



ROSS ALLEN

DEPUTY HMT NORTH AMERICA

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Ross Allen joined the British government's Department for International Trade in August 2016 as Director, North America.

He leads a team of 150 staff across the US and Canada who assist British companies exporting to and setting up in North America and work with US and Canadian companies looking to invest in the UK.

Ross joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 2001. He has extensive experience in foreign policy, crisis management and communications.

During his career he has run the FCO's Consular Assistance Department, was foreign and defence policy advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg; and was the Minister for Europe's press officer during ratification of the EU Lisbon Treaty. He has also worked in commercial banking on secondment.

Ross is married with three young children and lives in New York City.



KEN BAILEY

LEADER ECONOMIC PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

DAIRGOLD

Ken Bailey is Leader of Economic Planning and Analysis at Darigold. Ken focuses on market outlook, both domestic and global, and policy analysis. He also supports strategy and risk management. Ken has a deep understanding of U.S. and global dairy commodity markets, particularly global export opportunities for dairy. He has recently been active in helping Darigold and the US dairy industry better understand global trade agreements including USMCA, US-Japan, and EU trade policy.

Prior to Darigold Ken was a Professor of Dairy Markets & Policy at Penn State University, and was a consultant/broker at INTL/FCStone. Prior to that Ken worked at FAPRI at the University of Missouri, and at the USDA's Economic Research Service in Washington, DC.

Ken earned a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business from the University of Arkansas, a Masters degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and his Ph.D in Agricultural Economics from the University of Minnesota.



SHAUNA BASSETT

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

BOEING

Shauna has been with the Boeing Company for 18 years. She has worked supporting many different programs and business divisions. Her most recent role is in the Boeing Commercial Airplanes International Strategy and Business Development supporting the United Kingdom and Turkey.

Shauna has also worked for airlines in a variety of roles; Frontier Airlines, as a Senior Revenue Management Analyst, Alaska Airlines as a Senior Marketing and Planning Analyst, as well as Airborne Express and Delta Airlines customer service.

Shauna has a Master's of Science Finance from Seattle University and a Bachelor of Business Administration – International Business from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



BRIAN BENNETT
VICE PRESIDENT, LEGAL
F5

Brian Bennett is Vice President of Legal and the Facility Security Officer at F5 Networks, where he has worked since 2006. Brian served as Mayor and City Councilmember for the City of Burien from 2010 to 2013. Prior to working at F5, Brian was an attorney at Davis Wright Tremaine, and he has worked in Ukraine, Russia, and the Washington State Senate. Brian has a law degree from New York University and a B.A. from the University of Washington, and he has also studied international law at the University of Cape Town. He is an avid AFC Bournemouth fan.



RICHARD BIGGS
CHAIR
BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS PNW

Richard is an international business development expert, former CEO and admits suffering from being a serial entrepreneur. Over the past 25 years he has held senior positions at numerous American companies while being based in Europe, Asia and North America. Richard has taken companies from sectors including consumer electronics, software, manufacturing and technology into the EU, Middle East, Asia and Australasia. He has also been instrumental in taking companies from his native England onto the World stage. In addition to starting six companies of his own – four in the US and two in the UK, Richard has mentored Oregon and SW Washington early-stage companies for many years. He currently serves on the Federally Appointed District Export Council of Oregon and recently joined the Mayor of London’s International Business Program as a mentor. Richard’s current home is Portland, OR, where he is joined by his Scottish wife and two daughters – the oldest having already lived in 3 Countries by the time she was 18 months old. When Richard isn’t working he is delighted to talk about global trekking, Indian food, football (one with a round ball & feet), the masters swimming scene and fast cars—especially Porsche.



ANDREW BUHRMANN
CO-FOUNDER, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VETTD

Andrew Buhrmann is Cofounder, President and CEO of Vetttd.ai, an AI platform helping global organizations build AI-driven solutions to accelerate their people strategies. Andrew works directly with senior executives to develop open and transparent solutions, using their own data, to ensure they make progress towards their people goals and achieve lasting success with AI. Originally from Canada, and who’s Grandmother was born in Liverpool, Andrew has a global passion to help organizations safely use AI to improve the lives of all people who engage with them.



CARLO CAVAGNA
REGIONAL DIRECTOR - SOUTHWEST USA
DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Carlo Cavagna leads the UK's Department for International Trade's Los Angeles-based team of business development specialists, who work to attract investment to the UK, empower UK companies in the United States, deepen UK/US economic links, and further UK prosperity and growth. Prior to assuming this role, Carlo served as DIT's Head of Trade & Investment in Los Angeles, and as Head of UK Trade & Investment's U.S. creative & media team. Before that, he managed business development for Lionsgate's groundbreaking VOD company, CinemaNow. Carlo began his career as an investigator, and later a policy analyst, for the U.S. International Trade Administration in Washington, DC. Carlo holds a Master's degree from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), a Bachelor's degree from Columbia University, and a screenwriting degree from UCLA. He and his wife Heidi are partners in PageCraft, offering screenwriting retreats, coaching, and services.



BARRY CRIST
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CHEF SOFTWARE

Barry Crist has more than 20 years of experience in driving enterprise customer success and adoption with both open source and DevOps software solutions. Prior to joining Chef, he was an Executive-in-Residence at Ignition Partners, a Chef investor. He was previously CEO of Likewise, a company with a strong open source to enterprise go-to-market model that had wide industry reach including OEM agreements with VMware, Dell, HP, Riverbed, and EMC. Likewise was acquired by EMC Isilon in September 2012. Prior to Likewise, Crist served as Vice President of the Application Management group at Mercury, now a division of HP, where he grew North American sales from less than \$1 million to more than \$75 million. Crist led enterprise sales organizations at Network Associates (now McAfee) and was in various sales, technical, and international roles at Apple.



DUNCAN EDWARDS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BRITISHAMERICAN BUSINESS

Duncan Edwards is the chief executive of BritishAmerican Business, the leading transatlantic trade organization of some 450 companies, which has an ongoing mission to support policies which protect and enhance the environment for trade and investment in, and between, the USA and the UK. He is a regular contributor to policy debates and is a frequent media commentator on US UK relations.

Prior to this, Duncan Edwards spent over 30 years as a media executive in London and New York of which 27 years were spent at the Hearst Corporation. His most recent role at Hearst was president and ceo of the international magazine and digital media company, a business with activities in more than 60 countries which he led to record levels through acquisition and organic growth.

A British citizen, he currently lives in New York and Connecticut where he can often be found on long runs in the hills.



TAMRA EKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BRITISHAMERICAN BUSINESS

Tamra Eker is Executive Director of BritishAmerican Business, an exclusive members' organization and the voice of transatlantic business. In this role, she oversees operation of the organization's New York office, including membership, marketing, programming, diversity & inclusion initiatives and also serves as Responsible Officer for BAB's J-1 Exchange Visitor Program.

Prior to her appointment as Executive Director, Ms. Eker served a variety of roles at BAB including Senior Director & Deputy Head of New York; Interim Head of Events & Program Development; and Associate Director, Member Relations & Programs since arriving to BAB in 2007. Ms. Eker also served as a consultant for BAB's J-1 Visa program and provided the Secretariat to the British-American Business Council for over 10 years.

During her tenure at BAB, she has developed and implemented B2B and B2C strategies that substantively engage more than 200 multinational companies and SMEs in New York and London. These strategies have focused on business development, client relations, marketing & communications, and development of strategic partnerships.

Ms. Eker holds a B.A. in Sociology and Classical Voice from Tufts University (magna cum laude) and an M.A. in Nonprofit Administration from NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development and Stern School of Business.

Ms. Eker currently serves on the Executive Committee of the European-American Chamber of Commerce in the United States, on the Board of Directors for the British-American Business Council, and on the Board of Trustees with her synagogue, Temple Beth Sholom, in New York.



CATHERINE FILIPPINI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS PNW

With more than twenty years' experience in strategy development, communications and marketing, public affairs, events planning, leadership, and management, Catherine's experience spans across a variety of public, private, governmental, consultancy, and nonprofit entities.

Her extensive Northwest career includes operating her own communications firm, Bellastoria Communications, working with C-suite and executive leaders in the government and non-profit sectors, as well as with regional public relations agencies to support strategic business planning, and communications and marketing initiatives. She also serves as the Executive Director for the Pacific Northwest chapter of British-American Business Connections, leading the day-to-day operations including, membership and partnership development, advocacy and policy initiatives, marketing and communications activities, and the Board of Directors' leadership team.

Catherine's passion for communications, public affairs and service roles were inspired and nurtured through her work in California including serving as the Constituent Affairs Representative for the California State House Speaker, key positions with representatives of the California State House and Senate, on state and national political campaigns, and through local/state agencies tackling issues including tribal gaming and clean air fuels. With an innate ability to pivot to multiple industries, Catherine's work has also deeply extended into the technology, aerospace/manufacturing, tourism, and arts industries.

She was instrumental in implementing the first American Cancer Society workplace newsletter "Because We Care," with a pilot in the Pacific Northwest region, helping to establish the communication as a national publication. Catherine also worked with Washington State Tourism, helping develop the "Washington State Tourism Strategic Direction: A Blueprint for Our Future," to support tourism development across the state.



LISA GARAVANTA

VICE PRESIDENT GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

FLIR SYSTEMS

Lisa Whisler Garavanta is the Vice President of Government Affairs at FLIR Systems. Since 2016, she has been the lead advocacy professional for the company's work with federal, state and local elected and appointed officials. She manages all government and regulatory initiatives key to FLIR Systems and serves as the Chairman of their political action committee, FLIRPAC. Prior to joining FLIR, Ms. Garavanta worked for Lockheed Martin as Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs for almost ten years. She spent three of those years in International Business Development representing the corporation in North Asia. From 2004-2007, Ms. Garavanta served as the Senior Policy Advisor to former U.S. Ambassador to China and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, and from 2002 to 2004, she worked in the Air Force Office of Legislative Liaison at the Pentagon and the U.S. Senate. Previously, she was the Director of the U.S. Department of State Irish Peace Process Training Program in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Ms. Garavanta received her B.A. from Villanova University and M.A. from the University of Ulster. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Naval War College Foundation and the Board of Directors of the VA Chamber of Commerce.

CYRUS HABIB

WASHINGTON STATE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Cyrus Habib was elected Lieutenant Governor of Washington state in 2016 at the age of 35. He had previously been elected to the State House of Representatives in 2012 and the State Senate in 2014, where he was Democratic Whip and a member of the Democratic leadership team. As Lt. Governor, he is President of the State Senate, serves as Acting Governor whenever Governor Inslee leaves the state, and oversees an agency whose key issues include economic development, trade, and higher education. Since early 2019, he has served as co-chair of the Democratic Lieutenant Governor's Association.

A three-time cancer survivor, Lt. Governor Habib has been fully blind since age eight. His parents immigrated to the U.S. from Iran before he was born, and he is the first and only Iranian-American to hold statewide elected office in the United States.

He is a graduate of Columbia University, Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and Yale Law School, where he was Editor of the Yale Law Journal. Lt. Governor Habib practiced law at Perkins Coie, and served as Distinguished Lawmaker in Residence at Seattle University Law School. He is a Truman Scholar, a Soros Fellow, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a Rodel Fellow at the Aspen Institute, and has been named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.





ROBERT HAMILTON
TRADE ADVISOR
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

As the Governor's Advisor for Trade Policy, Robert Hamilton has advised Washington governors on international trade issues, trade agreements and federal trade legislation for over fifteen years. He serves as the state's lead in collaborating with federal officials in defending state programs subject to legal challenge under international trade agreements. These disputes include the ongoing World Trade Organization (WTO) case involving federal and Washington state subsidies for Boeing, the WTO case challenging federal and state restrictions on internet gambling, the European Community investigation of state biodiesel subsidies and China's ongoing investigation of several state clean energy programs. As the state's representative on the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IGPAC), which is the state and local government trade policy advisory, he provides sub-central government feedback on international trade agreements to the United States Trade Representative, the federal trade negotiating agency. In his role on IGPAC, Robert Hamilton's security clearance allows him to review draft trade agreements to evaluate the potential exposure of state laws and regulations to legal challenge and to influence the final text of trade agreements. Robert Hamilton is also responsible for meeting the state's technical responsibilities of WTO agreements, including authoring the state's annual report on state subsidies as required under the WTO Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement. Robert Hamilton also extensively collaborates with Washington companies and industries to remove foreign trade barriers. Working with U.S. federal and foreign officials, Robert Hamilton has helped eliminate trade barriers that have prevented Washington state exports. Prior to working for the state, Robert Hamilton worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, DC for five years, where he focused on the administration of U.S. fair trade laws and trade with countries of the former Soviet Union.



GREG HANDS
MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE POLICY
DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Greg was elected the Conservative MP for Hammersmith and Fulham in 2005, and for Chelsea and Fulham in 2010. Greg studied Modern History at Cambridge University, including time spent in the Modern Languages and Oriental Studies faculties graduating with first class honours. Greg Hands has been a Government Minister since October, 2011. He served first as the Treasury Whip, 2011-2013, and then as Government Deputy Chief Whip and Treasurer of Her Majesty's Household, 2013-15. Following the May 2015 General Election, Greg Hands attended Cabinet as Chief Secretary to the Treasury under the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne. Greg served as a Local Councillor in Fulham, 1998 - 2006. He was elected Conservative MP for Hammersmith & Fulham in 2005, the MP for the redrawn Chelsea & Fulham constituency in 2010 and again in 2015. Greg also spent 8 years working on trading floors in London and New York trading and marketing fixed income derivatives.



SCHUYLER HOSS

*DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL
OFFICE OF WA GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE*

As Director of International Relations and Protocol, Schuyler serves as the State's primary liaison to foreign governments, international organizations and global education and cultural partners on behalf of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Office of the Governor. Schuyler also has a significant role in international business and economic development as well as trade related matters, and functions as the State's Chief Protocol Officer for official and ceremonial events. Schuyler previously served on the staff of former Governor Christine Gregoire, and has more than 25 years experience in community based health care, specializing in home health, hospice, infusion therapy and home medical technology. He served as a long-time volunteer and school board member, and is active in supporting several community not for profit organizations.



HELEN KENNETT

*DIRECTOR OF UK GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ROLLS-ROYCE*

Helen Kennett is Director of UK Government Relations, Rolls-Royce plc and joined the company in 2010.

In her role she is responsible for UK Government Relations, CHQ Government Relations issues and works with the Regional and Country Directors on UK-international political issues and management of political risk. This role covers all business and functional issues inside the Group.

Helen was previously Head of Government Relations at Thales UK where she successfully led government relations campaigns on major defence bids.

Before joining Thales Helen was Public Affairs Manager for Railtrack and previously worked at the Engineering Employers' Federation. On graduating in Politics and Law, Helen started her career in Westminster working for an MP.



DANIELLE KRIZ

*SENIOR DIRECTOR, GLOBAL POLICY
PALO ALTO NETWORKS*

Danielle Kriz joined Palo Alto Networks in February 2016 as Senior Director of Global Policy. In this position, she leads the company's engagement with governments around the world on cybersecurity and other public policy issues that impact Palo Alto Networks.

Danielle has 24 years of technology, cybersecurity, and trade policy experience. She previously was Director for Global Cybersecurity Policy at the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), a Washington, D.C.-based trade association representing the world's largest technology companies. Danielle established ITI's globally impactful cybersecurity policy practice, where she encouraged governments to leverage industry's considerable efforts on cybersecurity and to enact laws and policies that improve security while facilitating innovation. Prior to ITI, Danielle spent four years in Silicon Valley consulting on government affairs strategies for high-tech and clean-tech firms. She began her career with ten years in government, working on high-tech trade policies at the U.S. International Trade Commission and then the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, where she spearheaded the U.S. Government's work on cybersecurity as it intersects with trade. Danielle has worked with governments and engaged on cybersecurity policies in the U.S., EU, Japan, the U.K., Singapore, China, India, Korea, Brazil, and many others.

Danielle has an MS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, with a focus on international trade and technology policy, and a BA from Ithaca College in politics. She lived in Tokyo from 1991-1994.



OWEN LARTER
DIRECTOR, GLOBAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
MICROSOFT

Owen is the Director of Global Government Affairs at Microsoft. Owen's career at Microsoft has spanned more than five years with various roles in the company's Government Affairs division where he has focused on data protection and cybersecurity policy issues at the UK and EU levels. Owen also serves on the board of Compass Housing Alliance, is a Term Member on the Council on Foreign Relations, and is the co-founder of The Aspen Institute's Next Generation Network.



JASON LITTLE
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER

Jason Little serves as District Director to Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR-03), a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade. He's worked with Congressman Blumenauer since 2013 advising on manufacturing, trade, and workforce policies. Prior to the Congressman's office, Jason worked for the Portland Business Alliance, Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of Linfield College.



BRITTANY LOYA
SENIOR TRADE POLICY ADVISER
DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Based out of the British Consulate-Los Angeles, Brittany Loya is the Senior Trade Policy Adviser for the West Coast. Within her role she develops and delivers the UK's trade policy campaign to build support for a strengthened UK-US trade and investment relationship. As part of her remit she covers the following nine states: California, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and Alaska.

Prior to her current role she led the Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing team for the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT). In this role, Brittany was charged with developing and delivering the UK's investment and trade promotion strategy for the Western United States in the automotive industry.

Prior to her work with the British government, she spent several years as a business development executive and analyst within municipal government. She has ran trade and business missions throughout the US, Mexico, El Salvador, and the UK.

Brittany is an alumnus of St. Mary's College of California. She holds bachelor's degrees in both political science and history. She also holds a master's degree in international trade & investment from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.



CHRISTINE MARTINEZ
SENIOR COMPLIANCE COUNSEL
PRECISION CAST PARTS

Christine Martinez is a compliance attorney who advises the Precision Castparts family of companies in regulatory and ethics matters. Before joining PCC, she worked at a boutique law firm in Chicago, Illinois, specializing in Customs and trade matters. Today she provides practical guidance to manufacturing companies around the world on export, import, trade remedies, FCPA, data privacy, information protection, and code of conduct compliance matters (as well as whatever else they can come up with).



JACLYN MASON
REGIONAL DIRECTOR - SILICON VALLEY & NORTH WEST USA
DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

As the regional director for Silicon Valley and the Northwest U.S. for the UK Department of International Trade, Jaclyn leads the British government's 17-person commercial team in San Francisco, but also sits on the Network Leadership Team contributing to the strategic direction of DIT USA's 130+ staff residing in nine offices. Jaclyn has cultivated an extensive C-suite network in the UK, U.S. (predominantly Silicon Valley, and the Pacific North West) and Turkey. She is passionate about tech startups and leveraging networks to support U.S. companies expanding into the UK market and UK companies expanding into the Bay Area. Jaclyn began her career in the private sector in Scotland with premier HR recruitment agency, Melville Craig Group, where for four years she received a firm grounding in solution sales, advertising, and client management, which has stood her in good stead ever since. She holds a BA Honors in Commerce with Information Management and a Post Graduate Diploma from the Institute of Management.



JUSTIN MILLER
AIR EXPORT MANAGER
EXPEDITORS INTERNATIONAL

Justin Miller is a tenured professional with Expeditors International. Having started with the company out of college as an Air Export Night Operations Agent, he served in various roles in the department before taking over in his current position as Air Export Manager for the Portland District, a position he has held for more than 11 years.



ADAM O'GRADY
GENERAL MANAGER
ELEMENT SIX TECHNOLOGIES

I'm currently the General Manager of Element Six Technologies based in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Element Six are part of the DeBeers Group of Companies with our HQ in the U.K. I was the Project Manager responsible for Site Selection and then construction of our \$100m state of the art Diamond manufacturing facility in Oregon. Element Six operates this facility on behalf of Lightbox Jewelry, another DeBeers Group Company, which specializes in utilizing the Laboratory Grown Diamonds we grown in Oregon for the fashion jewelry market. I'm originally from Dublin, a Dual-Nationality British & Irish citizen living in Portland, Oregon since June 2019. Initially qualified as a Chemical Engineer, I have worked in various Manufacturing and Capital Investment roles in Ireland, Sweden, South Africa, China, the U.K. and most recently the U.S.



DEANNA OPPENHEIMER
FOUNDER
CAMEOWORKS

Deanna Oppenheimer is founder of CameoWorks. Recognized globally as one of the most influential leaders in financial services, she's a turnaround strategist known for her ability to transform entrenched institutions into forward thinking, customer-centric champions. Deanna is currently serving as non-executive director for the following publicly listed companies in the UK: Chair of Hargreaves Lansdown, a FTSE-100 financial services company; Tesco PLC (senior independent director) and Whitbread. She also sits on the private board of Seattle-based Joshua Green Corporation. The firm advises BECU, and is also a senior adviser to Bain Consulting's global financial services practice; West Monroe Partners' customer experience team and to several CEOs of early-stage private companies.



LORI OTTO PUNKE
PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Lori has served as President since 2016, leading the organization to drive trade and investment policies that increase the competitiveness of Washington state workers and businesses. Lori is also the founder of LOP Strategies. She previously held a variety of public affairs positions at Starbucks and Microsoft and also served as a senior policy advisor to U.S. Senate leadership. She is the current Chair of Seattle GenNext and a former member of the NASDAQ Public Policy Advisory Committee. Lori earned her B.A. from George Washington University and studied in London and Madrid.



SUSAN POINTER

*VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
AMAZON.COM*

Susan Pointer is Vice President, International Public Policy & Government Affairs for Amazon.com. Based at Amazon's headquarters in Seattle since July 2018, Susan oversees the Public Policy and Government Affairs teams across the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and Asia Pacific (APAC) regions, in support of Amazon's Consumer Retail, Devices and Digital businesses.

Susan previously managed Amazon.com's European Public Policy teams from Brussels and London between 2001 and 2008.

Between 2008 and 2018, Susan led EMEA and APAC Public Policy and Government Relations for Google Inc. from London and then Hong Kong.

Prior to joining Amazon (the first time, in 2001), Susan ran the Confederation of British Industry (CBI)'s European Public Policy Unit in Brussels (1998-2001) during which time, Susan also acted as CBI 'Permanent Delegate' to the European Business Association, UNICE (now 'Business Europe').

Earlier, between 1994 and 1998, Susan worked as Parliamentary Adviser to British MEP Dr Caroline Jackson in the European Parliament - based in London and then Brussels, where she primarily supported public policy and parliamentary work for the Consumer Protection, Environment & Health and Industry Affairs, in addition to constituency issues. For the first year, between 1994 and 1995, Susan combined this role, in the UK, with that of Parliamentary Researcher to Mr Simon Coombs MP, Member of the British Parliament.

Susan has a First Class Honours degree in EU Studies (economics, politics and culture) with French and German from the University of Bath, UK.

Susan is married to David, a former 'Amazonian' himself and now a very understanding globe-trotting trailing spouse...!



CURTIS ROBINHOLD

*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PORT OF PORTLAND*

Curtis Robinhold became the Executive Director of the Port of Portland (Port) in 2017. He joined the Port as Deputy Executive Director in February of 2014. The Port, governed by a nine-member Commission appointed by the Governor, consists of four marine terminals, two general aviation airports and Portland International Airport (PDX). The Port has about 800 employees and annual operating revenues of over \$300 million. The value of foreign trade moving through the Port is \$14 billion annually.

Prior to joining the Port, Robinhold was Chief of Staff to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, where he oversaw the Governor's policy agenda, staff and policy advisors.

Before joining the Governor's team, Robinhold was Managing Director of BP Alternative Energy's global gas-fired power business. He had financial and operational accountability for over 3500 MW of generating capacity and served on the board of several subsidiary companies. At BP, Robinhold also served in commercial and finance roles in the wind and gas-fired power business in Europe and Asia. He was instrumental in developing the strategy for the Alternative Energy unit, as well as subsequent growth in renewable energy business in new markets such as India and China.

Before joining BP, Robinhold spent 10 years working for Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber on natural resource issues and for Congressman Peter DeFazio. Robinhold was raised in Eugene, Oregon. He and his wife live in Portland with their two daughters. He holds a BA from the University of California at San Diego, as well as an MBA and Master of Environmental Management (MEM) from Yale University.



MICHAEL SCHUTZLER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WASHINGTON TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Michael Schutzler is an entrepreneur, engineer, science buff, and first generation immigrant. He is the CEO of the Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) serving nearly 1000 tech companies.

Before joining WTIA, Michael led the merger of Livemocha – a community of 17 million language learners – with the popular education software company Rosetta Stone. He also co-founded Freeshop which had its IPO during the internet bubble, built Classmates.com into the first profitable social media application, led online marketing at Monster.com, and built the online gaming division at RealNetworks into a global leader.

As a successful Internet entrepreneur, investor, and executive coach, Michael has personally invested in more than thirty startups, served as coach and advisor to more than 100 executives, and has raised over \$100M in private and public financing.

He teaches part time at the UW Foster School of Business, serves on several boards including PBS affiliate KCTS9/Crosscut, serves as a Dharma Teacher in the Kwan Um School of Zen, and is an endurance athlete.



ERIK STROM

DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

RUSSELL INVESTMENTS

Erik Strom is the Director of Government and Community Relations for Russell Investments. He also oversees Russell's community relations and outreach priorities around civic involvement, corporate giving, sponsorships, matching gifts and board involvement.



JOHN STUHMILLER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WASHINGTON FARM BUREAU

John is a lobbyist and CEO of the Washington Farm Bureau with 29 years of public policy experience. Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national and international in its scope and influence and is non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-secret in character.

An organization that originates its policy at the local level and promotes that policy up through county, state, and national forums. Productive, politically active people, speaking out on issues of concern to rural America. Nationally comprised of more than 5.5 million member families, 2,800 county Farm Bureaus that are federated to form state Farm Bureaus, which in turn make up the American Farm Bureau Federation. Washington Farm Bureau has more than 46,000 member families.



KATHRYN SURACE-SMITH
VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL
NANOSTRING

Kathryn Surace-Smith has served as Vice President and General Counsel since February 2013. From April 2011 to February 2013, she was a legal consultant to medical technology and global health companies in Seattle, including NanoString from August 2012 to February 2013. From October 2002 to January 2011, she was Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of SonoSite Inc., a NASDAQ-listed medical device company specializing in hand carried ultrasound systems, where she managed matters relating to intellectual property, litigation (including patent litigation), compliance, contracts, licensing, acquisitions, securities, board governance, investor relations and reimbursement. From December 1996 to August 2002, she was Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary at Metawave Communications, a NASDAQ-listed telecommunications equipment provider, where she was part of the management team that took the company public. Prior to that, Ms. Surace-Smith served as International Counsel for Alcatel Telecom in Paris and as Counsel at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, where she advised on a variety of cross border transactions. Ms. Surace-Smith began her career in private practice with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. She received an A.B. in politics from Princeton University and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.



ROBIN TWYMAN
CONSUL (BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS)
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL SEATTLE

Robin Twyman took up his assignment as Consul (Business and Government Affairs), Seattle, in January 2013. He has served in the United States since 2009, previously working at the British Embassy in Washington DC as First Secretary (Trade Policy, Business Affairs and Agriculture).

Born in Canterbury, UK, in 1968, Robin joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1987. His diplomatic career has seen him serve overseas tours in America, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

His assignments at home and abroad have covered a range of foreign policy, security policy and commercial diplomacy duties. In London, Robin managed the UK's Afghanistan Counter Narcotics programme, led the FCO's Falkland Islands team, and served as a Foreign Office spokesman. In Geneva, Robin was a UK delegate to the World Trade Organisation, covering trade disputes and the Doha Trade Round's agriculture negotiations.

Robin is accompanied in Seattle by his wife, Laura (from Cleveland, Ohio), and their two daughters. They enjoy travelling, music and outdoor pursuits.



INGRID VAN LAERHOVEN
DIRECTOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS INTERNATIONAL TRADE & CUSTOMS EMEA
NIKE

Ingrid joined NIKE in 2016 to cover international trade and customs in EMEA at NIKE's Government and Public Affairs office in Brussels. In her role, she is responsible for developing and executing government affairs strategies to further free and fair trade, but with special focus on EU and UK trade policy.

Prior to joining NIKE, Ingrid worked in the European Parliament, where she was advising and assisting the Swedish Member of European Parliament Christofer Fjellner in his role as Deputy Coordinator for the European People's Party Group in the Committee on International Trade. Areas of focus included the FTA between the EU and the US, trade defense instruments and trade preferences for developing countries.

Ingrid received her Bachelors in International Politics from City, University of London, and her Masters in International Relations from Durham University (St Chad's College).

Ingrid is a Swedish citizen, is a keen runner, and has in the past also enjoyed swimming, ice hockey and rowing.



EMILY WITTMAN

*PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AEROSPACE FUTURES ALLIANCE*

Emily Wittman became President & CEO of the Aerospace Futures Alliance on August 29, 2019. AFA is a collaboration of business and government leaders working together to ensure Washington state continues to be a thriving global leader in aerospace. Previously, she led aerospace business attraction with Greater Seattle Partners and economic policy with Puget Sound Regional Council, implementing strategies to sustain job growth and global competitiveness while promoting a more inclusive economy for all. She is an experienced coalition builder and organized the Governor's statewide council working to strengthen Washington's aerospace industry. Prior, Emily served Washington communities with U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, helping the federal government invest in local workforce, transportation, and economic development priorities in all corners of the state. She holds a bachelor's degree in both political science and law, societies and justice from the University of Washington and is a 2019 Henry M. Jackson Foundation Leadership Fellow.

