



Speaker Biographies

(In order of appearance)

Frank White Jr.

Jackson County Executive

Frank White, Jr. has proudly served as Jackson County Executive since 2016. He is the first African-American to hold the position and is committed to building a better and more equitable community. His vision to achieve that goal is rooted in the County's signature program, *Our Healthy Kansas City Eastside*, which addresses health care inequities on the city's eastside by increasing access to COVID-19 vaccines and preventative health services. Additional accomplishments include providing fair, living wages to county staff, comprehensive fertility services and expanded paid parental leave. A proud product of Kansas City's eastside, County Executive White played 18 years with the Kansas City Royals and is enshrined into the Royals Hall of Fame at Kauffman Stadium. Before the major leagues, one of his first jobs was a union laborer working on the upper deck of the unfinished baseball stadium. That gives him the distinction of being the only Major Leaguer to play in a stadium that he literally helped build. Now, he serves as the Chief Executive of the county that owns the stadium.

Michael Camunez

President & CEO, Monarch Global Strategies

Michael C. Camuñez is President and CEO of Monarch Global Strategies LLC, a binational business advisory firm providing C-Suite strategic advice, project development expertise, government relations, and supply chain sourcing for companies doing business globally, with a particular emphasis on Mexico and Latin America. He has significant experience as a senior executive, independent director, counselor, and advocate advising U.S. companies in domestic and global markets. Mr. Camuñez possesses a unique combination of political, legal, economic, corporate governance, and international affairs expertise. He is a frequent commentator on international trade, international economics, and the U.S.-Mexico relationship in the press, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, NPR, CNBC's Squawk Box, and with other media outlets. Mr. Camuñez served from 2010 to 2013 as one of the nation's leading commercial diplomats as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce at the International Trade Administration. He previously served for two years as Special Counsel to the President in the Office of the White House Counsel, as well as Special Assistant to President Obama. Mr. Camuñez is a former equity partner of the global law firm O'Melveny & Myers LLP, where he had an international practice that included FCPA counseling and compliance. A graduate of Harvard College and Stanford Law School, Mr. Camuñez is an independent director of Edison International (NYSE: EIX), a Fortune 250 public utility holding company, and is an independent director of the American Funds, one of the nation's largest families of mutual funds (\$2.6 Trillion AUM) managed by the Capital Group. He is also an independent director of Amplify, an EdTech portfolio company funded by Laurene Powell-Jobs' Emerson Collective, and of Welcome Tech, a SoftBankbacked fintech helping Latino immigrants more successfully integrate into the U.S.



Brian Murphy
Partner, Miller & Co.

Brian J. Murphy is a Partner at Kansas City-based Miller & Company P.C., a law firm that serves a diverse clientele exclusively in the area of Customs, international trade, and foreign-trade zones law. The firm participated in the founding of the National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ) and serves as its General Counsel. Mr. Murphy's practice focuses on tariff classification, customs valuation, origin marking, special trade programs, trade remedies, Customs penalties and prior disclosures, other government agency requirements, foreign trade zones, trade security initiatives, Census AES, and Customs audits.

Gerardo (Gerald) Schwebel, Executive Vice President, Corporate International Division
IBC Bank-Laredo, Texas

As a key resource to IBC Bank's international customers, Mr. Schwebel offers special expertise in international trade and finance, industrial/economic development and transportation. Widely regarded as a leading expert on international trade and finance, Mr. Schwebel frequently represents IBC Bank and its customers with top government and business leaders in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. His knowledge and unique overview have led him to present expert testimony before Congress on issues regarding U.S.-Mexico trade including the United States, Mexico, Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) and the former North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), transportation and logistics, international finance, and U.S. immigration reform. Mr. Schwebel's perspectives on various topics related to international trade, economics, and banking have been featured in some of the major business publications in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Daniel Watson
Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere

Daniel Watson serves as the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere Office. His office is responsible for developing and implementing U.S. trade policy with Latin America, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Canada. Mr. Watson previously served as the Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for North America (from 2012 to 2020) and the Deputy Chief Negotiator for the U.S. – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA). He has over fifteen years' experience at USTR in a range of policy settings, including trade relations with Southeast Asia and services trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization. Mr. Watson was born in California and entered government service with the Department of Homeland Security, where he worked on asylum and refugee issues, as well as trade and employment-based immigration policy. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of California, Berkeley and an MA Degree from Indiana University, Bloomington.



Eric Walsh

Director General North America, Global Affairs Canada

Eric Walsh serves as Director General for North America at Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa. In this position, he is responsible for providing strategic advice to Ministers and senior government officials on Canada's bilateral and trilateral relationships with the United States and Mexico, while supporting the North American mission network in its pursuit of Canada's advocacy and business development objectives. He leads a team of 60, analyzing major issues in the United States and Mexico that affect Canada, and making recommendations for government policy. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Walsh was the Ambassador of Canada to Korea from 2015-2018. He has also served as Deputy Head of Mission in Germany (2010-2015) and as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (2005-2007), in addition to earlier postings in Romania (2001-2003) and Turkey (1998-2001). At headquarters in Ottawa, Mr. Walsh has worked as Coordinator for Middle East and North African Affairs, as well as Director for the East Asia and North Asia divisions. Mr. Walsh was born in London, Ontario, and grew up in Toronto. He is a graduate of McGill University (Political Science).

Lydia Antonio de la Garza, Director General of International Treaties, Monitoring, Administration, and Compliance Oversight, Mexican Ministry of Economy

Lydia Antonio serves as Director General of International Treaties' Monitoring, Administration and Compliance Oversight in the Mexican Ministry of Economy since February 16, 2019. Among her main responsibilities are the creation of trade policies as a means to promote gender equality. Ms. Antonio is a member of the Mexican Foreign Service since 1998. She has held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs such as Deputy Director General for the North American Competitiveness Agenda (from August 2013 to February 15, 2019); Press Attaché at the Embassy of Mexico to the United States (January 2011-July 2013); Consul for Political, Economic and Border Affairs at the Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego, California (September 2003-December 2010), among others. She holds a Master's Degree in International Studies from the Instituto Matías Romero of Diplomatic Studies (Mexico City 1998-1999) and a BA in International Relations from the Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico City). Since 2003, she has specialized in commercial diplomacy and gender studies.

Matthew Rooney

Director, Institute Outreach and Strategic Partnerships, George W. Bush Institute

Matthew Rooney joined the Bush Center in June 2015 following a career as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. He currently serves as Director, Outreach and Strategic Partnerships. Previously, as head of the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative, Mr. Rooney focused on analyzing the impacts of NAFTA on the growth, job creation and competitiveness of the economies of the United States, Canada and Mexico. His work has also focused on building a network of thought leaders in Central America committed to promoting economic policy reforms to put that region on a sustained and broad-based growth track. The Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative has



produced a significant body of work analyzing the benefits of immigration for U.S. economic growth and promoted common-sense reform at the federal level. Under his leadership, the Bush Institute developed a partnership with the SMU Department of Economics to produce analysis and advocacy on domestic policy constraints on growth. In his Foreign Service career at postings in Washington and abroad, Mr. Rooney focused on advocating market-driven solutions to economic policy challenges in both industrialized and developing countries, and on protecting the interests of U.S. companies abroad.

Cylynn Braswell

Analytics Advisor, Frontline Education

Dr. CyLynn Braswell is an Advisor with Student Analytics in the Frontline Education organization. For the nearly 20 years prior to that CyLynn championed public education in a variety of roles in and out of the school building. Dr. Braswell's most recent public education employment was with a fast-growth school district outside the greater Fort Worth, Texas area as the Executive Director for College, Career Readiness, and Innovation. Her passion for empowering all young people to have the opportunity to pursue any type of training during and after high school is endless. Dr. Braswell's service continues today at the state, national, and international level through a variety boards and committees. She is dedicated to building systems that are equitable as well as accessible while deconstructing the policies that continue to create barriers to opportunities. Dr. Braswell holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Services and Development from Tarleton State University, a Master's degree in Education and a Master's in Information Systems, also from Tarleton, and a Doctoral Degree from the University of North Texas, in Educational Leadership.

Jean-Pierre (JP) Giroux

President, Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium (EMC)

For more than two decades, JP has held positions of increasing responsibility with economic development, NGO, management consulting, industrial and corporate organizations throughout Canada. Beginning as an economic development officer in Canada's Capital Region, JP has devoted the past 20 years towards developing innovative workplace performance-based solutions for the Canadian manufacturing sector. JP's expertise in managing innovative projects has resulted in the creation of advanced human resources technologies, skills and change management strategies, certification programs such as the EMC-Harvard Supervisory Certification Program (for managers) and Manufacturing Essentials Certification Program (for leaders, managers/supervisors and production workers), learning & business Impact assessments/tools and labour market intelligence (LMI) resources/initiatives. JP holds a Bachelor of Business Administration, a Information Technology (eCommerce) Diploma and a Master in Science (M.Sc.), specializing in Human Resources & Industrial Relations.



Diego Piazza Almudi

Deputy Director Government Relations, CONOCER

Diego has an Economics degree from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), and for over a decade he has worked at the National Council for the Standardization and Certification of Labor Competencies, where he has collaborated in both the standardization branch, managing the development of Competency Standards and the certification branch, overseeing the guidance of assessment centers and institutions from CONOCER's network.

David Eaton

Vice President Sales & Marketing Business Development and Customer Service, Kansas City Southern

David Eaton is vice president sales and marketing business development and customer service for Kansas City Southern and is responsible for customer solutions, business implementation, market & business intelligence, marketing for the U.S. and Mexico and nearshoring business development opportunities in Mexico. Mr. Eaton joined KCSM in 2005 and has served in several capacities including Corporate Affairs, Operations and Sales and Marketing. David holds Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona and a Masters' degree in commercial law from the Technological Institute of Monterrey (ITESM). David is fluent in English and Spanish.

Soileh Padilla Mayer

Consul General of Mexico in Kansas City

Consul General Padilla arrived in Kansas City in August 2022 from her last posting in Ottawa, Ontario. She is a Member of Mexico's Foreign Service since 2002 and career diplomat since 2009; her most recent appointment was at the Embassy of Mexico in Canada as Head of the Cultural and Academic section. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she held various positions including Assistant and Advisor to the Undersecretary for North America; Director of Cultural Center "Luis Cardoza y Aragón" at the Embassy of Mexico in Guatemala, Cultural Attaché at the Consulate General of Mexico in Houston, Director for Academic Exchange and Secretary to the Chief Officer for Cultural Affairs at SRE. Previously, she was appointed Chief of Staff of the Director of Mexico's Institute of Fine Arts. In the private sector she worked at Editorial Azabache, publishing house and at Azteca Broadcast Television. She was also the National Coordinator of the Campaign against Torture, organized by the Mexican Academy of Human Rights. She has an MBA in Politics of Alternative Development Strategies at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands and BA in International Studies at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).



Jon Stephens

President & CEO, Port KC

Jon is an economic development professional who has spent his career focused on utilizing thoughtful development concepts to improve the community. He is passionate about his city, and has built a reputation for creativity and collaboration. Previous leadership roles include serving as president of one of the largest urban redevelopment districts in America, director of economic development for Kansas City, Kansas, and CEO of VisitKC. And, as an entrepreneur, he has guided boards and corporations to innovative success. A University of Missouri alumnus, Jon is a frequent speaker on civic issues, and is an active board member for many organizations, including Visit KC, KC Streetcar, KCPT, Arts KC and KCADC.

Roger Scarbrough

Executive Chairman, The Scarbrough Group

Roger Scarbrough is the Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of the Scarbrough Group, which was established in 1984. The Scarbrough Group consists of Scarbrough International, Scarbrough Logistics, Scarbrough Transportation, Scarbrough Warehousing, and Scarbrough Consulting. From 1995-2002, Roger served as President and CEO of United Shipping, a network of more than 140 freight forwarders and customs brokers located in over 85 countries. Before his success in the international trade industry, Roger served two years in the U.S. Army and has a degree in Business from Northwest Missouri State University. As a Licensed Customs Broker and Certified Customs Specialist, Roger is involved with a myriad of organizations, serving on committees and participating in panels nationwide working closely with CSCMP (Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals), KC SmartPort, and The National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA). Roger has over 40 years' experience in international trade and compliance.

Carolina Giuga

Senior Director, Government & Public Affairs, Americas – The LEGO Group

Carolina heads the LEGO Group's government and public affairs team and is responsible for policy and regulatory issues management across North and South America. In this role, she works internally and externally to mitigate commercial risks and create opportunities through dedicated stakeholder engagement to further support the LEGO brand reputation and corporate social responsibility efforts. Carolina and her team focus on public policy related to responsible digital engagement, market access, environmental responsibility and learning through play. She has a Masters in International Trade and Investment Policy from the George Washington University. Carolina is originally from Brazil, but lives in New York with her husband and two sons.



Laurie Tannous

Vice President, Government and Industry Relations, Farrow Customs Brokerage

Laurie A. Tannous is a Cross-Border Attorney and a requested speaker at many trade and industry forums globally, providing public policy counsel to government officials and industry leaders on matters relating to Cross Border Management & Security, Immigration Law, Customs/Trade, Cross Border E-Mobility, Entertainment Law, Public-Private Partnerships and Economic Development Initiatives. She presently holds several concurrent strategic positions including: Vice President Government Relations & General Counsel @ Farrow North American Customs Broker, Special Advisor Customs, Immigration, & Border Security @ University of Windsor's Cross Border Institute and Cross-Border Attorney @ Tannous & Associates Law Firm.

Enrique Marroquin

Vice President of Strategic Development, Zaro Transportation

Currently an Executive Vice President of Strategic Development for Zaro Transportation, LLC, a Texas-based international logistics company providing long haul, door-to-door transportation services. He is responsible for leading several strategic initiatives including the expansion of cross-border growth opportunities, the implementation of strategic initiatives, and the establishment of relationships with key capital providers and stakeholders. Previously, Enrique served as president of Hunt Mexico, Inc. where he was responsible for a portfolio of projects and investments in the energy, electricity, renewables, real estate development and investments sectors in Mexico. He also served as Senior Vice-president of Hunt Power, L.P. in charge of the group's development activities in the Southwest region of the US.

Rachel Connell

Vice President of Membership & Events, NASCO

Rachel has served as Vice President of Membership and Events at NASCO for 17 years. While the NASCO team all wear many hats, her focus is on serving the members and increasing the visibility and success of the organization. In addition, she coordinates the planning and organization of multiple meetings throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico and is responsible for the programming of the annual NASCO Reunion which rotates between the three nations of North America. In all efforts, she works collaboratively with her NASCO colleagues to execute programs that ensure NASCO continues to connect its members and partners to business opportunities across North America. Rachel is a graduate of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations with a minor in Marketing. She lives in Dallas, Texas with her husband, two young children and two labs. In her spare time (of which she has very little), she enjoys serving as a neighborhood community leader, cheering on her Red Raiders, exploring small towns in Texas, and being outdoors.



Katheryn Shields

Councilwoman, City of Kansas City

Katheryn is a Kansas City native. She attended University of Missouri—Kansas City receiving her BA, MA, and JD degrees. She is married to Phil Cardarella, and they have one son Philip. Katheryn was elected to the KCMO City Council in 1987 and 1991. She was elected again in 2015 and 2019. Some of her greatest City accomplishments include reactivating the public art program and historic preservation within downtown Kansas City and the historic Country Club Plaza. Katheryn was elected Jackson County Executive in 1994 and was reelected in 1998 and 2002. Some of her greatest County accomplishments include creating a new 3-tier system for addressing the needs of the mentally ill, transforming Jackson County government into the most sustainable government in the Mid-West, and helping negotiate a 25-year lease with Chiefs and Royals Sports Teams, including renovation of Arrowhead and Kaufman stadiums.

Andrew Knack

Councillor, City of Edmonton, Alberta

Andrew was born in Edmonton, raised just west in the city of Spruce Grove and has lived in the west end since 2002. Andrew received his Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Alberta in 2006 and managed a retail business based in West Edmonton Mall until being elected in 2013. He is a strong advocate of our community league system and served on both the Meadowlark and Jasper Park Community Leagues. Over his first 2 terms, Andrew has served as the Council representative on the Accessibility Advisory Committee, City of Edmonton Youth Council and Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board. He is responsible for 4 Council Initiatives: NextGen, Seniors, Public Engagement and Transportation Innovation. Andrew also sat on the Edmonton Public Library Board of Trustees. Andrew is honoured to have the opportunity to serve the people of Ward Nakota Isga and the rest of Edmonton.

Q.F.B. Luis Guillermo Benítez Torres

Constitutional President of the Municipality of Mazatlán

Chemist Pharmacist Biologist by profession. Founding partner of the EILAB company, which has allowed him to participate as a leader in local, regional and national business and professional organizations in the field. He was President of the College of Chemists of Mazatlán, A.C., during the periods 1983-1985 and 1989-1991, he also served as Secretary of the Honor and Justice Commission from 1993 to 1996, as well as President of the Honor and Justice Commission from 2002 to 2005. From 1993 to 1995 he was National President of the Mexican College of Clinical Chemists A.C., (National Coverage). During the period from 1997 to 1999 he served as Secretary of the National Chamber of Commerce, Services and Tourism of Mazatlan. He is currently the Constitutional President of the Municipality of Mazatlán, after having achieved re-election after a first period of 2018-2021. During this second stage, which includes the years 2021-2024, the Mazatlan citizens revalidated and endorsed his great work for the benefit of



the social and economic development of the port. His administrations have joined wills to advance solidly in the transformation of Mazatlan and more than fulfill the entire Mazatlan society. This performance was recognized in Mexico by the Association of Local Authorities of Mexico A.C., for this reason, he served as President of the Network of Tourist Municipalities at the national level in 2019.

Chris Gutierrez

President, KC SmartPort

Chris is the President of KC SmartPort, Inc., a non-profit economic development organization that works to attract freight-based companies, such as manufacturing, distribution and warehouses to the 18 county, bi-state Kansas City region. Chris has been active in logistics, international business and economic development for more than 30 years. He joined KC SmartPort as President in 2003 and oversees all aspects of the organization, as well as provides thought leadership to the supply chain industry in KC and nationally.

John Hassler

Senior Managing Director, Newmark Zimmer

John Hassler joined Newmark Zimmer in 2010. His primary responsibilities include advising clients in the acquisition and disposition of logistics properties as well as representing clients in the analysis and disposition of logistics real estate investment transactions. Hassler focuses primarily on properties located in the Kansas City metropolitan region and throughout the Midwest. He is intimately familiar with all notable building tenants, owners, lease expirations and transactions in his territory. Additionally, Hassler is trained in multiple real estate systems such as CoStar, REApplications and Argus as well as Newmark Zimmer proprietary software.

Gregg Wassmansdorf

Senior Managing Director, Global Corporate Services, Canada, Newmark

Gregg Wassmansdorf is a Market Leader for Newmark's Global Corporate Services (GCS) division in Canada, where he shares responsibility for platform development, sales, engagement management, and client service delivery for the company's consulting practice. As a commercial real estate (CRE) outsourcing advisor, Gregg helps mid-sized and large organizations evaluate the best means to access and implement service solutions for their global facilities. He facilitates engagements for strategic consulting, CRE & facilities management (FM) technology and data management, account and transaction management, workplace strategies & implementation, facilities services, and project management. Gregg's advisory work also supports senior and lower levels of government with economic development strategy, investment attraction initiatives, and regional and community competitiveness assessments. He is regularly hired by investment promotion and economic development agencies for his expert opinions. Gregg is both a Canadian and U.S. citizen.



Sergio Perez

Executive Managing Director, Global Corporate Services Latin America, Newmark

As leader of the Newmark GCS team, with +40 specialists in charge, Sergio is based on his solid experience in real estate strategy development and portfolio service, divestment, site selection and complex transaction structuring in Mexico as well as all of LATAM. Under Sergio's leadership, the team has consistently been recognized as one of the most productive in the industry, as well as the best industrial team in LATAM and the No.1 team in Corporate Customer Service. Sergio was also responsible for leading the most successful cell in LATAM for more than 15 years in CBRE, being responsible for transactional management and leading the regional corporate services platform.

Oscar del Cueto Cuevas

President, Kansas City Southern de Mexico

Oscar del Cueto Cuevas is the president, general manager, and executive representative of Kansas City Southern de México, S.A. de C.V., a subsidiary of Kansas City Southern (KCS). He has more than 30 years of experience in the railway industry. He participated as a liaison in the process of disincorporation of the national railways and contributed to the process of delivery reception of the first railroad concession in Mexico. He joined KCSM in 2006 where he held various positions. He holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Monterrey. He also has several studies and management courses in Mexico and the United States. He was president of the Operations and Safety Committee of the Mexican Association of Railways (AMF) for 5 years, is a full member of the Board of Directors of the Ferrocarril y Terminal del Valle de México (Ferrovalle), is a member of the Mexican Council of Foreign Trade of the Northeast (Comce Noreste), as well as director of the AMF and is currently a full member of the Steering Committee of the Ferrovalle railway terminal. He also holds the presidency of the Mexican Association of Railways (AMF) for the period 2020-2021 and is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico.

Jeffrey J. Tafel

President, NAFTAZ

Jeffrey J. Tafel, CAE, is the President of NAFTAZ. He is a member and mission-focused non-profit professional with nearly 30 years of association senior management experience and specializes in developing and executing strategy. Previously, Jeff served as the CEO of the Home Builders Association of Western Michigan where he worked closely with the Board of Directors and oversaw the entire organization, its programs and initiatives. Prior to HBA, Jeff served as the Executive Director of the IFMA (International Facility Management Association) Foundation where he led the organization out of near extinction to become a relevant, self-sustaining entity. He was responsible for creation of the IFMA Foundation's Global Workforce Initiative to encourage Facility Management as a career of choice. He is married with three sons living in Portage, MI, enjoys time with family and their 3 dogs, is an avid road and mountain bicyclist and self-proclaimed 'foodie'.



Erik Autor

Past President, NAFTAZ

Mr. Autor was formerly President of the National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ), where he organized and directed a wide-range of initiatives on issues of critical importance to stakeholders in the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) Program. Prior to joining NAFTAZ in 2016, he was President of Autor Global Strategies, LLC, a consultancy providing public policy, advocacy, legal/regulatory, and strategic communications services to business clients with a focus on international trade and investment, customs, corporate social responsibility, and global supply chain management. Mr. Autor's experience also includes fifteen years as Vice President and International Trade Counsel at the National Retail Federation (NRF), the world's largest retail trade association. At NRF he represented and advised member companies in the retail industry on international trade, corporate social responsibility matters, supply chain and transportation, and customs issues. Mr. Autor received a J.D. and LL.M. from Duke University School of Law, an M.Sc. (Econ.) from the London School of Economics, and a B.A. (magna cum laude) from UCLA.

Sonette Magnus

Partner, Thompson Coburn and Canada's Honorary Consul for greater St. Louis

Sonette is a highly experienced litigator and business advisor who counsels corporate clients on all phases of commercial litigation in state and federal courts throughout the United States. She represents clients across a wide spectrum of industries during pre-suit evaluation, discovery, mediation, expert witness preparation, trial preparation and when advisable, trial. Sonette is skilled at creating and implementing litigation strategies that take into consideration all external factors that can influence a trial, such as geography, socio-economic realities, and jury composition. Sonette began her legal career by serving for six years as the law clerk to the Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. She draws on that experience to effectively represent lenders in receiverships as well as Chapter 11 restructurings, liquidations in DIP Financing, and Plan negotiations. Sonette also serves as Canada's Honorary Consul for the greater St. Louis area. In this role Sonette interacts with local businesses, chambers of commerce and government officials to identify opportunities for collaboration and trade between Canada and Missouri, particularly in the agriculture, biotech, energy and services sectors. Born in Toronto, Sonette's Canadian roots and deep love for the St. Louis community motivate her to enhance the two countries' mutual relationship.

Claudia Avila

Expert in Foreign Direct Investment and Nearshoring, Mexico

Claudia currently works as part of the group of advisers to the Secretary of the Treasury of the Government of Mexico on topics related to foreign direct investment, nearshoring and global supply chains. For more than 16 years, she led the Mexican Association of Private Industrial Parks (AMPIP). In 2020, she was part of the list of the 100 most powerful women in business from *Expansión* magazine in Mexico. She has also been Secretary of Economic Development in the state government of Hidalgo,



Mexico, and Mexico's Deputy Trade Commissioner in Stockholm, Sweden, and Toronto, Canada, participating in the promotion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) today T-MEC. She writes in specialized magazines and has given lectures in different countries on topics related to economic development, foreign direct investment, and global competitiveness. She has a degree in International Relations at UNAM, an MBA from the University of Toronto, and a Ph.D. in Strategic Management, from the Universidad Anáhuac in Mexico City. She speaks four languages.

Dan Ujcz

Senior Counsel, Thompson Hine

Dan is a senior counsel in the firm's International Trade and Transportation practice groups. His practice focuses on providing end-to-end counsel across clients' Canada-U.S., North American and global supply chains. This trade counsel includes customs classification and compliance, utilization of preferential trade agreements such as the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), tariff mitigation and exclusions, procurement issues such as Buy America/Buy American, and anti-dumping/countervailing duty issues. He also advises clients in the negotiating of transportation agreements, managing trusted trader and related security programs, and addressing issues at ports-of-entry. Dan's unique Canada-U.S. experience encompasses serving in the governments of Canada and the United States, private practice and academia. He served as an officer in Canada's foreign ministry where he worked towards improving North America's borders and ports-of-entry. For nearly a decade, Dan was a visiting professor of law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and managed a lab that served as a legal adviser to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Coast Guard. His public service also includes having served as a Career Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Judge Peter C. Economus. In that capacity, Dan participated in federal and civil trial litigation and performed by designation in cases pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Aaron Bates,

President and CEO of Toledo Solar

Mr. Bates serves as the Chairman of The Atlas Ventures Group (AVG), a Private Equity Firm based in Ohio. In his role as Chairman of AVG, Aaron also serves as the Chairman of the AVG portfolio of companies, most recently Toledo Solar Inc. Toledo Solar is a \$130M investment initiative located in Toledo, Ohio that manufactures next generation solar Photo-Voltaic (PV) modules in the United States. In his role at Toledo Solar, he oversees all business-related matters for the company, including the technical implementation of new technology to the Company's targeted markets and delivery chain. Aaron has also served as an Executive of Commercialization and Workforce Development for the Ohio Federal Research Network (OFRN) at the Wright State Applied Research Corp. (WSARC). In his role at the OFRN, Mr. Bates helped to coordinate The OFRN's strategic network with 17 Federal and Academic research institutions and over 75 Industry Partners across the state of Ohio.



Stephen MacKenzie

President & CEO, Invest WindsorEssex

Stephen MacKenzie is the President and CEO of Invest WindsorEssex responsible for advancing economic development to grow and sustain prosperity in Southwest Ontario, Canada. He has spent 27 years in economic development organizations in Connecticut, Nova Scotia and now Ontario. Prior to joining IWE, he served as the Executive Director of the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region and previously held the position of Senior Vice President of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center. Before joining CERC, he was the Director Economic Development in Stamford Connecticut. In Halifax, Stephen was a Senior Executive Major Projects for the Nova Scotia Department of Economic Development's Investment and Trade Division. Previously he spent four years with the TD Bank, and later served in sales and marketing functions at different organizations in both Canada and Belgium. Stephen has been a part-time lecturer at European University and Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax. He received a bachelor's degree in Commerce from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, completed his MBA at European University in Belgium, and is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute. He is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), and a Board member for the Canada-United States Business Association (CUSBA).

Aidee Olmos

Head of Corporate Sustainability | HSBC Mexico & LAM

Aidee has a degree in Foreign Affairs from the Universidad del Valle de Mexico and is a candidate for a Master's Degree in Social Responsibility at Universidad Anáhuac. She started her banking career 24 years ago and has worked in different institutions from which the last 10 years have been at HSBC. She served in various areas; however, for the last 20 years she was a corporate banker in different sectors, the last one being renewable energies, which led her to take her current role in corporate sustainability. As head of Corporate Sustainability, she attends everything related to the strategy of Sustainable Operations, Sustainable Finance and Communities, which includes the HSBC Foundation and volunteering in Mexico and Latin America. Additionally, she is Co-president in Chapter Zero an organization focused on Environmental Corporate Governance.