

American University
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The Changing Business Landscape
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Panel: International Trade -- An Overview of Current Trends in Trade Flows,
Negotiations, and Enforcement

Opening Remarks
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Welcome to the panel discussion on International Trade: An Overview of Current Trends in Trade Flows, Negotiations and Enforcement. I am Andrew Kentz and I am a partner in the law firm, Picard, Kentz & Rowe, LLP. As background, about 25 years ago I began working on tax and international trade matters, then with Senator Dorgan while he served in the House as a member of the Ways & Means Committee. I have been in private practice for more than 20 years representing principally domestic manufacturing, agriculture and seafood interests on international trade matters. My practice has involved trade litigation and policy matters before domestic agencies, courts and Congress, the WTO and NAFTA.

I am joined on the panel by David Walters, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Economic Affairs. As USTR's chief economist, David is responsible for economic analysis related to trade negotiations. Also with us is Professor Aluisio Lima-Campos who serves as a Professor here at the American University Washington College of Law and as a consultant to the WTO. One need only spend a few minutes on the web, as I did this weekend, to find that Aluisio has spoken extensively and thoughtfully on a wide range of trade issues currently under debate. Finally, we are joined by Ayesha Khanna who serves as Trade Counsel to the Senate Finance Committee. In that capacity, Ayesha shares responsibility for trade law legislation, implementation of trade agreements, consideration of Administration appointments to trade-related positions, and the Senate's consideration of the nation's trade policy agenda.

With the wealth of experience with me on the panel, I am well-advised to quickly turn over the microphone to my colleagues. As an overview, however, during the past several years we have witnessed rapidly changing attitudes toward international trade policy. What might have been taken as a given only a few years ago, is now cast into doubt by some. Global economies have been shaken by a serious recession, recovery has been slow, and it remains unclear to what extent and how the economic environment may be permanently changed. With demand, production and employment uncertain, it is natural for nations' to become more insular, perhaps just at a time when it is most dangerous to do so.

President Obama spoke during the campaign forcefully of the need for stronger enforcement of our rights under existing trade agreements. There is growing skepticism

among the public and policymakers that entering into more trade agreements is the best policy at this time. In Congress, trade seems to be on a back burner while health care reform and the budget deficit receive most of the attention. There is little doubt, however, that Congress must return to the trade agenda. Both Chairmen Baucus and Levin, of the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee respectively, have been particularly focused on trade policy over their careers. For both, international trade policy has been a distinct and serious concern. It is inevitable that they will turn their Committee's attention back to trade matters.

I hope that our panel today will offer more of a dialogue than a series of isolated speeches. While I will first ask David followed by Aloisio and Ayesha to present remarks, I have asked the panelists to feel free to comment on each other's remarks. Also, we all want to leave plenty of time for questions at the end of the presentation and we intend to do so.

With that as an introduction, David the floor is yours.