asia Society Policy Institute; former Acting Deputy United States Trade Representative



# AGENDA

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

### 9:30 AM ET: Doors Open for Networking Breakfast

Coffee with Assorted Pastries and Breakfast Items

### 10:05 AM ET: Welcoming Remarks

**Kenneth I. Levinson**, Chief Executive Officer, Washington International Trade Association

### 10:10 AM ET: World on the Brink

**Fireside Chat with Dmitri Alperovitch**, Co-Founder & Chairman, Silverado Policy Accelerator; former Co-Founder & Chief Technology Officer (CTO), CrowdStrike Inc.; author of *World on the Brink: How America Can Beat China in the Race for the Twenty-First Century*

 **Moderator: Michael Castellano**, Executive Director, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission

### 11:00 AM ET: China's Global Reach and Regaining American Leadership in the Global South

 **Introduction by Jonathan Gold, Vice President**, Supply Chain and Customs Policy, National Retail Federation

**Ambassador Brian Nichols**, former Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs; former Ambassador to Peru and Zimbabwe

**Hon. Nazak Nikakhtar**, Partner, National Security Chair, Wiley Rein LLP; former Under Secretary of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce

**Ambassador Ted Osius**, President & CEO, US-ASEAN Business Council; former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam

**Arun Venkataraman**, Former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets & Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service

 **Moderator: Kellie Meiman**, Senior Counselor, McLarty Associates

# AGENDA

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

### 12:00 PM: Buffet Networking Luncheon

#### French Buffet

Starters: Classic Potato and Leek Soup; Roasted Red Beet and Spinach Salad; Provençale White Bean Salad

Entrées: Poulet Sautéed Chasseur; Beef Bourguignon

Sides: Potato and Gruyère Cheese Gratin; Provençale Vegetable Ratatouille

### 12:15 PM: Luncheon Keynote

 **Introduction by Maria Zieba**, Vice President, Government Affairs, National Pork Producers Council

**Senator Tim Scott**, Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

 **Moderator: Arrow Augerot**, Director of Americas Public Policy, Amazon

### 1:00 PM ET: The Art of the Deal: Trade Politics in 2025

**Armchair Discussion with Sean Spicer**, Host of the Sean Spicer Show (YouTube); former visiting fellow at Harvard University's Institute of Politics; former Press Secretary and Communications Director for President Donald J. Trump; former Spokesman, Office of the United States Trade Representative

 **Moderator: Nicole Bivens Collinson**, Managing Principal, Operating Committee, International Trade & Government Relations Practice Leader, Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.



Monday, February 10

**Panel One**  
**1:00 PM – 1:45 PM ET**

**The Trade Reporters:  
Update on the First 21 Days**



**Iana Dreyer**  
Founder & Editor,  
Borderlex



**David Lynch**  
Global Economics  
Correspondent, The  
Washington Post



**Ana Swanson**  
Trade and International  
Economics Reporter, The  
New York Times



**Doug Palmer**  
Senior Trade Reporter,  
Politico



**Moderator: Everett Eissenstat**  
Partner, Public Policy Practice Group,  
Squire Patton Boggs



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# IANA DRYER



## Founder & Editor, Borderlex

Iana is the Founder and Editor of Borderlex. She launched Borderlex in 2014 and remains its driving force. Iana has deep international trade policy expertise spanning over fifteen years.

Iana steers Borderlex's editorial activities and particularly likes to write about the politics shaping EU trade policy, systemic issues at the World Trade Organization, international trade disputes, the nexus between security and trade and EU-Asian trade relations.

Before launching her publishing activity in London, Iana worked as policy analyst in think tanks with a focus on international trade and international energy policy, consulting on occasion for governments. Iana has worked with the European Centre for International Political Economy, the Institute Montaigne and the EU Institute for Security Studies. Iana has also worked for the Financial Times group and trained in journalism. Iana has post-graduate degrees from the London School of Economics and Sciences Po in Paris.

# DAVID LYNCH



**Global Economics  
Correspondent,  
The Washington Post**

David J. Lynch is a Global Economic Correspondent at The Washington Post since November 2017 from the Financial Times, where he covered white-collar crime. He was previously the cybersecurity editor at Politico and a senior writer with Bloomberg News, focusing on the intersection of politics and economics. Earlier, he followed the global economy for USA Today, where he was the founding bureau chief in both London and Beijing. He covered the wars in Kosovo and Iraq, the latter as an embedded reporter with the U.S. Marines, and was the paper's first recipient of a Nieman fellowship at Harvard University. He has reported from more than 60 countries.



# DOUG PALMER



**Senior Trade Reporter,  
Politico**

Doug Palmer is a Senior Trade Reporter at Politico. He 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.



# ANA SWANSON



**Trade and International  
Economics Reporter,  
The New York Times**

Ana Swanson is a Trade and International Economics Reporter for The New York Times. She previously covered the economy, trade and the Federal Reserve for The Washington Post.

Before that, Ana was an editor of Foreign Policy's South Asia Channel and the editor-in-chief of China Economic Review magazine in Shanghai.

She has a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology from Northwestern University and a master's in international relations with a focus in China and international economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Before moving to Washington, D.C., she lived and worked in China for eight years.



# EVERETT EISSENSTAT



## **Partner, Public Policy Practice Group, Squire Patton Boggs**

Everett Eissenstat is one of the nation's foremost global trade experts having served in senior positions in Congress, Office of the United States Trade Representative, The White House, and a Fortune 50 company. He helps clients manage and mitigate geopolitical risk, influence international economic policy-making, and develop and execute successful international trade and investment strategies.

During a distinguished government career spanning over two decades, Everett served as Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council. Reporting to the President, the National Security Advisor, and the Director of the National Economic Council, he coordinated interagency policy development and implementation on international economic policy matters. Previously, he also held key roles in the US House, Senate, and the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR), including as the Chief International Trade Counsel to the Chairman of the US Senate Finance Committee (2011-2017), and as Assistant US Trade Representative for the Americas (2006-2011). Everett led negotiations of multiple comprehensive bilateral free trade agreements.

Everett also served as Legislative Director for Rep. Jim Kolbe, where he advised the Congressman on international trade matters, appropriations, and foreign affairs. He was also Senior Vice President at a multinational automotive manufacturer (2018-2021) reporting to the CEO and managing over 100 public policy professionals worldwide. He helped navigate a range of challenges including labor relations, supply chain disruptions and the regulatory and compliance implications of transitioning from internal combustible engines to electric vehicles.

Monday, February 10

# Panel Two 1:45 PM – 2:30 PM ET

## Renewing U.S. Global Leadership on Technology and Trade



**Ambassador Tan Hung Seng**  
Permanent  
Representative, Singapore  
Mission to the WTO



**Kate Kalutkiewicz,**  
Senior Managing  
Director, McLarty  
Associates



**Jason Oxman**  
President & Chief Executive Officer,  
Information Technology Industry  
Council (ITI)



**Olivia Walch**  
CEO, Arcascope



**Moderator: Jake Colvin**  
President, National  
Foreign Trade Council



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This panel is held in partnership with:



# JASON OXMAN



## **President and Chief Executive Officer, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)**

Jason Oxman is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), the global trade association for the tech sector, representing the world's most innovative companies. Jason brings more than 25 years of experience as a globally recognized leader in technology policy and serves as the leading advocate for technology during a consequential time for the industry.

Washingtonian named Jason one of its 500 Most Influential People Shaping Policy and a Tech Titan given his key role in advocating for innovation. Under Jason's leadership, ITI has been recognized by its peers, including as the Trade Association of the Year by the Reed Awards. ITI was awarded the American Society for Association Executives (ASAE) Power of Associations' Silver Award for advocacy on the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act of 2022.

Jason serves as a member of the Board of Directors of ASAE; the American National Standards Institute (ANSI); and the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF). He also chairs ASAE's Association Coalition for AI, which advances the understanding, adoption, and responsible implementation of AI technologies within the association community.

Before joining ITI, Jason served as CEO of ETA, the international trade association of the payments technology industry, for seven years. In that role, Jason led ETA and its 500 global financial and technology member companies through unprecedented industry transformations and represented the payments industry before policymakers around the world.

Previously, Jason was Senior Vice President of Industry Affairs at the Consumer Technology Association, which he joined in 2006, leading multiple departments. Previously, he served as general counsel of an ICT industry trade association and as vice president of a Silicon Valley-based technology company. Earlier in his career, Jason developed and implemented technology policy for broadband and related communications services at the Federal Communications Commission. Jason began his career as a law clerk for the Maine Supreme Court. He received his B.A. cum laude from Amherst College, and his M.S. and J.D. from Boston University. Jason lives in Virginia with his wife and their two sons.



# AMBASSADOR TAN HUNG SENG



**Permanent Representative,  
Singapore Mission to the  
WTO**

Ambassador Tan joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990 and served as Singapore's Permanent Representative to ASEAN from August 2013 to January 2019; and Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, with concurrent accreditation to Libya, from July 2009 to July 2013. He was also concurrently accredited to the State of Kuwait until October 2012.

Ambassador Tan's other overseas postings included the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore to Thailand in Bangkok, where he was Deputy Chief of Mission/Counsellor from 1999 to 2003, and two stints in the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore to the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo as Deputy Chief of Mission from 2003 to 2005, and First Secretary from 1992 to 1995. Ambassador Tan graduated from the National University of Singapore and did post-graduate studies at the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, under the Raffles/Chevening Scholarship.

# KATE KALUTKIEWICZ



## Senior Managing Director, McLarty Associates

Kate Kalutkiewicz is a Senior Managing Director at McLarty, and leads the trade practice and contributes to the firm's Europe practice and McLarty Inbound.

Kate has managed complex challenges around global trade, industrial, and investment policy for nearly two decades. Her experience spans roles in government, particularly in Europe and South America, where she honed her skills in negotiating complex international agreements and navigating the nuance around public-private sector interactions.

Kate most recently served as Head of US Trade Policy for Amazon, where she advocated a broad range of international trade and economic issues with the US Government, touching several sectors, including retail, creative content production and distribution, cloud services, sustainable fleet, autos, and hardline manufacturing.

Prior to that, Kate served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for International Trade at the National Economic Council, where she developed and led US trade policy initiatives. During her White House tenure, she led interagency teams responsible for the US G7 Presidency and US positions on supply chain resiliency and support for the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before serving in the White House, Kate was the Senior Trade Representative at the US Mission to the European Union from 2016–2020. While in Brussels, she was the USTR's primary interlocutor with the European Commission and Member State authorities responsible for trade.

Before her time in Brussels, Kate held the role of USTR's Director for European Affairs (2011–2016) and served as Associate Chief Negotiator for the US in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations. She began her career at USTR as its Director for Brazil and the Southern Cone (2007–2011), where she was the principal agency representative for implementing and managing US trade policy in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

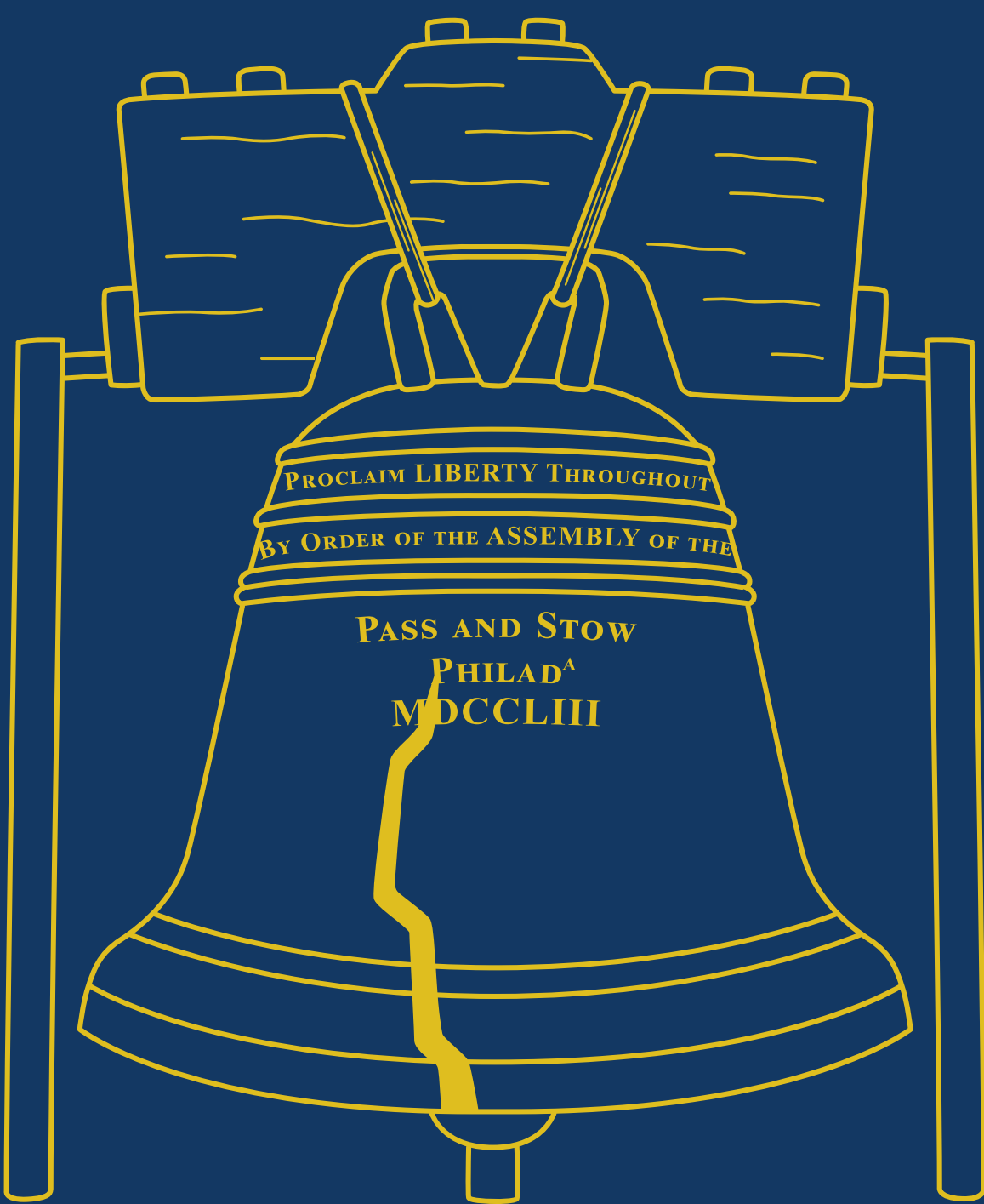
Prior to USTR, Kate was a legislative assistant in the office of Senator James Talent (R-MO), where she supported the Senator on issues related to trade, foreign policy, homeland security, immigration, and the judiciary.

# OLIVIA WALCH



**CEO, Arcascope**

Olivia Walch, CEO of Arcascope: Dr. Olivia Walch is the CEO and founder of Arcascope, a deep tech sleep start-up, with end users all over the globe. She received her PhD in Applied Mathematics from the University of Michigan in 2016. Her company makes software to help people manage shift work, get over jet lag faster, and take their medicines at the most effective times. Her work has been featured on CNN, the New York Times, and The Atlantic. She is also co-editor of *Political Geometry*, an edited volume on the mathematics of gerrymandering, and author of the upcoming, *Sleep Groove*.



# JAKE COLVIN



## **President, National Foreign Trade Council**

Jake Colvin is President of the National Foreign Trade Council, the leading business association dedicated solely to advancing the interests of U.S. companies in international commerce.

As President, he leads efforts to advance global commerce through the promotion of international trade and tax policies that contribute to economic growth and job creation. He oversees NFTC's work to strengthen the rules, norms and institutions that enable access to the global economy and emphasizes the role of trade in solving complex global problems. Prior to being named president, Jake served as NFTC's Vice President for Global Trade and Innovation. He led efforts to promote an open global digital economy and elevate the role of trade policy in solving global climate and health challenges as well as the Council's engagement with multilateral institutions including the World Trade Organization and APEC. From 2005 until 2008, Jake directed NFTC's USA\*Engage coalition to emphasize the benefits of U.S. economic, diplomatic and citizen engagement in the global economy.

He is a Co-Founder of the Global Innovation Forum (GIF), which engages a global network of small business, nonprofit leaders and government officials to explore the role of technology and trade policies and programs in fostering resilience and inclusive growth. From 2014 until 2021, he served as GIF's Executive Director. Jake is a cleared advisor to the U.S. Government as a member of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee and has testified before Congress. He has written about trade and foreign policy for media including Business Week, Forbes, Inc. and Politico and has provided analysis for outlets including CNBC, CNN, NBC News and NPR.

He is a graduate of the University of Richmond and the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies. He lives in Washington, DC.

Monday, February 10

# Panel Three 2:30 PM – 3:15 PM ET

## Hot Button China Issues – National Security, Technology and Cybersecurity



**Andrew Grotto**

Director, Stanford Program on  
Geopolitics, Technology and  
Governance



**Peter Harrell**

Non-Resident Fellow,  
Carnegie Endowment for  
International Peace



**Dr. James Mulvenon**

Chief Intelligence Officer,  
Pamir Consulting



**Melanie Hart**

Senior Director, Global China  
Hub, Atlantic Council



**Moderator: Nova Daly**  
Senior Public Policy  
Advisor, Wiley Rein LLP



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# ANDREW GROTTTO



## **Director, Stanford Program on Geopolitics, Technology and Governance**

Andrew J. Grotto founded and co-directs (with Colin Kahl) the Program on Geopolitics, Technology, and Governance at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), where he is a William J. Perry International Security Fellow. He is also a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution.

Grotto also serves as the faculty lead for the Cyber Policy and Security specialization within Stanford's Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy Program. He teaches the core course for the specialization, Fundamentals of Cybersecurity and Policy, and a graduate seminar on Economic Statecraft.

Grotto is President and CEO of Sagewood Global Strategies LLC, a technology policy and risk advisory firm. He sits on the Board of Directors for Slamfire Inc., the studio behind the AAA video game Back4Blood.

Before coming to Stanford in 2017, Grotto served in the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government. He served as the Senior Director for Cyber Policy on the National Security Council at the White House for two U.S. presidents. He was U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker's Senior Advisor for Technology Policy, counseling the secretary on matters ranging from export controls and CFIUS cases to cybersecurity policy. As a Professional Staff Member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, he led staff oversight of the budget and operations of the National Security Agency and U.S. Intelligence Community cyber operations and analysis, among other responsibilities.

Grotto received his JD from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, his MPA from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and his BA from the University of Kentucky.

# PETER HARRELL



## **Non-Resident Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

Peter E. Harrell is a Nonresident Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He also serves as an attorney advising companies and investors on international legal, regulatory, and geopolitical risks. As a member of Carnegie's American Statecraft program, Harrell's research focuses on issues of U.S. domestic economic competitiveness, trade policy, and the use of economic tools in U.S. foreign policy.

From January 2021 through 2022, Harrell served at the U.S. White House as senior director for international economics, jointly appointed to the National Security Council and the National Economic Council. In that role, Harrell co-led President Biden's E.O. 14017 supply chain resilience agenda; worked on the global digital, 5G, and telecommunications strategies; spearheaded negotiations with the European Union on the U.S.-E.U. Data Privacy Framework; served as the White House representative to the CFIUS committee; and worked on U.S. sanctions and export controls towards Russia in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Immediately prior to joining the White House, Harrell served on the Biden-Harris Transition team from September 2020 to January 2021.

From 2015 to early 2021 Harrell was an attorney in private practice and served as Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security. In those roles he advised U.S. and multinational companies on sanctions compliance and a range of geopolitical risks, and also published widely on public policy. His articles and op-eds appeared in publications including the Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Politico, and Lawfare, among other outlets. Harrell has testified in front of multiple congressional committees, including, most recently, the House Financial Services Committee in February 2023.

From 2012 to 2014, Harrell served as the deputy assistant secretary for counter threat finance and sanctions in the State Department's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. From 2009 to 2012 he served on the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, where he was instrumental in developing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's economic statecraft agenda.

Earlier in his career, Harrell served on President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign and as a reporter for Congressional Quarterly in Washington, DC.

Harrell is a magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University and holds a JD from the Yale Law School.

# MELANIE HART



## **Senior Director, Global China Hub, Atlantic Council**

Melanie Hart is the Senior Director of the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub. She leads the Hub's efforts to analyze Beijing's actions and their global impacts using rigorous analysis and innovative data to generate actionable policy solutions, enabling the United States and its allies to respond effectively to common policy challenges on China. In this role, she leverages the Hub's network of China policy experts around the world as well as the Atlantic Council's work on China across its sixteen programs and centers.

Prior to joining the Council, Hart worked at the US Department of State, where she served as senior advisor for China in the Office of the Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment. In that role, Hart was instrumental in crafting strategies to reduce nation-state vulnerabilities to Chinese pressure. She developed the Department of State's playbook for responding to Chinese economic coercion and led an internal unit that provided coercion-response support to multiple nations. Hart developed the State Department's semiconductor strategy for the CHIPS and Science Act's International Technology Security and Innovation Fund. She also served as policy lead for the US-Taiwan Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue and worked with multiple US allies and partners to address common China policy challenges.

Before joining the State Department, Hart served as senior fellow and director for China policy at the Center for American Progress, where her work helped shape domestic and global approaches to China on issues such as 5G policy, economic competition, energy and climate policy, and global governance. She also served as a senior advisor at the Scowcroft Group, where she helped US firms understand China's industrial policies.

Hart has a PhD in political science from the University of California, San Diego and a BA from Texas A&M University.



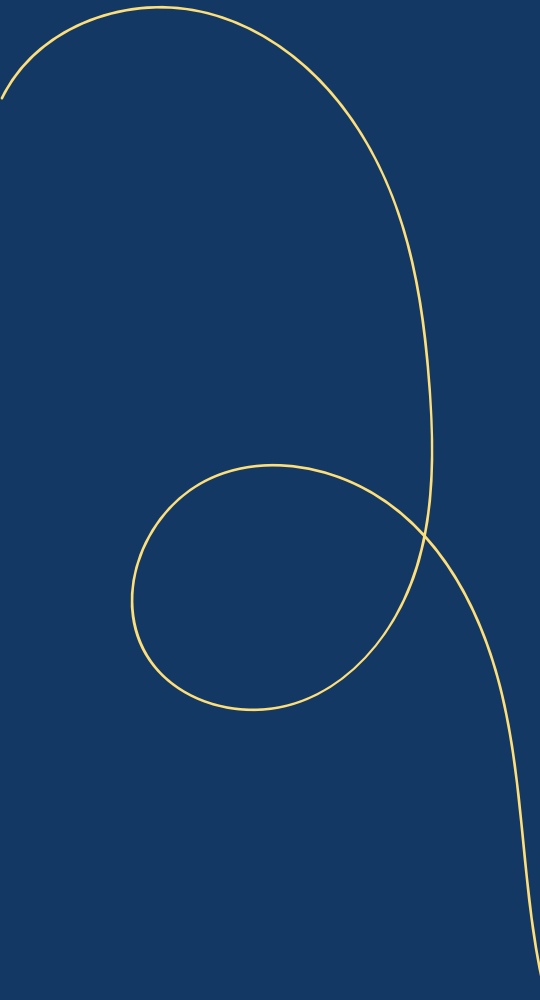
# DR. JAMES MULVENON



## Chief Intelligence Officer, Pamir Consulting

James Mulvenon is a Chief Intelligence Officer at Pamir Consulting, leading international expert on Chinese cyber, technology transfer, espionage, and military issues. He received his B.A. in China Studies from the University of Michigan, studied Communist Party History at Fudan University in Shanghai, and received his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, completing a doctoral thesis on the Chinese military's international business empire that was published in 2000 by Routledge Press as *Soldiers of Fortune*.

Dr. Mulvenon has spent the last thirty years building teams of Chinese linguist-analysts to support the objectives of a wide range of government, military, and commercial customers. In 2013, he co-authored *Chinese Industrial Espionage*, which is the first full account of the complete range of China's efforts to illicitly acquire foreign technology, and contributed multiple chapters to *China's Quest for Foreign Technology: Beyond Espionage*, which was published by Routledge in September 2020. Dr. Mulvenon is regularly invited to address senior government, military, and commercial audiences on China topics, and his comments have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, and other international media outlets.



# NOVA DALY

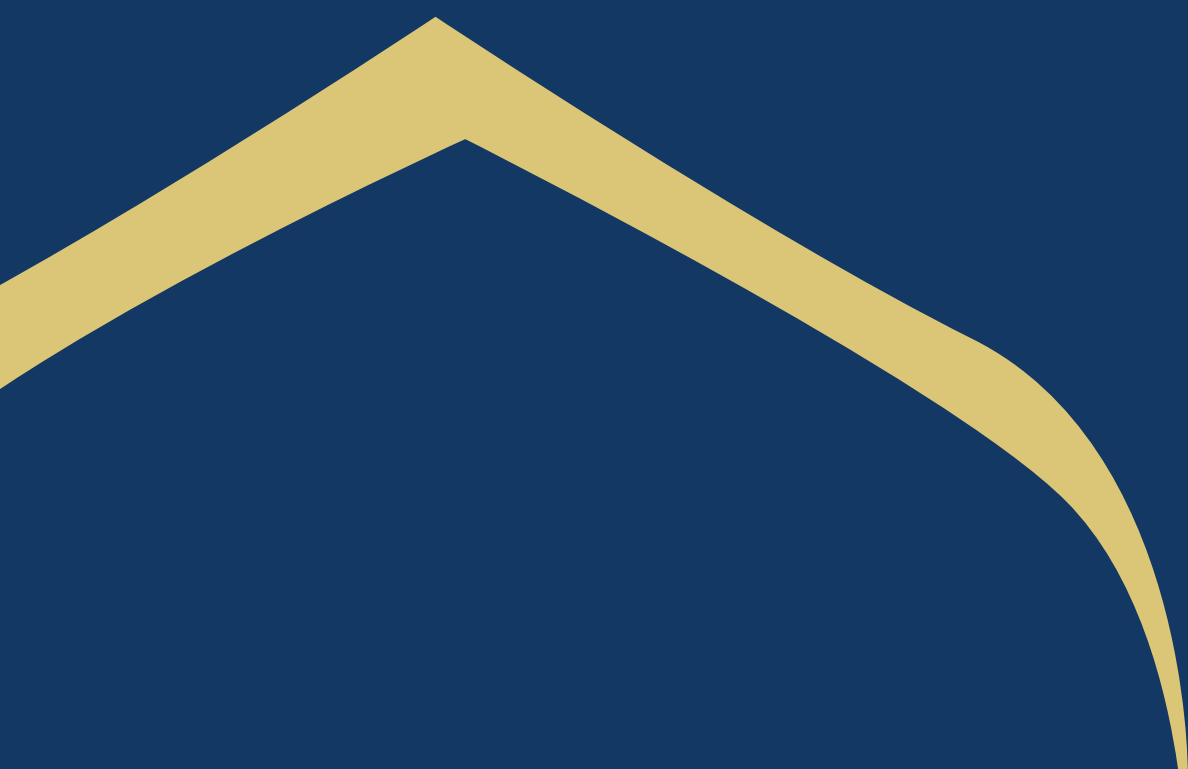


## **Senior Public Policy Advisor, Wiley Rein LLP**

Nova J. Daly is a Senior Public Policy Advisor at Wiley Rein LLP. Nova was previously Deputy Assistant Secretary for Investment Security and Policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury where he directed and coordinated the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and created and led the U.S.-EU Investment Dialogue and the U.S.-China Investment Forum. He also developed the U.S. Treasury's "Open Investment Initiative" to attract foreign investment and reduce foreign and domestic barriers to international investments. Before joining Treasury, Mr. Daly was Director for International Trade at the National Security Council, Senior Advisor for Trade Policy for Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, and an International Trade Advisor for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee.

Drawing on his experience in the management, development, and implementation of the U.S. economic and national security policies and programs, he provides both high-level insight and deep operational experience to help clients navigate the policy and regulatory environment surrounding cross-border business activities, especially through the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).

Nova received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of California, Irvine, and a graduate degree in international law and organizations from American University.



Monday, February 10

# Panel Four 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM ET

## USMCA Six Year Review



**C.J. Mahoney**  
Corporate Vice President and  
Deputy General Counsel,  
Microsoft



**Kenneth Smith Ramos**  
Partner, Agon



**Steve Verheul**  
Principal, GT&Co Executive  
Advisors



**Moderator: Nasim  
Fussell**  
Senior Vice President,  
LotSixteen



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This panel is the first event of our USMCA Review Series  
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# C.J. MAHONEY



**Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Cloud + AI, Microsoft; former Deputy United States Trade Representative**

*(C.J. Mahoney is joining us in his personal capacity, as the former lead U.S. official who oversaw the USMCA negotiation. Nothing he says today should be construed as speaking on behalf of his current employer.)*

C.J. Mahoney is Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Cloud + AI at Microsoft working in U.S. International Trade and National Security, in 2021 after serving as Deputy United States Trade Representative from 2018 to 2020. C.J. leads Microsoft teams responsible for export control and sanctions compliance, international trade, and technology and national security policy.

While at USTR, C.J. led negotiations over the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) and helped shepherd the agreement through Congress, where it passed with the largest margin of any trade agreement in over 30 years. He personally negotiated key aspects of the agreement’s landmark labor chapter, including the first-of-its-kind, rapid-response enforcement mechanism.

C.J. also oversaw USTR’s digital trade portfolio and helped launch free trade agreement talks with the United Kingdom and Kenya. Under his leadership, USTR launched its first dispute settlement actions to enforce environmental obligations in U.S. free trade agreements. He represented USTR on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and the boards of the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Prior to his unanimous confirmation as Deputy USTR, C.J. was a partner at Williams & Connolly LLP where his practice focused on complex commercial litigation, white collar defense, and international disputes. He was a law clerk to Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy during the Supreme Court’s October 2007 term and has served as a Visiting Lecturer at Yale Law School. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the State Department’s Advisory Committee on International Law.

C.J. is a graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Law Journal. Between college and law school, C.J. worked as a business analyst at McKinsey & Company.

A native of Russell, Kansas, C.J. and his wife Becca have two children, Eleanor and Patrick.

# KENNETH SMITH RAMOS



**Partner, Agon;  
former Mexican Chief Negotiator for  
the T-MEC/ USMCA, Office of the  
Secretariat of the Economy**

Kenneth Smith Ramos is Partner at Agon and focuses on helping international clients to identify trade and foreign direct investment opportunities derived from the new generation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) that Mexico has negotiated, such as CPTPP, the MX-EU FTA, and the NAFTA/USMCA. Ken also advises clients who face trade barriers and assists them in developing strategies to obtain or expand access into key international markets, including Mexico.

Prior to joining Agon, Ken served as Mexico's Chief Negotiator for the modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that led to the signing of the USMCA. He has been an integral part of Mexico's negotiating team representing several government agencies, and began his career with the team negotiating the NAFTA in 1992.

Ken holds a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs from Georgetown University, and a Master's degree in International Economics from Johns Hopkins, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



# STEVE VERHEUL



**Principal, GT&Co Executive Advisors;  
former Special Advisor, Trade Policy,  
Canada's Deputy Minister of  
Finance; formerly Canada's Chief  
Negotiator for CUSMA/USMCA**

Steve Verheul is a Principal at GT&Co Executive Advisors. As Canada's Chief Trade Negotiator from 2017 to 2021, Steve Verheul was responsible for negotiating Canada's most important trade deals including the new NAFTA (CUSMA/USMCA) and Canada-European Union trade agreement. Most recently he served as a special advisor on trade policy to Canada's Deputy Minister of Finance.

Hailed by media and pundits as the "most important Canadian you've probably never heard of", Mr. Verheul's support for our clients is game-changing. His network, expertise and relationships in domestic and international markets is unparalleled.

During his 34 years in the federal public service, he was Assistant Deputy Minister of the Trade Policy and Negotiations Branch at Global Affairs Canada and appointed as Canada's Chief Trade Negotiator for negotiations between Canada and the European Union in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade from 2009-2016, leading that negotiation from its beginning through to its successful conclusion.

He was previously Canada's Chief Agriculture Negotiator from 2003 to 2009, responsible for leading Canada's involvement in international trade negotiations on agriculture, including the WTO. During his tenure at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, he worked on the NAFTA negotiations, the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations that led to the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Doha Round of WTO negotiations.

Mr. Verheul is known for his steady hand and sound advice in guiding companies and organizations through complex, time-sensitive and pressing international trade issues, explaining and anticipating government policies and decisions, and finding creative solutions to challenging problems and identifying emerging opportunities. He currently advises CEOs, boards of directors, and senior executives on the shifting international trade landscape in order to forecast and mitigate risks, and exploit opportunities in existing or changing government policies and directions.

# NASIM FUSSELL



**Senior Vice President, LotSixteen;  
former Chief Trade Counsel, U.S.  
Senate Finance Committee**

Nasim Fussell is a Senior Vice President at Lot Sixteen, where she leads the firm's trade practice. On Capitol Hill, Nasim served as the Chief International Trade Counsel for the Senate Finance Committee under Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA), spearheading the Committee's work on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and all other trade matters.

She also served as Deputy Chief International Trade Counsel to former Chairman and late Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT). Prior to her work in the Senate, Nasim served as Trade Counsel to the House Ways and Means Committee, where she worked for Chairmen Brady (R-TX), Ryan (R-WI), and Camp (R-MI) to advance trade negotiations with other countries as well as trade legislation, including Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), customs reauthorization, trade preference programs, and the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB).

Nasim has also worked in the private sector as a law firm partner, in-house with two multinational companies, and a trade association. She started her career at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Nasim is a member of the board of the Washington International Trade Association (WITA). She holds an LLM in International & Comparative Law from GW Law School, a JD from the University of Baltimore School of Law, and a BA in History from the University of Michigan.



Monday, February 10

# Panel Five

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET

## Reimagining Trade in a Fragmented World



**Ted Alden**

Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations



**Arancha González**

Dean, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po



**Stephen Vaughn**

Partner, International Trade, King & Spalding



**Todd Tucker**

Director, Industrial Policy and Trade, Roosevelt Institute

**Moderator: Wendy Cutler**  
Vice President, Asia Society Policy Institute



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# TED ALDEN



## Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

Edward Alden's career spans more than three decades in journalism, think tanks and academia. He is the Ross Distinguished Visiting Professor at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA, and a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, DC. His latest book, co-authored with Laurie Trautman, is *When the World Closed its Doors: The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Future of Borders*, was published by Oxford University Press in January, 2025. His other books include *Failure to Adjust: How Americans Got Left Behind in the Global Economy*, and *The Closing of the American Border: Terrorism, Immigration, and Security Since 9/11*, which was a finalist for the Lukas Book Prize for narrative nonfiction. He has directed several CFR-sponsored independent task forces, including the 2018 report *The Work Ahead: Machines, Skills, and U.S. Leadership in the Twenty-First Century* and the 2009 report *U.S. Immigration Policy*. He was previously Washington bureau chief for the *Financial Times* and is a columnist for *Foreign Policy*.

# ARANCHA GONZÁLEZ



## **Dean, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po**

Arancha González is the third Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) at Sciences Po and the first woman to lead the world's third school for Politics and International Studies.

Prior to joining PSIA, Ms González served as Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (2020–2021). She previously was Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (2013–2020). Between 2005 and 2013 she served as Chief of Staff to the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy. Before that she held senior positions at the European Commission in the areas of international trade and development. Ms González started her career as a lawyer in the private sector.

Ms González has been a member of PSIA's Strategic Committee since 2017.

A Spanish national, Ms González holds a degree in law from the University of Navarra and a Postgraduate Degree in European Law from the University Carlos III of Madrid.



# TODD TUCKER



**Director, Industrial Policy and Trade,  
Roosevelt Institute**

Todd Tucker is Director of Industrial Policy and Trade at the Roosevelt Institute and a recognized expert on trade and political economy, Todd has testified before legislatures and expert committees around the world. His writing has been featured in Politico, Time Magazine, Democracy Journal, the Financial Times, and the Washington Post.

He is author of *Judge Knot: Politics and Development in International Investment Law* (Anthem Press, 2018), along with other academic research published by Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and other publishers. Prior to his doctoral work, he led research on international issues for a number of DC think tanks and research organizations. He has authored over 70 major reports, including penning the foreword of two recent essay collections: *Industrial Policy 2025: Bringing the State Back In (Again)* and *Industrial Policy Synergies: Reflections from Biden Administration Alumni*.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Todd received his BA from the George Washington University and his PhD and MPhil from the University of Cambridge, where he was a Gates Scholar. He has taught at Johns Hopkins University and the University of New Hampshire. He lives in Washington, DC.

# STEPHEN VAUGHN



**Partner, International Trade,  
King & Spalding**

Stephen P. Vaughn is a Partner in the International Trade Team of King & Spalding who works primarily on international trade litigation and policy matters. In April 2019, Stephen completed more than two years of service as the General Counsel for the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). In that position, he managed a team of government attorneys representing U.S. interests in both trade negotiations and trade litigation. During two months in early 2017, Stephen also served as the acting U.S. Trade Representative. He is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost authorities on current U.S. trade policy, as well as one of the most talented U.S. trade remedy litigators. Stephen is recognized as a leading practitioner in Trade Remedies and Trade Policy by Legal 500 U.S., Chambers USA, and Chambers Global. He has been named a 2024 Client Service All-Star by BTI Consulting.



# WENDY CUTLER



## **Vice President, Asia Society Policy Institute**

Wendy Cutler is Vice President at the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) and the managing director of the Washington, D.C. office. In these roles, she focuses on leading initiatives that address challenges related to trade, investment, and innovation, as well as women's empowerment in Asia. She joined ASPI following an illustrious career of nearly three decades as a diplomat and negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), where she also served as Acting Deputy U.S. Trade Representative. During her USTR career, she worked on a range of bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade negotiations and initiatives, including the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, U.S.-China negotiations, and the WTO Financial Services negotiations. She has published a series of ASPI papers on the Asian trade landscape and serves as a regular media commentator on trade and investment developments in Asia and the world.



**Tuesday, February 11**

# **Panel One**

**10:10 AM – 11:00 AM ET**

## **World on the Brink**



**Dmitri Alperovitch**

Co-Founder and Chairman,  
Silverado Policy Accelerator;  
author of *World on the Brink:  
How America Can Beat China  
in the Race for the Twenty-First  
Century*



 **Moderator: Michael Castellano**

Executive Director,  
U.S.–China  
Economic and  
Security Review  
Commission

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# DMITRI ALPEROVITCH



**Co-Founder and Chairman,  
Silverado Policy Accelerator;  
author of *World on the Brink: How  
America Can Beat China in the  
Race for the Twenty-First Century***

Dmitri Alperovitch is the Co-Founder and Chairman of Silverado Policy Accelerator, national bestselling author of “World on the Brink: How America Can Beat China in the Race for the 21st Century,” founder of the Alperovitch Institute for Cybersecurity Studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and Co-Founder and former CTO of CrowdStrike Inc., one of the world's largest cybersecurity firms.

A renowned thought leader on geopolitics, great power competition and cybersecurity strategy, technology visionary and business executive, Alperovitch has served as special advisor to the Department of Defense and currently serves on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Advisory Council and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Cyber Safety Review Board. His writings on geopolitics, foreign policy and cybersecurity issues have appeared in major news outlets including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Economist and Foreign Affairs, and he is a regular national security contributor to national and international online and television news programs.

Alperovitch is also an active angel investor and board member of multiple high-growth technology companies. He has been named as one of Fortune Magazine's “40 Under 40” most influential young people in business, and Politico Magazine has featured Alperovitch as one of “Politico 50” influential thinkers, doers and visionaries transforming American politics. Alperovitch was also named a “D.C. Tech Titan” and one of the 500 most influential people in Washington by Washingtonian Magazine in 2022, 2023 and 2024. He is the host and creator of Silverado's popular “Geopolitics Decanted” podcast, dedicated to expert analysis of the most pressing national security and geopolitical challenges of our time. In 2023, DHS presented Alperovitch with the Outstanding Americans by Choice recognition for his civic and professional contributions as a naturalized U.S. citizen, the highest recognition of its type that the Department can bestow.

# MICHAEL CASTELLANO



## **Executive Director, U.S.–China Economic and Security Review Commission**

Mike Castellano is the Executive Director at the U.S.–China Economic and Security Review Commission. Previously, he was serving as Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry & Security (BIS), where he led various special projects and stakeholder outreach relating to export control policy and the Information and Communications Technology and Services (ICTS) authority for the Office of the Under Secretary.

Mike spent the prior 20 years focused heavily on international trade policy, including extensive work on China. Ten of those years were as Vice President, Government Relations at the Walt Disney Company, focusing on Disney's international policy agenda. While working for Disney he served on the International Trade Advisory Committee for Intellectual Property, advising the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative on international trade policy. Before Disney, Mike spent ten years on Capitol Hill. Six of those years he worked for Senate Majority/Minority Leader Harry Reid, ending as Senior Counsel & Senior Policy Advisor, where he was responsible for issues of international trade and related international economic policy, including a significant focus on China, intellectual property rights and cyber security (commercial side), among other areas. The previous four years Mike worked as Trade Counsel for the Committee on Ways & Means Democrats and Tax & Trade Counsel for U.S. Representative Sandy Levin covering the full scope of international trade policy issues.

Michael started his career clerking for Judge Francis Murnaghan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, followed by a stint practicing international trade law at petitioner's law firm Dewey Ballantine, LLP. He received his J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, M.A.L.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and B.A. with honors in political science from Johns Hopkins University.



Tuesday, February 11  
**Panel Two**  
**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET**  
China's Global Reach and  
Regaining American  
Leadership in the Global  
South



**Ambassador Brian Nichols**  
Former Assistant Secretary  
of State for Western  
Hemisphere Affairs; former  
Ambassador to Peru and  
Zimbabwe



**Ambassador Ted Osius**  
President & CEO, US-  
ASEAN Business Council



**Arun Venkataraman**  
Former Assistant  
Secretary of Commerce  
for Global Markets and  
Director General of the  
U.S. and Foreign  
Commercial Service



**Hon. Nazak Nikakhtar,**  
Partner, National Security Chair,  
Wiley Rein LLP; former Under  
Secretary of Industry and  
Security, U.S. Department of  
Commerce



**Moderator: Kellie  
Meiman**  
Senior Counselor,  
McLarty Associates



INTRODUCTION BY **JONATHAN GOLD**, VICE PRESIDENT, SUPPLY  
CHAIN AND CUSTOMS POLICY, NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION

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# AMBASSADOR BRIAN NICHOLS



**former Assistant Secretary  
of State for Western  
Hemisphere Affairs; former  
Ambassador to Peru and  
Zimbabwe**

Ambassador Nichols became Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs on September 15, 2021. Assistant Secretary Nichols previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe from 2018 to 2021. In that role, he promoted democracy, rule of law and human rights in Zimbabwe while managing multi-dimensional humanitarian crises brought on by corruption, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Previously, Assistant Secretary Nichols served as the U.S. Ambassador to Peru from 2014 to 2017. He pioneered strategies against illegal gold mining, illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, and environmental degradation. He supported American trade and investment in Peru, increasing agricultural sales to over \$1 billion annually, defending the rights of American investors, and building the Hemisphere's largest public-private partnership—the U.S.-Peru Cacao Alliance. Nichols was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) from 2011 to 2013. In that capacity, he oversaw the full range of rule of law programs, counter-narcotics, and multilateral issues managed by the bureau.

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Assistant Secretary Nichols has earned 29 awards during his diplomatic career, including a Presidential Distinguished Service Award, two Presidential Meritorious Service Awards and the Charles E. Cobb, Jr. Award for Initiative and Success in Trade Development. He holds the rank of Career Ambassador, the highest rank possible in the American Foreign Service.

# AMBASSADOR TED OSIUS



**President & CEO,  
US-ASEAN Business  
Council; former U.S.  
Ambassador to Vietnam**

Ted Osius is the President and CEO of the US-ASEAN Business Council, a diplomat for nearly thirty years, Ted Osius served from 2014 to 2017 as U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, a country he has loved since serving there in the 1990s, when he helped open the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City and was one of the first U.S. diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi. Leading a mission team of 900, Ambassador Osius devised and implemented strategies to deepen security ties, sign tens of billions of dollars' worth of commercial deals, expand educational exchange, conclude agreements on trade, law enforcement, environmental protection, and address honestly a difficult past. Ambassador Osius' leadership helped bring about a positive transformation in U.S.-Vietnam relations.

As he worked to improve U.S.-Vietnam relations, Ambassador Osius came to know the heroes who sought to reconcile our nations, including John Kerry, John McCain, Pete Peterson and Le Van Bang. Under four Presidents and seven Secretaries of State, Ambassador Osius contributed to reconciliation not just between governments, but between former combatants, and the people of both nations. The first openly gay U.S. ambassador to serve in East Asia, he was only the second career diplomat in U.S. history to achieve that rank.

Ambassador Osius earned a Bachelor's degree from Harvard University, a Master's degree from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, and an Honorary Doctorate from Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education. A member of the Board of Governors of the American Chamber of Commerce Vietnam, Ambassador Osius loves all kinds of travel, biking, sailing, theater and photography. He is married to Clayton Alan Bond; the couple has a three-year-old daughter and four-year-old son.



# HON. NAZAK NIKAKHTAR



**Partner, National Security Chair,  
Wiley Rein LLP; former Under  
Secretary of Industry and  
Security, U.S. Department of  
Commerce**

Hon. Nazak Nikakhtar is an international trade and national security attorney; a partner at the Washington, DC, law firm of Wiley Rein LLP; and co-chair of Wiley's national security practice and CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States) practice. She is also a trade and industry economist and a former Georgetown University adjunct law professor. Her practice focuses on international trade matters, customs compliance issues, and World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement, export controls, sanctions, CFIUS, and supply chains. She is a prolific lecturer and a renown thought leader on economic competition, supply chain resilience, and national security readiness.

From 2018 to 2021, with unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Ms. Nikakhtar served as the Department of Commerce's Assistant Secretary for Industry & Analysis at the International Trade Administration (ITA). Ms. Nikakhtar also fulfilled the duties of the Under Secretary for Industry and Security at Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS). In these roles, Ms. Nikakhtar shaped America's international trade and national security policies as the U.S. Government's top official for trade policy and economic competitiveness, supply chains, and export controls on dual-use items and technologies. Ms. Nikakhtar also served as the Commerce Department's lead for CFIUS, where she shaped U.S. investment policy and implemented new laws concerning foreign investments and national security.

During her previous tenure at the Department of Commerce, Ms. Nikakhtar worked at ITA's Enforcement and Compliance Unit where she led numerous complex trade cases, advised on legal and regulatory matters related to the enforcement of U.S. trade laws, and participated in bilateral negotiations on trade issues between the United States and the People's Republic of China. Ms. Nikakhtar also served at BIS advising on the defense industrial base. She has received several award medals from the U.S. Government for her work on behalf of U.S. economic growth and industry resilience. Ms. Nikakhtar earned her Juris Doctor and Master of Economics degrees from Syracuse University, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Syracuse Journal of International Law and Commerce, and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

# ARUN VENKATARAMAN



## **Former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets & Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service**

Arun Venkataraman is the former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. He was appointed by President Joseph R. Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 7, 2022, to lead the federal government's efforts to promote exports abroad and attract inward investment. He was officially sworn in on April 25, 2022.

Venkataraman has over 20 years of experience advising companies, international organizations and the U.S. government on international trade issues. Most recently, he served as Counselor to the Secretary of Commerce, advising the Department of Commerce on trade and other international economic matters. Before joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Arun was a Senior Director at Visa, leading global government engagement strategy on a range of international policy issues including digital economy, trade, tax and sanctions. He also served as Trade & Investment Policy Advisor at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, where he counseled multinational firms and other organizations on e-commerce, intellectual property rights and U.S. and foreign trade policies.

During the Obama Administration, Venkataraman served as ITA's first-ever Director of Policy, where he helped shape the U.S. government's responses to critical challenges faced by firms in the U.S. and in markets around the world, including China and India. He also served in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) where he led the development and implementation of U.S.-India trade policy, for which he received the agency's Kelly Award for outstanding performance and extraordinary leadership. He also served as USTR's Associate General Counsel, representing the United States in litigation before the World Trade Organization and in negotiations on international trade agreements. Prior to USTR, Arun was a Legal Officer at the World Trade Organization, and served as Law Clerk for Judge Jane A. Restani at the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Born in Coimbatore, India, and raised in Houston, Venkataraman holds a juris doctorate from Columbia Law School, a Master of Arts in law and diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University.

# KELLIE MEIMAN



## **Senior Counselor, McLarty Associates**

Kellie Meiman Hock, Senior Counselor, founded the firm's trade and Brazil/Southern Cone practices, helping over one-hundred companies to pursue global opportunities and troubleshoot obstacles to market access since joining McLarty in March 2000. Prior to joining McLarty, she served for almost a decade as a US Foreign Service Officer at the Department of State, serving in Bogota, Colombia, and throughout Brazil in Porto Alegre, São Paulo, and Recife, as well as at the Office of the US Trade Representative in the Executive Office of the President.

For over three decades, Kellie has worked on Latin America and on various aspects of trade, investment, and technology policy, helping companies to manage geopolitical uncertainty and industrial policy, from local content requirements to data localization and trade remedies. Kellie has been deeply engaged in stakeholder efforts to manage a dynamic global trade agenda and increased economic nationalism. She has also helped many companies to internationalize their public policy operations and to develop global expansion plans. She has lived and studied in Central America and Japan. Kellie is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Women's Foreign Policy Group Leadership Council, and the Bretton Woods Committee. She is also on the Board of Directors for the Inter-American Dialogue. She often writes and speaks on policy matters related to trade/investment/industrial policy, Brazil, and Latin America. A native of Omaha, Nebraska, Kellie is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. She fluently speaks Spanish and Portuguese.



# JONATHAN GOLD

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## **Vice President, Supply Chain and Customs Policy, National Retail Federation**

Jonathan Gold is vice president of supply chain and customs policy at the National Retail Federation. In this role, Gold is a primary spokesperson and is responsible for representing the retail industry before Congress and the administration on supply chain, international trade, product safety and customs-related issues impacting the retail industry. While with NRF, he has been a leading advocate of the value of trade and global value chains to the U.S. economy.

Prior to joining NRF, Gold served as a policy analyst in the Office of Policy and Planning for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He joined CBP in May 2006 and was responsible for providing policy guidance on issues surrounding maritime cargo security and trade-related matters. Gold also worked on implementation issues surrounding the SAFE Port Act and other issues within the agency including CBP intelligence reform, pandemic flu and trade facilitation.

Before joining CBP, Gold spent nearly a decade with the Retail Industry Leaders Association holding several government relations positions including director and then vice president of international trade policy before being named vice president of global supply chain policy in January 2005.

Gold has served on several government advisory committees including the Department of Commerce's Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness, the Department of Homeland Security's Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) and on the Department of Commerce's International Trade Advisory Committee on Distribution Services.

Gold graduated from American University in Washington, D.C., in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in international business with a concentration in finance.

Tuesday, February 11

# Panel Three

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM ET

Luncheon Keynote



**Senator Tim Scott**, Chairman,  
United States Senate  
Committee on Banking,  
Housing, and Urban Affairs



**Moderator: Arrow Augerot**, Director of  
Americas Public Policy,  
Amazon



INTRODUCED BY **MARIA ZIEBA**, VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT  
AFFAIRS, NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL

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# SENATOR TIM SCOTT



## **Chairman, United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs**

Tim Scott is a sitting US Senator representing South Carolina, as well as the chairman of the US Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. As a leader on tax reform, education and job training, and innovative ideas to reinvest in our nation's distressed communities, United States Senator Tim Scott brings a unique perspective to the United States Senate. Growing up mired in poverty in a single parent household, Tim says that he is living his mother's American Dream, and through his Opportunity Agenda works every single day to ensure every American family has the opportunity to succeed.

Senator Scott has served the great state of South Carolina in the U.S. Senate since 2013, and brings with him a mission to positively affect the lives of a billion people with the message of hope and opportunity. Growing up poor in a single-parent household in North Charleston, South Carolina, Tim watched his single mother work 16-hour days as a nurse's assistant to keep him and his brother afloat.

As a freshman in high school, Tim nearly failed out, flunking four classes. However, the next year, he met his mentor named John Moniz who shared life changing ideas and the basic principles of business with Tim. Through hard work, education, innovation, and with the discipline his mother gave him, he began the process of turning his life around.

The lessons gleaned from his mentor still guide Tim today: you can think your way out of poverty, and financial independence is a stepping-stone for success. Having a job is a good thing, but creating jobs is a great thing.

An unbridled optimist, Tim believes that despite our current challenges, our nation's brightest days are ahead of us. During his time in office, he has been a tireless advocate for creating more opportunities for families living paycheck-to-paycheck and helping children who are mired in poverty have access to quality education. He launched his Opportunity Agenda, a legislative package aimed at achieving these goals, as well as the Senate Opportunity Coalition, a group of Senators committed to helping those in need.

Tim also knows that in order for our nation to prosper, we must get our spending and national debt under control. He has sponsored balanced budget amendments throughout his time in Congress, and will continue working to restore fiscal sanity in Washington.

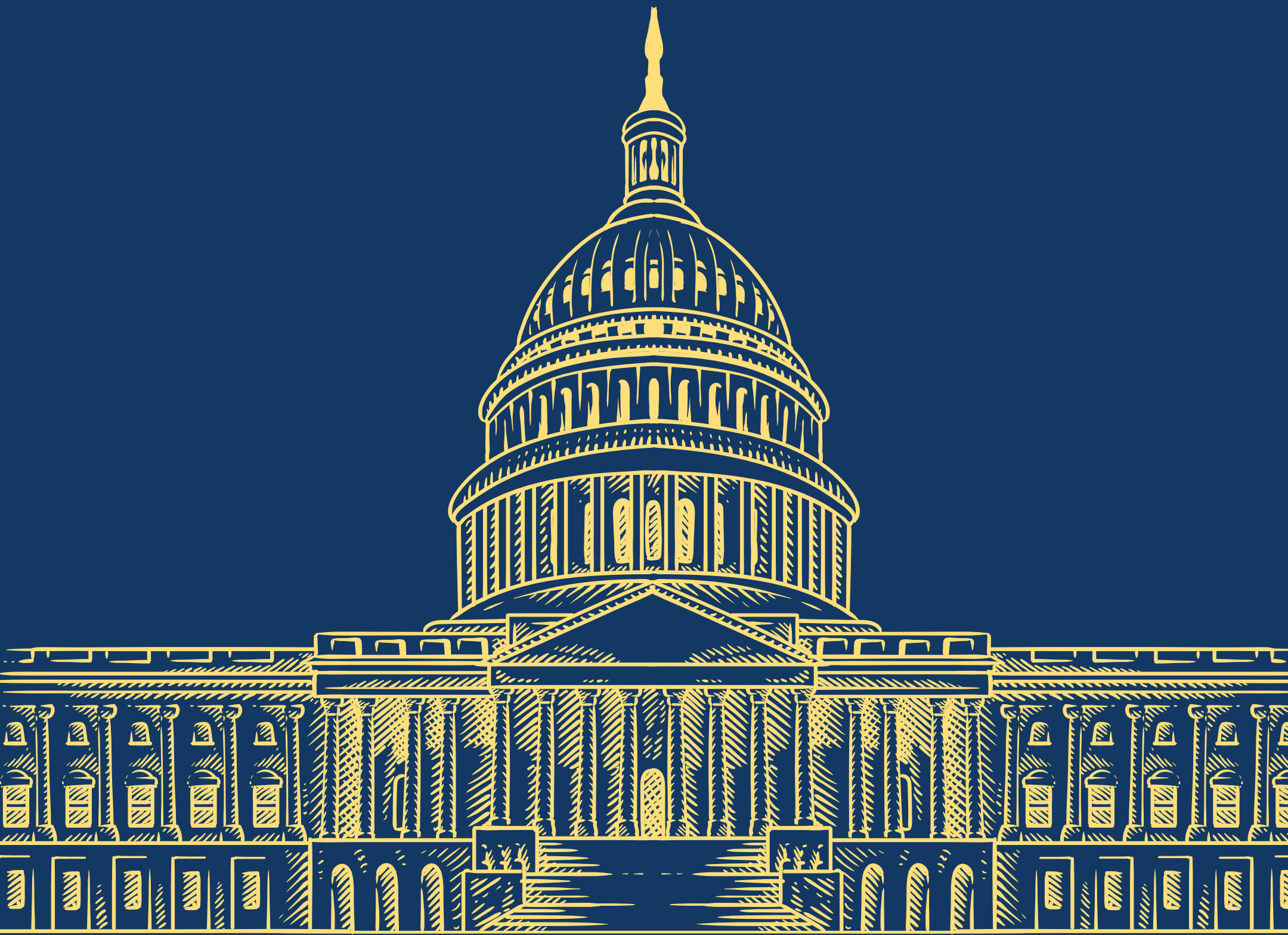
Prior to public service, Tim built a successful small business of his own. He was first elected to Charleston County Council, to the South Carolina State House, and the U.S. House of Representatives. In January 2013, Tim was sworn in as a United States Senator from South Carolina, and was re-elected in January 2017.

# ARROW AUGEROT



**Director of Americas Public  
Policy, Amazon**

Arrow Augerot is the Director of Americas Public Policy at Amazon, where she leads a team that advocates on a broad range of international and economic issues with the U.S. Government facing Amazon in Canada and Latin America. Previously, she was the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs and a U.S. Trade Negotiator focused on the Asia Pacific region, electronic commerce, and telecommunications.



# MARIA ZIEBA



## **Vice President, Government Affairs, National Pork Producers Council**

Maria Zieba is the Vice President of International Affairs for the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and helps represent over 65,000 U.S. pork producers. She works on NPPC's trade policy program, which focuses on opening, maintaining and increasing market access for U.S. pork.

Prior to joining NPPC, Zieba was a Trade Policy Manager for the National Milk Producers Federation and the U.S. Dairy Export Council, where she worked on various non-technical trade issues affecting the dairy industry. Before that, she worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service, managing capacity building projects aimed at increasing U.S. agricultural exports to emerging markets.

Zieba holds a M.A. in international commerce and policy from George Mason University. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Riverside with a double major in political science-international affairs and Spanish.

She is fluent in three languages and has lived in Washington, D.C., Southern California, Argentina and Brazil.



**Tuesday, February 11**

## **Panel Four**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET**

### **The Art of the Deal: Trade Politics in 2025**



**Sean Spicer**, Host of the Sean Spicer Show (YouTube); former Press Secretary and Communications Director for President Donald J. Trump; former Communications Director of the Republican National Committee; former Spokesman, Office of the United States Trade Representative



**Moderator: Nicole Bivens Collinson**, Managing Principal, Operating Committee, International Trade & Government Relations Practice Leader, Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.

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# SEAN SPICER



**Host of the Sean Spicer Show (YouTube); former Press Secretary and Communications Director for President Donald J. Trump; former Communications Director of the Republican National Committee; former Spokesman, Office of the United States Trade Representative.**

Sean Spicer served as the 28th White House press secretary, is the author of four best-selling books and the host of The Sean Spicer Show. Mr. Spicer previously served as communications director and chief strategist of the Republican National Committee and worked for several members of Congress. He served on the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds a master's degree from the U.S. Naval War College. Additionally, he was a quarterfinalist on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" in season 28. Mr. Spicer is a native of Rhode Island and resides in Virginia. He can be reached at [seanspicer.com](http://seanspicer.com).

# NICOLE BIVENS COLLINSON



**Managing Principal, Operating  
Committee, International  
Trade & Government Relations  
Practice Leader, Sandler,  
Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.**

Nicole Bivens Collinson is a Managing Principal, Operating Committee, and International Trade and Government Relations Practice Leader with Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A. She is located in the Washington, D.C., office. Ms. Collinson is a commentator on trade matters on MSNBC, NPR, and BBC and is the lead professional on ST&R's engagement as legislative counsel to the National Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA).

Prior to joining ST&R Ms. Collinson served as assistant chief negotiator for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, responsible for the negotiation of bilateral agreements with Latin America, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, the Sub-Continent, and Africa. She also served as a country specialist in the International Trade Administration at the Department of Commerce, where she was responsible for the preparation of negotiations on specific topics between the U.S. and Latin America, Eastern Europe, China, and Hong Kong as well as the administration of complex textile agreements.

Ms. Collinson holds a master's degree in international relations from The George Washington University and a triple bachelor's degree in political science, European studies, and French from Georgetown College. She also studied at the Université de Caen in France. She is past chair of the Women in International Trade Charitable Trust, past president of Women in International Trade, an advisory board member of America's TradePolicy.com, treasurer and board member of the Washington International Trade Association, and a member of the Washington International Trade Association Foundation and Women in Government Relations. She serves on the board of trustees for Georgetown College and is the past executive director for the U.S. Hosiery Manufacturers Coalition, the U.S. Apparel Industry Coalition, and the U.S. Sock Distributors Coalition. She is conversant in both French and Spanish.

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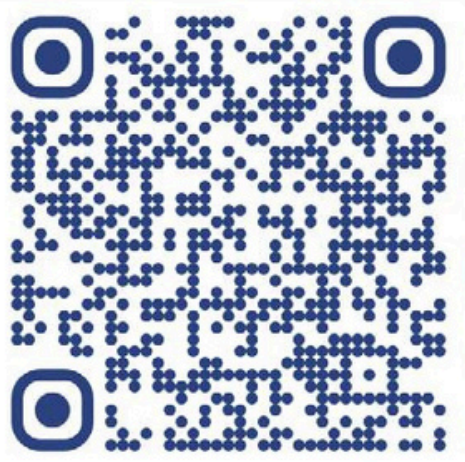
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# 2025 Congressional Trade Agenda

**Friday, March 7, 2025**

**9:30 AM – 11:00 AM ET**

**Hybrid: In-person and via Zoom**

In-person event in the Pavilion Room

**Ronald Reagan Building  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C.**

## **Featured Speakers:**

**Virginia Lenahan**, Chief Counsel, International Trade, 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 Ways and Means Committee

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





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The mission of the WITA Academy™ is to provide trade education and career development opportunities in international trade to individuals across the United States and around the world. By expanding the network, the WITA Academy™ builds a stronger and more dynamic trade community.

The WITA Academy™ is a program of the Washington International Trade Foundation. Through its programs, the WITA Academy is committed to strengthening the trade community by bringing together a broad range of perspectives and creating opportunities for engagement amongst the trade community. Expanding access to education and professional development ensures the continued growth and success of the trade community, shaping the future of trade policy.

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## PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The WITA Academy has launched 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 Career Development Programs seek to bring the best and brightest, next generation workforce into the trade policy community – expanding its network of professionals with new talent that may not have previously sought careers in international trade.

This new initiative features both virtual and in-person events in Washington, DC, with sessions on public and private sector career pathways. The series is geared towards pre-law and law students.

This series launched with an in-person event hosted at the Georgetown University Law Center on April 10, 2024. The Fall in-person event was hosted at Howard University School of Law on September 10, 2024. Summer in-person networking socials will be hosted at sponsor firms to connect law students, summer associates, and trade professionals in downtown DC.

There will be additional virtual programs in 2025 for law schools across the United States.

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

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

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*To sponsor the Trade on the Hill Series, please contact Diego Añez at [danez@wita.org](mailto:danez@wita.org)*



# WITA INTERNATIONAL

A PROGRAM OF THE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION

WITA International originated with our highly successful WITA International Trade Reception at the WTO Public Forum in Geneva, highlighting the importance of fostering the international trade community abroad. Building on its success, WITA International will now host additional events abroad, linking Washington, DC perspectives with global capitals and bringing international trade insights back to DC.

Through WITA International, we are expanding our reach with programs that connect Washington, DC to capitals across the globe, emphasizing that what happens in DC matters internationally, and what happens around the world impacts the United States.

**WITA's Embassy and Ministry Network (EMN):** WITA's EMN provides a dedicated platform for embassy representatives, ministry officials, and policymakers to stay connected with the global trade community. Through a series of expert-led discussions, the initiative creates dialogue on key trade and economic issues, promoting collaboration between international trade officials and the Washington, DC, trade community. For more on WITA's EMN series, please [click here](#).

**WITA International Trade Reception:** Hosted annually during the WTO Public Forum in Geneva, this premier event brings together diplomats from WTO member countries, WTO officials, and leaders from the global business community. It serves as a vital networking opportunity for WITA members visiting Geneva, fostering connections with their international counterparts and promoting high-level dialogue on pressing trade policy issues.

**Global Webinar Platform:** Launching in 2025, this platform will feature regionally focused webinars originating from outside of DC. These programs will highlight key trade developments and issues from around the world, offering our members and the public a deeper understanding of global trade dynamics.

**International Intensive Trade Seminars:** A global extension of WITA's signature ITS program, these custom seminars address regional trade issues and challenges from around the world. These tailored deep dives explore specific trade topics or regions, equipping participants with the knowledge to navigate complex trade policy landscapes effectively.

**In-Person Engagement Abroad:** Alongside the successful reception in Geneva, WITA International will host additional events abroad, fostering direct dialogue between global trade professionals and Washington, DC, decision-makers.

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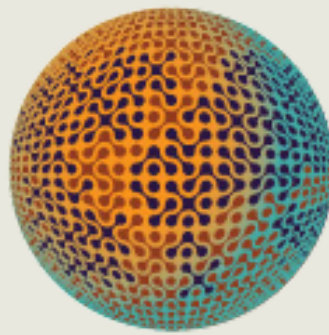


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