Leila Afas
Director, International Public Policy – Toyota Motor North America

As the Director of International Public Policy, Leila collaborates with Toyota’s external affairs and corporate strategy teams to develop and advocate positions on global issues, as well as provide insight and guidance on geopolitical trends and market developments. She also enhances Toyota’s government affairs operations in emerging markets worldwide.

Leila most recently served as an appointee for President Obama at the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). In that role, she promoted global sales of U.S. equipment and technology through market development, client advocacy and interagency coordination.

Previously, Leila served as USTDA’s Country Manager for the Middle East and North Africa under President Bush (43), managing a multimillion-dollar portfolio of grant funds for infrastructure projects. She also served as a Manager in Grant Thornton’s Global Public Sector practice, helping clients around the world improve efficiency, increase foreign direct investment and advance economic growth.

Ms. Afas began her career at the U.S. Trust Company in New York, where she executed trades and managed overdrafts for asset management accounts in excess of $3.1 billion. She has also advised the World Economic Forum during their Annual Meetings in Davos, Switzerland.

Ms. Afas earned a Master’s degree in International Economics from Columbia University where she was awarded a Program Assistant Fellowship. She also earned a B.A. in Political Science and English from James Madison University.
Chad Bown
Senior Fellow – Peterson Institute for International Economics

Chad P. Bown joined the Peterson Institute for International Economics as a senior fellow in April 2016. His research examines international trade laws and institutions, trade negotiations, and trade disputes. With Soumaya Keynes, he cohosts Trade Talks, a weekly podcast on the economics of international trade policy.

Bown previously served as senior economist for international trade and investment in the White House on the Council of Economic Advisers and most recently as a lead economist at the World Bank, conducting research and advising developing country governments on international trade policy for seven years. Bown was a tenured professor of economics at Brandeis University, where he held a joint appointment in the Department of Economics and International Business School for 12 years. He has also spent a year in residence as a visiting scholar in economic research at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat in Geneva.

Bown is also currently a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) in London and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Since 2011 he has codirected, with Petros C. Mavroidis of Columbia Law School, an annual program of scholars providing legal-economic assessments of WTO case law and jurisprudence that are published with Cambridge University Press. He currently serves on the editorial boards of a number of journals, including Economics & Politics, International Economics, Journal of International Economics, Journal of International Economic Law, Journal of International Trade Law and Policy, Journal of World Trade, Review of International Organizations, and World Trade Review.

His work has been published in journals such as American Economic Review, Journal of Economic Literature, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of International Economics, and Journal of Development Economics. Bown is author of the book Self-Enforcing Trade: Developing Countries and WTO Dispute Settlement (link is external) (Brookings Institution Press, 2009), and coeditor, with Joost Pauwelyn, of The Law, Economics, and Politics of Retaliation in WTO Dispute Settlement (link is external) (Cambridge University Press, 2010). His volume on the global economic crisis, The Great Recession and Import Protection: The Role of Temporary Trade Barriers (link is external) (CEPR and World Bank, 2011), was built from a trade policy transparency project that he initiated at the World Bank in 2004. The project resulted in the freely available, internet-based Global Antidumping Database (link is external), which he managed through 2016 as part of the World Bank’s Temporary Trade Barriers Database (link is external).

Bown received a BA magna cum laude in Economics and International Relations from Bucknell University and a PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently a member of the advisory board of the Bucknell Institute for Public Policy.
Christine Bliss
President – Coalition of Services Industries

Christine Bliss became CSI President in March 2016. Prior to CSI, Ms. Bliss was the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) for Services, Investment, Telecommunication, and E-Commerce, responsible for overseeing all multilateral, regional and bilateral negotiations and policy issues in those areas for the agency. She also served as the lead U.S. negotiator in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Services Negotiations and in the WTO Bilateral Services Accession Negotiations for Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Ms. Bliss oversaw the Services and Investment negotiations and was Co-Lead negotiator of the Financial Services negotiations in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations and was a lead negotiator for Services and Financial Services in previous U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. Ms. Bliss led the three year Model BIT Review that resulted in the 2012 Model BIT. She also led the development of USTR’s digital services and investment trade agenda, including innovative new disciplines on cross-border data flows and local server requirements.

Ms. Bliss has also served as Chief Counsel and Acting Assistant USTR for Monitoring and Enforcement, responsible for managing U.S. litigation in the WTO, NAFTA, and other multilateral and bilateral trade agreements.

Before joining USTR in 2000, Ms. Bliss was Counsel to the Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), an association representing U.S. Fortune 500 firms on international trade, investment, and tax issues. Prior to joining ECAT, Ms. Bliss had a wide range of experience in private practice representing foreign and domestic clients on international trade, regulatory, legislative, and policy issues as a partner in the firm of Mudge, Rose, Guthrie and Ferdon. She has also served on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant.

Ms. Bliss is admitted to the D.C. and California Bars and received her J.D. degree from the University of California at Davis and LLM from George Washington University.
Angela Marshall Hofmann  
*Deputy Director – Farmers for Free Trade*

In the Spring of 2017, Angela co-founded Farmers for Free Trade, a 501©(4), focused on grassroots trade education in support of the U.S. agricultural industry.

For over 20 years, Angela has served as a trusted advisor to members of the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch as well as to CEOs and senior executives in complex, multi-national organizations.

Angela began her career with the Honorable Senator Max Baucus in 1989 as a congressional liaison in the State of Montana. After receiving her Juris Doctorate from the University of Montana in 1997, she served as legislative counsel for agriculture and trade in Washington, D.C. and later as International Trade Counsel on U.S. Senate Finance Committee.

Most recently, Angela served as Vice President, International Corporate Affairs, at Walmart Stores, Inc. where she led the company’s external engagement in 40+ retail, ecommerce and sourcing countries around the world. She also launched innovative public-private chain capacity building projects focused on transparency, building safety, agricultural development and women’s economic empowerment in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Angela is a staunch advocate for women’s empowerment and continues to be active in the Organization of Women in International Trade ("OWIT") a voluntary, non-profit association of professionals interested in international trade. She joined the organization in 1997 and in 2005 served as President of the Washington, D.C. chapter. From 2010-2013 she served as President of the organization which included 25 chapters and 2000+ members around the globe. She also serves on the Board of Advisors for both the Arkansas and Montana World Trade Centers.
Julia Hughes  
President – United States Fashion Industry Association; Representing the Global Value Chain Coalition

Julia K. Hughes is President of the United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA), which represents brands, retailers, importers, and wholesalers based in the United States and doing business globally. USFIA supports fashion made possible by global trade.

Ms. Hughes represents the industry in front of the U.S. government as well as international governments and stakeholders, explaining how fashion companies create high quality jobs in the United States and economic opportunities around the world.

An expert on textile and apparel trade issues, Ms. Hughes has testified before Congress and the Executive Branch. She frequently speaks at international conferences including the China & Asia Textile Forum, Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), Harvard University’s Bangladesh Development Conference, MAGIC, Prime Source Forum, Vietnam Textile Summit, and others.

Ms. Hughes served as the first President and is one of the founders of the Washington Chapter of Women in International Trade (WIIT) and is one of the founders of the WIIT Charitable Trust. She also was the first President of the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT). In 1992, she received the Outstanding Woman in International Trade award and in 2008, the WIIT Lifetime Achievement Award. She also is a member of the International Women’s Forum.

Ms. Hughes has an M.A. in International Studies from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.
Michael Moore
Professor of Economics – The George Washington University

Michael Moore is Professor of Economics and International Affairs at the George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs and Department of Economics. Professor Moore was the founding director for both the Elliott School’s International Trade and Investment Policy Master's program, and the Institute for International Economic Policy. Professor Moore received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and obtained a B.A. in Liberal Arts (Plan II) from the University of Texas at Austin.

Professor Moore’s main area of research is trade policy, especially WTO related issues. Recent work has focused on antidumping use in the developing world, whether carbon tariffs are consistent with WTO rules, and whether trade liberalization has affected the patterns of government spending in developing countries. He has published in numerous academic journals including the Journal of International Economics, International Trade Journal, Canadian Journal of Economics, Review of International Economics, European Journal of Political Economy, and Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv, and has been a contributor to five books.

He has had a joint appointment with the Elliott School of International Affairs and the Department of Economics at the George Washington University since receiving his doctorate in 1988. He served as associate dean of the Elliott School from 1995 through 1997. He also has taught international economics to US diplomats at the Department of State’s Foreign Service Institute.

Professor Moore served as Senior Economist for International Trade at the White House Council of Economic Advisers from July 2002 through July 2003.

He teaches courses on international economics at the undergraduate, Masters and PhD levels. Professor Moore has also developed a series of Quicktime videos for students wishing to review economics topics.

Professor Moore spent 1984-1985 as a graduate student at the Christian-Albrechts-Universität in Kiel, Germany. During 1994-1995, he was a Fulbright Scholar in Brussels at the Center for European Policy Studies and a German-Marshall Fellow at the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (“Sciences-Po”) in Paris. In summer 1998, he was a visiting professor at the National University of Singapore. Professor Moore has frequently taught a course on US Trade Policy to graduate students at Sciences-Po.

Professor Moore speaks German fluently and is proficient in French and Spanish.
Terence Stewart
Managing Partner, Stewart and Stewart

Terence Stewart is the Managing Partner of Stewart and Stewart, having joined his father and founder, Eugene L. Stewart, upon graduation from law school in 1979. Mr. Stewart’s practice focuses on international trade matters, notably: (i) trade remedies (including antidumping, countervailing duty, safeguard and China-specific safeguard actions) in the U.S. and (with local counsel) abroad; (ii) protection of trading rights within bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral fora (e.g., NAFTA, US-Korea, World Trade Organization (“WTO”) dispute settlement); (iii) customs law (classification, valuation, compliance programs); (iv) litigation (whether domestic (at the U.S. Court of International Trade, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, U.S. Supreme Court; other federal courts) and dispute settlement proceedings for trade agreements (WTO, NAFTA, other FTAs); (v) negotiations (WTO, FTAs (e.g., Trans Pacific Partnership, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (US-EU)), International Services Agreement, Environmental Goods Agreement, Information Technology Agreement) including on areas such as agriculture, manufactured goods, service sectors, government procurement, standards (technical barriers to trade), sanitary and phytosanitary rules, investment measures, trade remedies, customs valuation, licensing, intellectual property, state owned enterprises and state trading enterprises and including accession to the WTO; (vi) trade policy (legislation, regulations, practice before various government agencies (U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. International Trade Commission, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Treasury); (vii) studies on conditions in major trading partners – subsidy reports, intellectual property enforcement, compliance with WTO accession protocols (e.g., countries who have joined since 1995 (such as the People’s Republic of China, the Russia Federation, Ukraine, Taiwan).

He brings to his clients a wealth of experience, having been involved in hundreds of trade remedy cases and having helped shape trade policy in both the United States and abroad.

Mr. Stewart assists clients with international trade matters through the pursuit of trade remedies before administrative agencies, courts, and dispute settlement bodies of international organizations. Additionally, he pursues clients’ interests through the development of legislative options on trade-related issues and the evaluation of regulations and practices of countries where clients are active. Mr. Stewart also provides clients with insight on the opportunities and challenges presented by trade agreements and promotes clients’ interests during negotiations.

More broadly, Mr. Stewart practices administrative law at the federal level and judicial review of administrative determinations, including appellate advocacy in non-trade areas.

Mr. Stewart and the firm have worked with a wide variety of companies, industries, and unions to solve trade and other matters in the United States and across the globe, including matters involving products in: Agriculture; Aquaculture and fisheries; Floriculture;
Consumer goods; Electronics and electronic components; Green technology products; Paper; Metals; Mining; Rubber products; Automotive and automotive parts; Industrial equipment; Energy; Glass and glassware; Chemicals.


Mr. Stewart is a frequent speaker at conferences in the United States and around the world. Mr. Stewart is a past President of the Federal Circuit Bar Association and is a past President of the Customs and International Trade Bar Association and has been a member of the Steering Group of the International Trade Committee of the American Bar Association’s International Law Section. He has served on the Advisory Council of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and on the U.S. Court of International Trade Advisory Committee on Rules, including as its Chairman.

Mr. Stewart served as an advisor to the Government of Ukraine for roughly a decade during its efforts to accede to the World Trade Organization. He has received an Honorary Degree Order of Merit of the 3rd Degree from the Government of Ukraine, an Honorary Doctorate from the Ukrainian Academy of Foreign Trade and an Honorary Doctorate of Political Science from the Russian Academy of Sciences.
Evelyn Suarez
Principal & Founder – The Suarez Firm

Evelyn Suarez founded The Suarez Firm in 2014 to assist companies with opportunities in international markets and in addressing risk associated with regulatory import and export compliance, intellectual property protection and in the supply chain. She has developed a special focus on emerging markets and is recognized for her expertise in customs compliance, trade facilitation, anti-corruption compliance (e.g., Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and UK Bribery Act) and trade policy matters, such as those involved with free trade agreements including the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Ms. Suarez represents clients before all trade agencies and in litigation before the U.S. Court of International Trade, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court and on legislative matters. Ms. Suarez also has extensive experience handling high profile investigations, including the U.N. Volcker Committee and various Congressional investigations into the U.N. Oil-for-Food Programme.

As a thought leader on trade, Ms. Suarez is frequently called on to organize talks on trade topics of the day. She is a frequent lecturer on a myriad of issues affecting companies involved in international trade, especially related to trade policy, customs and anti-corruption compliance. She is viewed as an expert on customs and trade facilitation, including the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and its implementation and best practices. She is a Founder and Managing Director of the Transborder Integrity Initiative, a non-profit headquartered in Washington, D.C. with chapters in Latin America (Brazil, Mexico and Chile), which aims to promote, by collective action, transparency and integrity at borders. She served as President and Chair of the Board of the Association of Women in International Trade (WIIT) for the 2016-2017 also serves on the Virginia Maritime Association Board and on Advisory Council to George Washington University Center for International Business & Research and Old Dominion University’s Maritime term and now serves as Past President and on the WIIT Board for the 2017-2018 term. Ms. Suarez, Port and Logistics Management Institute.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, from Douglass College at Rutgers University. Ms. Suarez earned her juris doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was a member of the American Criminal Law Review. A member of the District of Columbia Bar, she is also admitted to the U.S. Court of International Trade, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. She is listed in The Best Lawyers in America for International Trade and as a “Super Lawyer” in International Trade law in Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers magazine.