



U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

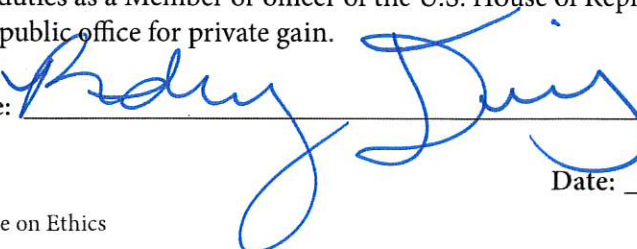
MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM  Original  Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

- Name of Traveler: Rodney Davis
- a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Griffin Davis OR None   
 b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- a. Dates: Departure: 7/5/2022 Return: 7/9/22  
 b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ OR None
- Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Mexico City, Mexico Return City: St. Louis
- Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center Forward
- Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary):  
 Meeting on U.S. Mexico relations, Media Perspectives from Mexican News Outlets, Business Investment Outlook, State of Security in Mexico, Bilateral Relationship, and Mexican Manufacturing and Commodity Export.
- Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
  - a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
  - the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
- a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda.  
**Signify statement is true by checking the box.**  
 b. If not, explain:

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.** I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature:  Date: 7/19/22





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within ten days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid for the trip: Center Forward
2. Travel Destination(s): Mexico City, Mexico
3. Date of Departure: 7/5/2022 Date of Return: 7/9/2022
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Rodney Davis

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if *all* information is *identical* for each person listed.

5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$926.52 (airfare & round transport)	\$960	\$175	
Accompanying Family Member	\$926.52	\$0	\$50	

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 07/13/22

Name: Riley Kilburg Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center Forward

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 410 New Jersey Ave., SE Washington, DC 20003

Email: riley@center-forward.org Telephone: 563.542.6821

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Rodney Davis

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip:  
Center Forward

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel : Mexico City

4. a. Date of Departure: July 5, 2022 Date of Return: July 9, 2022

b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_

5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Griffin Davis

(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age:

6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

*NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.*

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties.

**Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

As a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture, Rep. Davis will bring perspective of focusing on issues important to farmers from a global view as it relates to nutrition and anti-poverty.

9. Yes  No  **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member Rodney Davis

Date 6/2/22





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee website ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:  
Center Forward
2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
  - a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip: **OR**
  - b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds: **OR**
  - c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.  
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors:
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):  
Please see attached form.
5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of departure: July 5, 2022 Date of return: July 9, 2022
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C. (or district)  
b. Destination(s): Mexico City, Mexico  
c. City of return: Washington, D.C. (or district)
8. **Check only one.** I represent that:
  - a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: **OR**
  - b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: **OR**
  - c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. **Check only one of the following:**
  - a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
  - b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
  - c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
  - d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*
11. **Check only one of the following:**
- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box; OR*
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:  
Please see attached form.
13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*
15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation.  
If "b" is checked:
- 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided):
- 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:  
Please see attached form.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
- Hotel Name: Presidente Intercontinental City: Mexico City Cost Per Night: \$240  
Reason(s) for Selecting: Ample meeting space and proximity to intended meeting sites
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_
17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*





U.S. House of Representatives

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

18. Total Expenses for each Participant:

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates			
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1,500	\$960	\$400
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$1,500		\$400

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$0.00	N/A
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$0.00	N/A

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

19. Check only one:

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  Not Applicable. Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify by my signature that

- a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
- b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and
- c. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Riley Kilburg Date: 05/31/2022

Name: Riley Kilburg Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center Forward

Address: 410 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20003

Email: riley@center-forward.org Telephone: 563.542.6821

### INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* and submit the agenda, invitation list, any attachments, and any *Additional Trip Sponsor Forms* directly to the Travelers.

Written approval from the Committee on Ethics is required before traveling on this trip. The Committee on Ethics will notify the House invitees directly and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**Willful or knowing misrepresentation on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

For questions, please contact the Committee on Ethics at:

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

[ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov](mailto:ethicscommittee@mail.house.gov) | 202-225-7103  
More information and forms available at [ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)



Theodore E. Deutch, Florida  
*Chairman*  
Jackie Walorski, Indiana  
*Ranking Member*

Susan Wild, Pennsylvania  
Dean Phillips, Minnesota  
Veronica Escobar, Texas  
Mondaire Jones, New York

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
Dave Joyce, Ohio  
John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Kelly Armstrong, North Dakota



ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

David W. Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

Kelle A. Strickland  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

June 22, 2022

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2079 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your child's proposed trip to Mexico,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for July 5 to 9, 2022, sponsored by Center Forward.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$415 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$415] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or [ohsstaff@mail.house.gov](mailto:ohsstaff@mail.house.gov). House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.



If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Theodore E. Deutch in blue ink.

Theodore E. Deutch  
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Jackie Walorski in blue ink.

Jackie Walorski  
Ranking Member

TED/JW:rp





Center Forward International Issues Conference

Mexico City, Mexico

July 5-July 9, 2022



## Table of Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>Agenda</b> .....	3
<b>II.</b>	<b>Biographies</b>	
	A. Conference Participant Biographies .....	14
	B. Speaker Biographies .....	26
<b>III.</b>	<b>U.S. Mexico Relations</b>	
	A. Bilateral Economic Issues and the USMCA .....	38
	B. The U.S.-Mexico Border .....	38
	C. Migration .....	39
	D. U.S. Security Cooperation with Mexico .....	39
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Mexican Politics and Government</b>	
	A. President .....	40
	B. Mexican Political Parties .....	41
	C. Mexican Congress .....	42
<b>V.</b>	<b>Issues of Importance from the State Department</b>	
	A. Shared Relationship .....	43
	B. Economic Prosperity .....	43
	C. Migration and Security .....	43
	D. Climate, Energy, and Sustainability .....	44
	E. Strengthening Democracy .....	44
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Hotel Information</b>	
	A. InterContinental Presidente México City .....	45
<b>VII.</b>	<b>COVID-19</b>	
	A. Entry and Exit Requirements .....	46
	B. COVID Testing .....	46
	C. Quarantine Information .....	47



## I. Agenda

Center Forward International Issues Conference  
Mexico City, Mexico — July 5-July 9, 2022  
Conference Agenda

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### Center Forward Contact Information

Riley Kilburg | (563) 542-6821 | [riley@center-forward.org](mailto:riley@center-forward.org)  
Cori Kramer | (202) 550-0888 | [cori@center-forward.org](mailto:cori@center-forward.org)  
Justin Davey | (703) 216-5608 | [justin@daveydc.com](mailto:justin@daveydc.com)  
Nuria Palou | +52 222 522 3882 | [npalou@usmexicofound.org](mailto:npalou@usmexicofound.org)  
Laura Pinto | +52 33 3809 5386 | [laurapinto56@gmail.com](mailto:laurapinto56@gmail.com)

Delegation WhatsApp Chat: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KyawxYRuvAf5BrmJmShPI0>

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### Tuesday, July 5, 2022

- 5:15 pm** Members and staff depart Dulles International Airport  
United Airlines Flight 1566 | 5 h flight time  
Transportation to Dulles International Airport on your own.
- 9:15 pm** Members and staff arrive at Mexico City International Airport
- 10:15 pm** *After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will walk into the Terminal and be greeted by Riley and Laura. After everyone has gathered, the driver will depart the airport. As not all attendees are on the same flight, we will monitor and retrieve people at the appropriate times. Justin, Elizabeth, Erin, Kristen, and April from the Center Forward team will be on United Flight 1566. **Due to House Ethics rules, all non-congressional attendees will be responsible for transporting themselves to the hotel upon landing.***
- Depart Mexico City International Airport en route InterContinental Presidente Hotel via shuttle (45 min.)
- 11:15 pm** Check-in at the InterContinental Presidente Hotel, Mexico City



**Wednesday, July 6, 2022**

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Continental breakfast available in Club Room from 6:00 am - 11:00 am

**\*\*Business Casual attire. Please bring a photo I.D. with you for security purposes. Events where spouses and family welcome are noted below.**

**9:00 am - 9:15 am** Conference attendees meet in hotel ballroom for conference commencement with welcome remarks from Cori Kramer

**9:15 am - 9:30 am** Attendees participate in overview of Conference agenda and itinerary lead by Cori Kramer and Riley Kilburg

*This discussion will include a review of the coverage and outcomes of ratifying the USMCA as well as a detailed introduction of pressing issues related to the two countries' economies. Topics will include international trade, healthcare, immigration, manufacturing, agriculture, and current events in Mexico. Delegation attendees will also receive a briefing from the security team.*

**9:30 am - 10:30 am** Briefing from the United States Embassy on the Political and Cultural aspects of the U.S.-Mexico relationship

Hon. Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath, Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Mexico

*Representatives from the United States Embassy in Mexico will brief Issues Conference participants on the history of the U.S.-Mexico relationship, the values that bind the two, and the business partnership the two countries have relied upon for decades.*

**10:30 am - 11:30 am** Panel Remarks — Media Perspectives from Mexican News Outlets  
InterContinental Presidente Hotel | Ballroom

- Ricardo Alday, Former Spokesperson, Mexican Embassy
- Juan Pablo de Leo, ADN40 and POLITICO.MX
- Ana María Salazar, El Financiero Bloomberg

*The role and outlook of the media has shifted in the U.S. and globally in recent years and covering politics and business in Mexico has been impacted by significant social and cultural changes. On this panel, journalists and reporters will share their perspectives on the*

*trajectory of journalism in both countries and what it means for elected leaders to be held accountable in turbulent political times.*

- 11:30 am** Attendees meet in hotel lobby to depart en route Palacio de los Condes de San Mateo de Valparaíso
- 11:30 am - 11:50 am** Depart InterContinental Presidente Hotel driving en route to Palacio de los Condes de San Mateo de Valparaíso (30 min.). While in transit, attendees will be briefed on the importance of bilateral investment between the United States and Mexico to strengthen both nation's economies.
- 11:50 am - 12:00 pm** Attendees complete security and check-in process
- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm** Lunch Remarks — U.S.-Mexico Business Investment Outlook  
Palacio de los Condes de San Mateo de Valparaíso | Venustiano Carranza 60, Centro Histórico de la Ciudad de México, Cuauhtémoc, 06000, CDMX
- Manuel Romo, Mexico CEO, CitiBank Mexico
  - Alberto Gomez Alcala, Chief Economist, CitiBank Mexico
  - Approximately 30 Business Association Presidents and American energy companies
- CEOs and executives from some of Mexico's largest businesses will share their thoughts and perspectives on challenges and opportunities facing the two economies. Specifically, they will discuss designing public policies and partnerships to create economic growth, boost competitiveness, spark innovation, and generate increased employment and higher wages.*
- 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm** Tour of the Palacio de los Condes de San Mateo de Valparaíso
- 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm** Depart Palacio de los Condes de San Mateo de Valparaíso en route InterContinental Presidente (30 min.) There will be a 30 minute briefing on highlighted Mexican history, particularly related to diplomatic history with the United States in the modern era.
- 2:30 pm - 5:50 pm** Break
- 5:50 pm** Attendees meet in hotel lobby to depart for Museo Nacional de Antropología
- 5:50 pm - 6:15 pm** Depart InterContinental Presidente hotel en route Museo Nacional de Antropología via shuttle bus.



- 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm** Overview and tour of Mexican History at Museo Nacional de Antropología
- [Spouses welcome at tour and reception.](#)
- Remarks from Enrique Perret, Director, U.S.-Mexico Foundation (USMF)
- Issues conference participants will tour the Museo Nacional de Antropología to learn the history and culture of the Mexican people followed by remarks by Enrique Perret. Enrique will speak to the importance of promoting history and culture to inform a shared story of migration, peace, and education. Recognizing the inextricable link between Mexico and the United States, the U.S.-Mexico Foundation partners with American businesses, non-profits, and political leaders to develop channels of cooperation and understanding.*
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm** Welcome Reception
- 8:00 pm - 8:15 pm** Depart Museo Nacional de Antropología en route to dinner via shuttle
- 8:15 pm - 9:15 pm** Dinner — Restaurant TBD
- [Spouses welcome at dinner.](#)
- Closing Remarks, Cori Kramer, CEO, Center Forward
- 9:15 pm** Depart dinner en route InterContinental Presidente hotel via shuttle

**Thursday, July 7, 2022**

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Continental breakfast available in Club Room from 6:00 am - 11:00 am

**\*\*Business Casual attire. Please bring a photo I.D. with you for security purposes. Events where spouses and family welcome are noted below.**

- 9:00 am** Attendees meet in hotel lobby to depart for Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana de la ciudad de México
- 9:00 am - 9:30 am** Depart InterContinental Hotel en route Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana de la ciudad de México via shuttle (30 mins) A brief overview of the latest security posture between the United States and Mexico will be provided while in transit.  
Calle Liverpool 136, Colonia Juárez, Alcaldía Cuauhtémoc, C.P. 06600, Ciudad de México
- 9:30 am - 9:45 am** Complete security and check-in at Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana de la ciudad de México
- 9:45 am - 11:15 am** Panel Discussion — State of Security in Mexico
- Cartels and narco traffickers are largely what is depicted when crime is discussed in the context of Mexico, but the average Mexican citizen experiences crime and interacts with law enforcement in a much different way. This panel will focus on the key components of criminal violence and everyday crime in Mexico and how Mexicans cope with this complex landscape.*
- Ana Cárdena, World Justice Project
  - Natalia Garcia, Coordinator of International Affairs, Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana
  - Tim Kessler, Country Director, World Justice Project
  - Ernesto Lopez Portillo, Director of the Security Program, Ibero University
  - Doria Velez, Director of Investigations, The National Citizen Observatory of Security, Justice and Legality A.C. (ONC)
  - Pablo Vázquez Camacho, Undersecretary for Citizen Participation and Crime Prevention at the Ministry of Citizen Security of Mexico City



- 11:15 am - 11:45 am** Meet and Greet with Center Forward participants and panelists/Break
- 11:45 am - 12:15 pm** Depart Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana de la ciudad de México driving en route Museo Kaluz, (30 mins). While in transit, attendees will be briefed on the background of Consejo Mexicano de Negocios and Consejo Coordinador Empresarial and these groups' role in business relationship between the two countries.
- 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm** Break
- 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm** Lunch — Museo Kaluz  
Av. Hidalgo 85, Centro Histórico de la Cdad. de México, Guerrero, Cuauhtémoc, 06300 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico
- Lunch Remarks — The Bilateral Relationship
- Francisco Cervantes, President, Consejo Coordinador Empresarial
  - Odracir Barquera, Planning Director, Consejo Coordinador Empresarial
  - Claudio X. González, Chairman of the Board, Kimberly-Clark de Mexico
  - Cori Kramer, CEO, Center Forward
- 2:15 pm - 2:45 pm** Meet and Greet with Center Forward participants and panelists
- 2:45 pm - 3:30 pm** Tour of Museo Kaluz. [Stakeholders return to the hotel following the tour of Museo Kaluz.](#)
- 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm** Depart Museo Kaluz en route Department of Foreign Affairs walking (10 minute walk)
- 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm** Remarks — U.S.-Mexican Working Relations  
Department of Foreign Affairs | Secretariat of Foreign Affairs

[This meeting will be congressional attendees only.](#)

Roberto Velasco-Alvarez, Chief Officer for North America Secretary of Foreign Affairs

*Roberto Velasco-Alvarez, who serves as the Chief Officer for North America Secretary of Foreign Affairs, will share perspectives on the current status of relations between the United States and Mexico. Roberto will also discuss with the delegation details of USMCA and ways to promote joint economic growth and continue to promote strong relations between the two nations.*

**5:15 pm - 5:45 pm**

Depart Department of Foreign Affairs en route InterContinental  
Presidente Hotel via shuttle (30 min.)

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

**CENTER FORWARD WILL HAVE RESERVATIONS FOR THOSE  
WHO WISH TO DO A GROUP OR SMALL GROUP DINNER**



## Friday, July 8, 2022

### BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN

Breakfast available in Club Room from 6:00 am - 11:00 am

**\*\*Business Casual attire. Please bring a photo I.D. with you for security purposes. Events where spouses and family welcome are noted below.**

- 8:15 am** Attendees meet in hotel lobby to depart for 3M Innovation Center
- 8:15 am - 9:00 am** Depart The InterContinental Presidente Hotel en route 3M Innovation Center via shuttle (45 min.) Av. Santa Fe #190, Col. Santa Fe, Del. Cuajimalpa, 01210, Mexico City
- 9:00 am - 9:15 am** Welcome and Introduction from
- Fernanda Guarro, President and Managing Director, 3M Mexico
  - Edward Kaleta, Vice President of Global Government Affairs, 3M Mexico
- 9:15 am - 10:15 am** Panel Discussion — All Business is Local (Mexican Business Roundtable)
- How an economy successfully competes and balances globalization with community engagement. Joined by panelists:*
- Ana López Mestre, Executive Vice President and General Director, AmCham Mexico
  - Guillermo Bernal del Valle, National Director of Institutional Relations, AmCham Mexico
  - Approximately 10-15 business leaders representing AmCham Mexico
- 10:15 am - 10:30 am** Meet and Greet with Center Forward participants and panelists
- 10:30 am - 11:30 am** Tour 3M Innovation Center
- 11:30 am - 12:00 pm** Depart 3M Innovation Center driving en route Mexican National Congress via shuttle. While in transit, attendees will be briefed on the background of the Mexican National Congress and the legislators with whom they are meeting. Boxed lunch will be provided on the shuttle. Stakeholders return to the hotel on shuttle following the tour of the 3M Innovation Center. Stakeholders will have lunch on their own.

- 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm** Tour of the Mexican National Congress  
Avenida Congreso de la Unión No. 66, Colonia El Parque,  
Delegación Venustiano Carranza C.P. 15960
- A representative of the National Palace will lead a tour for conference participants. The National Palace is the seat of the federal executive in Mexico. This site has been a palace for the ruling class of Mexico since the Aztec Empire, and much of the current palace's building materials are from the original one that belonged to the 16th century leader Moctezuma II.*
- The tour will be congressional attendees only.
- 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm** Interparliamentary Meetings and Discussion
- Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal, Member, Chamber of Deputies
  - Additional Members of the Mexican Congress
- U.S. Members of Congress will have the opportunity to meet with their Mexican counterparts to discuss the U.S.-Mexican working relationship as well as the differences and similarities between the Mexican Congress and the U.S. Congress.*
- The meeting will be congressional attendees only.
- 1:30 pm - 1:45 pm** Meet and Greet with U.S. and Mexican Members of Congress
- 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm** Depart Congress en route to The InterContinental Presidente Hotel via shuttle (30 min.)
- 2:15 pm - 2:45 pm** Conference Wrap-Up and Recap Discussion  
InterContinental Presidente Hotel | Hotel Ballroom
- Conference attendees will have the opportunity to reflect and collaborate about their experiences. These moderated conversations will conclude on how best conference attendees can react to new information and experiences upon returning to the United States.*
- 2:45 pm - 4:30 pm** Break
- 4:30 pm** Attendees meet in the hotel lobby to depart for Casa Volcán
- 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm** Depart InterContinental Presidente Hotel en route Casa Volcán via shuttle (30 min.)
- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm** Remarks — Mexican Manufacturing and Commodity Export Discussion



Casa Volcán | Paseo de la Reforma #1113, Col. Lomas de Chapultepec, CDMX

Spouses welcome.

Adriana Baca, Global Brand Ambassador, Volcán de mi Tierra

**7:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

Depart Casa Volcan driving en route Pinche Gringo via shuttle (30 min.)

**7:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Small Business and Entrepreneurship Remarks and Tour  
Pinche Gringo | Lago Iseo 296, Anáhuac I Secc, Miguel Hidalgo,  
11320 Ciudad de México, CDMX, Mexico

Spouses and children welcome at dinner.

Dan DeFossey, Co-Founder and CEO, Pinche Gringo

**9:00 pm**

Depart Pinche Gringo en route InterContinental Presidente Hotel via shuttle (15 min.). Those who wish to stay longer may uber back to the hotel.

**Saturday, July 9, 2022**

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Breakfast available in Club Room from 6:00 am - 11:00 am

- 7:00 am - 7:45 am** Members and staff depart The InterContinental Presidente Hotel en route Mexico City International Airport via shuttle
- 7:45 am - 8:15 am** Members and staff complete security and check-in
- 9:45 am** Members and staff depart Mexico City International Airport  
United Airlines Flight 1567 | 4 h 25 min flight time
- 3:10 pm** Arrive Washington Dulles International Airport. Transportation from Dulles International Airport on your own.

## II. Biographies

### Conference Participant Biographies

#### MEMBERS OF CONGRESS



**REPRESENTATIVE LOU CORREA**  
*Congressman, California 46th Congressional District*

Congressman Lou Correa, a Democrat, represents California 46th Congressional District.

He sits on the House Committee on Judiciary, Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Agriculture.



**REPRESENTATIVE RODNEY DAVIS**  
*Congressman, Illinois 13th Congressional District*

Congressman Rodney Davis, a Republican, represents Illinois 13th Congressional District.

He sits on the Committee on House Administration, where he is the Ranking Member, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the House Committee on Agriculture.



**REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW GARBARINO**  
*Congressman, New York 2nd Congressional District*

Congressman Andrew Garbarino, a Republican, represents New York 2nd Congressional District.

He currently sits on the House Committee on Homeland Security and House Committee on Small Business.





**REPRESENTATIVE DAVID JOYCE**  
*Congressman, Ohio 14th Congressional District*

Congressman David Joyce, a Republican, represents Ohio 14th Congressional District.

He currently sits on the House Committee on Appropriations, Committee on Ethics, and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.



**REPRESENTATIVE LISA MCLAIN**  
*Congresswoman, Michigan 10th Congressional District*

Congresswoman Lisa McClain, a Republican, represents Michigan's 10th 2nd Congressional District.

She sits on the House Committee on Armed Services and the Committee Education and Labor.



**REPRESENTATIVE STEPHANIE MURPHY**  
*Congresswoman, Florida 7th Congressional District*

Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy, a Democrat, represents Florida's 7th Congressional District.

She serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Armed Services Committee, and the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Congresswoman Murphy serves in two leadership positions in the House. She is co-chair of the Blue Dog Coalition and also serves as a Chief Deputy Whip of the House Democratic Majority.



**REPRESENTATIVE ERIC SWALWELL**

*Congressman, California 15th Congressional District*

Congressman Eric Swalwell, a Democrat, represents California’s 15th Congressional District.

Congressman Swalwell is a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the House Committee on the Judiciary, and the House Committee on Homeland Security.

He is also a member of House Leadership as a Co-chair of the House Democratic Steering & Policy Committee and a member of the Democratic Policy & Communications Committee (DPCC).

**CHIEFS OF STAFFS**



**CHRIS CRAWFORD**

*Chief of Staff, Congressman Buddy Carter (R-GA)*

Chris Crawford currently serves as Chief of Staff to Congressman Buddy Carter, a position he has held since January 2015.

Prior to this position, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Communications Director to Congressman Jack Kingston for more than 9 years. From May 2006 to Feb 2007, he served as the Campaign Manager for Jack Kingston’s campaign.

Chris received his A.B. in International Affairs from the University of Georgia in 2006.



**NICK HAWATMEH**

*Chief of Staff, Congresswoman Lisa McClain (R-MI)*

Nick Hawathmeh currently serves as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Lisa McClain, a position he has held since January 2021.

Prior to this position, he served as the Chief Counsel to Senator John Kennedy from Jul 2018 to Jan 2021, and the Majority Counsel for the Committee on House Administration from Apr 2016 to Jul 2018. He has also served as the Penn Kemble Democracy Fellow since September 2020.

Nick received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Wayne State University in 2008 and his J.D. from University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 2011.



**PAIGE HUTCHINSON**

*Chief of Staff, Congressman Colin Allred (D-TX)*

Paige Hutchinson has served as Congressman Colin Allred’s Chief of Staff since 2019.

Previously, she served as Rep. Allred’s campaign manager.

Paige graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2015.



**JOHN LAUFER**

*Chief of Staff, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy (D-FL)*

John Laufer currently serves as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy, a position he has held since March 2022.

Prior to this position, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Rep. Murphy from Jan 2017 to March 2022. He also held a variety of roles in Rep. Pedro Pierlusi’s (D-PR) office.

John received his B.A. from Amherst College, a MA in International Security from Georgetown University, and a J.D. from Columbia University

School of Law.



**BRET MANLEY**

*Chief of Staff, Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL)*

Bret Manley is the current Chief of Staff to Congressman Rodney Davis (IL-13), a position he has held since 2018.

Prior to joining Congressman Davis’ Office, Bret served as Chief of Staff to Rep. David Valadao (R-CA). He was an Assistant Vice President at the Association of American Railroads from May 2017 – Sept 2017 and held a number of other positions in the House including Legislative Director, Financial Services Policy Advisor, and Legislative Assistant. Bret served as a Lieutenant in the US Navy Reserve from Aug 2010 – Aug 2017.

Bret earned his Bachelor’s of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley - Walter A. Haas School of Business in 2005.





**DEENA TAUSTER**

*Chief of Staff, Congressman Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)*

Deena currently serves as Chief of Staff to Congressman Andrew Garbarino, a position she has held since January 2021.

Prior to this position, Deena served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Congressman Peter King from June 2017. She served as the Director of Government Affairs at the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) from Nov 2014 to Jun 2016.

She received her Bachelor of Business Administration from The George Washington University in 2009.



**YARDENA WOLF**

*Chief of Staff, Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-CA)*

Yardena Wolf serves as the current Chief of Staff to Congressman Eric Swalwell (CA-15), a position she has held since July of 2021.

Previously, Wolf was the Vice President of the New York office of Berger Hirschberg Strategies, a political consulting firm focused on fundraising and strategy for Democrats in local, state, and federal races.

Yardena graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Political Science. Yardena completed her certificate at the Women's Campaign School at Yale University.

**CENTER FORWARD STAKEHOLDERS**



**GEORGE AGURKIS**

*Director, Federal Government Relations, H&R Block*

George Agurkis serves as the Director of Federal Government relations at H&R Block, a position he has held since December 2021. H&R Block is an American tax preparation company operating in Canada, the United States, and Australia. The company offers payroll, and business consulting services, consumer tax software, and online tax preparation/electronic filing from their website.

Prior to this position, George worked as the Senior Director of Advocacy, Director of Advocacy, and Associate Director of Advocacy at Credit Union National Association for over four years. He held a number of positions in the U.S. House of Representatives including Senior Professional Staff and Policy Advisor for the House Committee on Rules. George received his B.S. in Biology from Wilkes University in 2008.



**JILL BRUBAKER**

*Director, Federal Affairs, American Chemistry Council*

Jill Brubaker is currently the Director of Federal Affairs at the American Chemistry Council and has served in this role since January 2020. The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents more than 190 companies engaged in the business of chemistry—an innovative, economic growth engine that is helping to solve the biggest challenges facing the U.S. country and the world. Its members are the leading companies engaged in all aspects of the business of chemistry, from the largest corporations to the smallest, and everything in between.

She has lobbied for a variety of different companies and industries, including The Dow Chemical Company, Baxter Healthcare, Target Corporation, ESPN, and the Walt Disney Company. Prior to her lobbying roles, she was the Campaign Manager for Congressman Jim Ramstad (R-MN).

Jill graduated from St. Olaf College in 1995 and obtained her MBA from George Washington University in 2003.



**STONEY BURKE**

*Founder and CEO, The Aquia Group*

Stoney Burke is Founder and CEO of The Aquia Group, a government affairs and strategic advisory firm. In this role, Stoney advises Fortune 500 companies, nonprofit organizations and trade associations on developing legislative, regulatory, and strategic communications campaigns related to energy, infrastructure, technology, trade, cybersecurity, and national security policy.

Prior to launching The Aquia Group, Stoney served as Director of U.S. Public Policy and Head of U.S. Federal Affairs for Amazon Web Services.

In this role, he was responsible for building out a comprehensive advocacy plan and political operation in support of AWS public policy priorities at the federal level. On Capitol Hill, Stoney served as Chief of Staff for Representative Will Hurd and Legislative Aide for Representative Chet Edwards. Stoney also spent seven years as Director of External Affairs at Southern Company, one of the largest power companies in the United States.

Stoney graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.A. in International Studies and Minor in Political Science and also has a Graduate Certificate in Advanced International Affairs with an Intelligence Emphasis from The Bush School of Government and Public Service. Stoney serves on the Board of the U.S. - Mexico Foundation and also serves on the Texan by Nature Advisory Council, a nonprofit designed to enhance partnerships between business and the conservation community.



**JOHN GIBSON**

*Director, Federal Public Policy and Government Affairs & Head of Political Programs, Biogen*

John Gibson is currently the Director of Federal Public Policy and Government Affairs and is also the Head of Political Programs at Biogen. John was previously the Associate Director of State Public Policy and Government Affairs at Biogen. Biogen is an American multinational biotechnology company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, specializing in the discovery, development, and delivery of therapies for the treatment of neurological diseases to patients worldwide.

Prior to his work at Biogen, John was the Director of State Government Affairs at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He was also a Professional Associate for Management at the United States Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and was a Legal Advisor for the Law Firm of Mohamed Al-Sharif. Prior to those roles, he was the Director of State Government Relations at Pfizer, and managed state government relations at BIO.

John graduated from the University of Maryland in 1999.



**COURTNEY LEE-ASHLEY**

*Director, Federal Government Affairs, Novartis*

Courtney Lee-Ashley is currently the Director of Federal Government Affairs at Novartis. Novartis is a global healthcare and pharmaceutical company based in Switzerland that provides solutions to address the evolving needs of patients worldwide.

She was previously the Director of U.S. Policy and Government Relations at Merck & Co. and was the Advocacy Director at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) prior.

Courtney served as the Deputy National Finance Director and as the D.C. Finance Director at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Prior to her time at DCCC, she was the Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE).

Courtney graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2005.





**ALEXIS MARKS**

*Director, Congressional Relations, Apple*

Alexis Marks currently serves as the Director of Congressional Relations at Apple. She was previously the Senior Manager of Government Affairs at Apple. Apple is an American multinational technology company that specializes in consumer electronics, software and online services headquartered in Cupertino, California, United States.

Alexis previously served as the Executive Director of the California Democratic Congressional Coalition and was the Communications Director, Rules Associate, and Senior Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA). She also served as a Staff Assistant for Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) and was a Field Organizer for Chellie Pingree for U.S. Senate.

Alexis graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles.



**MICHELLE MATHY**

*Director, Federal Affairs and Advocacy, Otsuka Pharmaceutical*

Michelle Mathy is currently the Director of Federal Affairs and Advocacy at Otsuka Pharmaceutical. Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. is a pharmaceutical company headquartered in Tokyo, Osaka and Naruto, Japan. Otsuka is dedicated to the central nervous system (CNS) space. They committed to making a difference in the lives of patients living with schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, and other CNS conditions.

Previously, Michelle was previously the Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at Biogen. Michelle previously served as the Associate Director and Assistant Director at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and was the Political Affairs Manager at the American Society of Anesthesiologists prior to AAD. She was also a Specialist of AHAPAC and Grassroots Advocacy for the American Hospital Association and was the Communications Specialist for Magnet Schools of America.

Michelle graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2005.



**MOYER MCCOY**

*Manager, External Affairs, Philip Morris International*

Moyer McCoy is currently the Manager of External Affairs at Philip Morris International. Philip Morris International (PMI) is one of the world's leading international tobacco companies.

He previously served in a number of roles in the House Committee on Ways and Means, including as Senior Legislative Assistant and Clerk for the Subcommittee on Oversight, Committee Clerk and Legislative Assistant, and as Special Assistant to the Chief Counsel. Prior to these roles, Moyer

was the Education Policy Intern for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Moyer graduated from Hampton University in 2007.



**LEO MUÑOZ**

*Executive Director, Comcast NBCUniversal*

Leo Muñoz is currently the Executive Director at Comcast Corporation and also serves as the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Vice Chair. He was the Senior Director of Government Affairs at Comcast prior to his current role. Comcast NBCUniversal owns and operates a valuable portfolio of news and entertainment broadcast and cable television networks and brands.

Previously, Leo served as Chief of Staff and was Legislative Director to Rep. Charlie Gonzalez (D-TX). He was the Legislative Assistant to Rep. Gene Green (D-TX) and was a Policy Associate at the American Association of State College and Universities.

Leo graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1997.



**KRISTIN MURPHY**

*Senior Director, Federal Government Relations, BIO*

Kristin Murphy is currently the Senior Director of Federal Government Relations at BIO. BIO is the world's largest advocacy association representing member companies, state biotechnology groups, academic and research institutions, and related organizations across the United States and in 30+ countries.

She was previously the Senior Director and Director at the Association for Accessible Medicines. Prior to those roles, she was the Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs at the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association and was

the Federal Government Affairs Associate at the American Society of Plastic Surgeons prior. She also served as the Government Relations Specialist at the American Library Association.

Kristin graduated from the University of South Dakota in 2004 and obtained her MBA from Johns Hopkins University in 2015.



**JEFF MURRAY**

*Board Member, Center Forward*

Jeff Murray is a founder and Partner at 535 Group. Previously, he was Managing Director in the FTI Consulting Strategic Communications segment.

Prior to joining C2 GROUP, Mr. Murray served as Chief of Staff for Congressman Bud Cramer (D-AL), a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. Congressman Cramer was a founding member of the Blue Dog Coalition where Mr. Murray served as executive staff for the coalition during Congressman Cramer's Chairmanship during the 106th Congress. Mr. Murray also directed the Blue Dog political operations during the 107th Congress.

Mr. Murray completed his undergraduate studies at University of the South and holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma.



**NICHOLAS SCHEMMEL**

*Director, Federal Affairs and Policy, Organon*

Nicholas Schemmel is currently the Director of Federal Affairs and Policy at Organon. Organon is a global healthcare company formed through a spinoff from Merck with a mission to deliver impactful medicines and solutions for a healthier every day. They focus on more than 60 medicines and other products across a range of areas including reproductive health, heart disease, dermatology, allergies and asthma.

Previously, Nicholas served in various roles for Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA), including Legislative Director, Senior Policy Advisor, and Legislative Assistant. Prior to those roles, he was the Government Relations Associate at Hurt, Norton & Associates.

Nicholas graduated from the University of Georgia in 2011.

## TRIP STAFF



### **RILEY KILBURG**

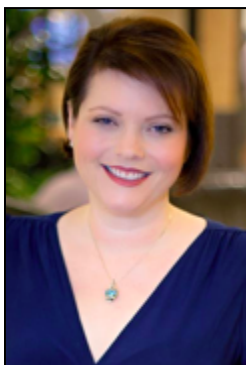
*Executive Director, Center Forward*

Riley Kilburg is the current Executive Director of Center Forward, a position he has held since March of 2022. Prior to this role, Riley was the Director of Outreach and Engagement and Project Manager at Center Forward.

Before joining the team at Center Forward, Riley was the Deputy Political Director in Iowa for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. He also served as a Deputy Delegate Director for Hillary for Iowa and as an Organizer in both Iowa and Nevada for the campaign. Involved in Democratic campaigns since 2008, Riley joined then-Senator Obama's 2008 caucus effort and subsequent general election campaign. He moved to Chicago in 2012 to aid the President's reelection efforts. In addition to the presidential campaigns of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, Riley has worked on the Iowa Democratic Coordinated Campaigns in 2010, 2012, and 2014. He most recently served as Communications Director for Rita Hart's race in Iowa's Second Congressional District.

Outside of Democratic politics, Riley managed strategic initiatives with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque working to make the city more equitable and open to disadvantaged communities.

Riley graduated from Loras College with a B.A. in Politics, Spanish, and International Studies in 2015. Riley was born and raised in Iowa and currently resides in Washington, D.C.



### **CORI KRAMER**

*Chief Executive Officer, Center Forward*

Cori Kramer currently serves as the CEO of Center Forward. In this capacity, Kramer leads Center Forward's efforts to provide centrist allies the information and support they need to craft common sense policy solutions to the challenges facing the country today.

Kramer has almost two decades of experience in public policy, political service and campaign management. Prior to her position at Center Forward, she served as chief of staff to two moderate Members of Congress, including Congressman Brad Ellsworth of Indiana and Congressman Mike Ross of Arkansas.

In addition to her widespread involvement on Capitol Hill, Kramer has extensive experience managing campaigns in competitive congressional districts and states across the country. She managed Congressman Mike Ross' successful re-election campaign, Congressman Charlie Stenholm's re-election campaign and Congressman Brad Ellsworth's campaign for the U.S. Senate.



After spending nearly 20 years working with moderate Members of Congress, Kramer wholeheartedly embraces those sensible center values and priorities that she currently advocates in her position at Center Forward.

Kramer received her Bachelor of Arts from Rhodes College in 1999. She currently resides in Washington, DC with her husband, Ted, and sons, Jack and Ben.



**ENRIQUE PERRET**

*Director, US- Mexico Foundation*

Enrique Perret is the Director of the U.S.-Mexico Foundation. He has a history of deep commitment to the US-Mexico bilateral relationship. Enrique is a former government professional with a strong track record of leading government engagement and business development strategies between Mexico and the U.S. He also has a strong commitment to civil society endeavors and has served in leadership roles on diverse nonprofit boards.

Enrique holds a bachelor's degree in International Commerce, a master's degree in Economics and Government, and has completed executive courses at Harvard University, Wharton School, and SMU.



**NURIA PALOU**

*Program Manager, US- Mexico Foundation*

Nuria Palou currently serves as the Program Manager for the U.S.-Mexico Foundation. She has worked in the implementation of public policies and governance at the General Secretariat of the Government of the State of Puebla, she has also worked in constituting the design of good practices and proposals for public policy for the inclusion and recovery of the social fabric in regions with high incidence of crime.

Before joining the U.S.-Mexico Foundation, she worked at GCYA as a consultant in matters of crisis management and communication for private companies. She is a member of #SeguridadSinGuerra collective, Undersecretary of PJ COMEXI and collaborates occasionally with the think tank Transitional Justice MX.

Nuria holds a Master's in Human Rights and Democratization from the European Master's Program in Human Rights and Democratization (EMA), with a specialization in Transitional Justice from the University of Zagreb.

## Speaker Biographies



### **HON. STEPHANIE SYPTAK-RAMNATH**

*Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy in Mexico*

Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath arrived July 20, 2021 for her third assignment in Mexico. She most recently served as Deputy Executive Secretary in the Office of the Secretary of State, where she was responsible for internal coordination of the work of the Department, serving as the liaison between six geographic and functional bureaus and the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Under Secretaries. She led the Department's 24-hour Operations Center that monitors global events, briefs the Secretary and other Department principals, facilitates communication between the Department and the rest of the world, and coordinates the Department's

response to crises.

Stephanie served as Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. at U.S. Embassy Singapore from January 2017 to July 2019, directing 19 U.S. government sections and agencies in the advancement of bilateral security, military, economic, and people-to-people cooperation. During that time, she led Embassy efforts in support of the historic June 2018 Singapore Summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim.

She previously served as Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy at U.S. Embassy Mexico City, Deputy Chief of Mission in Bamako, Mali, and Senior Deputy Director in the Office of Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Other assignments include Tunis, Tunisia, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, and Monterrey, Mexico.

She is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of the Foreign Service and is married to Gautam Ramnath. They have two daughters studying at Northwestern University and Pepperdine University.



### **YVONNE GONZALES**

*Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy in Mexico*

Yvonne Gonzales is the political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City. She joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 2003. Most recently, she served in Harare, Zimbabwe where she was the chief of the political and economic section. Prior to that, she served in Washington as special assistant to former Deputy Secretary Tony Blinken with responsibility for Western Hemisphere Affairs and as senior Brazil desk officer. In New York, she was the special assistant to former U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Susan Rice. She also worked at U.S. Embassies Pretoria, Jakarta, and Panama.

She graduated from California State University Fullerton with a B.A. in political science and earned an M.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.



**JENNIFER DAVIS PAGUADA**

*Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs, U.S. Embassy in Mexico*

Jennifer Davis Paguada joined the Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy Mexico City in August 2021. Prior to this assignment, she served in the Office of Mexican Affairs as the Deputy Director. Other prior assignments include Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, Special Assistant for Western Hemisphere Affairs in the Office of the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Political External Unit Chief at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, Special Assistant to the U.S. Ambassador in Baghdad, and Watch Officer in the Department's Operations Center. Her other overseas assignments include Guatemala and Mexico. Prior to entering the Foreign Service, Jennifer was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras.

Jennifer earned an M.A. in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She received her B.A. in International Studies from Emory University. She and her husband Jack have two children, ages 10 and seven.



**RICARDO ALDAY**

*Former Spokesperson, Mexican Embassy*

Ricardo Alday is an expert on US-Mexico relations, on which he has been involved for three decades as a student, a US-based journalist and most recently as a diplomat for Mexico in New York and Washington D.C, where he was a senior official and advisor for 5 of the last 7 ambassadors of Mexico to the U.S.

Alday currently provides political risk analysis and consults on government affairs and strategic communications for companies and foundations, and is the author of a book on Mexico-US relations and its challenges ahead, coming out in 2023.

He was posted twice at the Embassy of Mexico in Washington (2006-2013, and 2016-2020), and at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in New York from 2013 to 2016. He served as Head of Political Affairs and Head of Communications and Spokesman in both postings.

Before joining the Foreign Service, Mr. Alday was a foreign correspondent in the United States for 17 years, covering the White House and Congress, with a focus on foreign, security and economic policy.

Mr. Alday studied a B.A. in International Relations at Mexico's Universidad Iberoamericana and lives in New York and Washington, D.C.



**JUAN PABLO DE LEO**  
*ADN40 and POLITICO.MX*

Juan Pablo de Leo is the Director and founder of the Politico.mx media outlet, an innovative and influential outlet.

At ADN 40, he hosted "Primer Café" and "Inbox" and he is currently the owner of the programs Politico Mx and En.

Throughout his career, he has participated in the coverage of highly relevant events, including presidential, state, and local electoral processes in Mexico and the United States, the 50th anniversary of the death of John F. Kennedy, and the Olympic Games in Athens.

He has collaborated in different spaces of Imagen Informativa, WBUTV and Radio Trece. In 2012, he was recognized as one of the “Global Shapers” and one of the “Future Leaders” by the Mexican Leaders Magazine. He has his own radio program on Radio 13 and also collaborates on different radio spots with political comments.



**ANA MARIA SALAZAR**  
*El Financiero Bloomberg*

Ana Maria Salazar directs Grupo Salazar, an international consultancy dedicated to providing technical assistance, seminars and conferences on issues related to security, as well as giving workshops and training in leadership, negotiation techniques and other mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Since 2014, Ms Salazar has anchored both weekly and daily news programs. She currently anchors "The World According to Trump", "The New Neighbor, and "Gabinete de Seguridad." During 2020, she also participated in a daily special program on COVID-19. She is considered one of Mexican TV’s premier analysts and anchors on security and the US/Mexico bilateral relations.



**MANUEL ROMO**  
*Mexico CEO, CitiBank Mexico*

Manuel Romo currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Grupo Financiero Citibanamex, a position he has held since November 2019.

Manuel has held several positions in different areas in the Corporate Banking, Wholesale, Commercial and Consumer businesses. In April 2019, he rejoined Citibanamex as Head of Products and Segments for GCB Mexico. In 2008, Manuel joined Banorte-Ixe, where he led numerous businesses, and in 2012 he became Executive Vice President for Consumer and Retail Products. In 2005, he became Managing Director for Credit



Cards and received the “Celebrating Excellence Award” from Citi’s Global Consumer Bank. In 1991, Manuel joined the Banco Nacional de México Corporate Bank.

Manuel holds a degree in business administration from ITAM, as well as a master’s in economics from the same institution.

He has been married to Lillian for the past 25 years, and they are parents to three girls.



**ALBERTO GOMEZ ALCALA**  
*Chief Economist, CitiBank Mexico*

Alberto Gomez is Executive Director of Grupo Financiero Banamex-Citigroup's area of Research and Communications. His responsibilities include the entire range of economic analysis - macroeconomics, finance, sectors, regional activity - as well as institutional communications for Mexico and Latin America. He also participates in strategic planning for the region.

Mr. Gomez is a Member of Technical Advisory Committees at the Mexican Institute of Financial Executives (IMEF) and the Center of Private Sector Economic Research (CEESP). He has also been a member of the Center of Economic Analysis and Research (CAIE - ITAM), and is a member of such international economic organizations as the CBE (Conference of Business Economists) and the ICCBE (International Conference of Commercial Bank Economists).

He has a Ph.D. in Economics (1986) and a Masters in Economics (1984) from the University of Pennsylvania.



**ANA CARDENAS**  
*Senior Researcher, World Justice Project*

Ana Cárdenas currently works as a Senior Researcher at the World Justice Project. Her lines of work include the adversarial criminal justice system, from the standpoint of the imprisoned population, the victims and the system’s practitioners. She coordinated a research project that focused on the ways in which criminal justice operators, including police officers, prosecutors, and judges, respond to political and media pressure against the lawful release of the accused. Also, she worked jointly with INEGI (National Statistics Institute) to review the National Survey applied to the prison population which was deployed in November 2021 to over 58 thousand imprisoned people across the country. Currently, she is focusing on access to justice, open justice metrics, and restorative justice in urban and rural contexts.

She has published academic and dissemination articles on judicial independence, open justice, and freedom of expression, as well as on criminal justice, and mass releases during the pandemic. Along with her academic experience, Ana has worked in the Federal Judiciary, in the

Institute that protects public access to governmental information, and in the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary.

Ana studied Law at CIDE, did a master's degree at the London School of Economics and Political Science in Criminal Justice Policy, and completed her Ph.D. in Law at King's College London. Her doctoral research dealt with the so-called “ War on Drugs” by Felipe Calderón and its impact on the Federal Judiciary in Mexico.



**NATALIE GARCIA**

*Coordinator of International Affairs, Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana*

Natie is the Coordinator of International Affairs for Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana, a position she has held since July 2020.

In her previous role, Natalie worked for the Consulate General of Mexico in Milan where she assisted with the logistics and organization of cultural events in order to promote Mexico's culture and traditions in Italy.



**DR. TIM KESSLER, PH.D**

*Country Director, World Justice Project*

Tim Kessler has been the Country Director for the Mexico office of the World Justice Project since May 2019.

Prior to joining the World Justice Project, Tim was the Chief of Party for USAID's Mexico Economic Policy Program (MEPP), where he promoted transparency initiatives and managed technical assistance projects to implement and strengthen the impact of open government and public sector accountability initiatives.

Prior to running MEPP, Tim was Chief of Party of USAID’s Mexico Competitiveness Program and Greater Transparency and Accountability Project. Tim has also consulted for the World Bank, UNDP, and the IADB, and brings a strong social science research background.

He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. He has lived in Mexico City since 2005.



**ERNESTO LOPEZ PORTILLO**

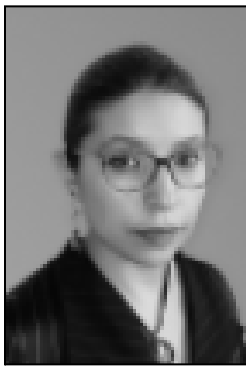
*Director of the Security Program, Ibero University*

Ernesto López Portillo was born in Mexico City, graduated with a law degree and has dedicated his entire professional life to promote reconciliation between the police and society. His academic research, teaching and consulting work have led him to visit police institutions in

Central and South America, Canada, the United States, Asia, Africa and Europe.

In 2003, he founded the Institute for Security and Democracy, Insyde, and directed it until 2016. Between January and September 2018 Ernesto López Portillo served as Technical Secretary of the Democratic Forum for Citizen Security of the Universidad Iberoamericana CDMX. Since October of the same year he is the Coordinator of the Citizen Security Program of the same center.

His most recent publication is: Preventing violence and crime in Mexico, a failed promise in The Responsibility for the Future of the Institute of Legal Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Ernesto has published hundreds of press articles, a task that in 2009 earned him the José Pages Llergo National Journalism Award.



**DORIA VELEZ**

*Directora de Investigación del Observatorio Nacional Ciudadano*

Doria Velez serves as the Research Director of the Observatorio Nacional Ciudadano, a position she has held since 2011. During this time, she has published and coordinated more than a dozen projects on public security, justice, and human rights.

She previously worked in the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN), in the Technical Secretariat of the National Security Council (STCSN), and served as a general coordinator of the Legal Center for the Promotion of Justice and Rights AC and participated in the association of

Our Apparent Surrender.

She has a degree in Latin American Studies from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).



**PABLO VAZQUEZ CAMACHO**

*Undersecretary for Citizen Participation and Crime Prevention at the Ministry of Citizen Security of Mexico City*



**FRANCISCO CERVANTES**

*President, Consejo Coordinador Empresarial*

Francisco Cervantes Francisco Cervantes Díaz was elected president of the Business Coordinating Council (CCE) for the period 2022-2023, replacing Carlos Salazar Lomelín.

Cervantes Díaz was undersecretary in the Secretariat of Economic Development of the State of Mexico. He was also chairman of the Council of Chambers and Business Associations of the State of Mexico (Conacem) and president of the Mexican Business Council of Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology AC. State of Mexico (Comce). Later he was elected president of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers of the United Mexican States (Concamin), for the period 2018-2019, replacing Manuel Herrera Vega, where he was re-elected in two periods until last year.



**ODRACIR BARQUERA**

*Planning Director, Consejo Coordinador Empresarial*

Odracir Barquera is currently Director General of Planning in the Presidency of the Business Coordinating Council.

Odracir was previously an Independent Consultant for private companies and multilateral organizations on public policies, political and international affairs, and strategic agendas. He was Special Advisor to the President of the Chamber of Deputies (Edgar Romo) for the institutionalization, design and implementation of the Legislative Evaluation System. Previously, he was Coordinator of Advisors to Senator Cristina Díaz (President of the Governance Commission) throughout his term, being responsible for defining the thematic agenda for its strategic positioning, and for high-level strategic relations with the private sector, the politician and opinion leaders, as well as international links. He was a member of the National Executive Committee of the CNOP during the management of Senator Díaz.

He has a degree in International Relations from the University of the Americas (UDLA), Mexico City.



**CLAUDIO X. GONZALEZ**

*Chairman of the Board, Kimberly-Clark de Mexico*

Claudio X. González is the Chairman of the Board of Kimberly-Clark de Mexico.

He is a director of Fondo Mexico (Mexico Fund), Grupo Alfa, Grupo Carso, Grupo México and a consultant to Capital Group. He is also director emeritus of General Electric Co. and member of the Advisory Board of the Baker Institute for Public Policy. He is the former chairman of the Mexican



Business Council, of Consejo Coordinador Empresarial, and of Centro de Estudios Económicos del Sector Privado.

Mr. Gonzalez earned his chemical engineering degree from Stanford University and completed post graduate studies at The Instituto Mexicano de Administración de Negocios in Mexico City.



**JUAN CORTINA GALLARDO**

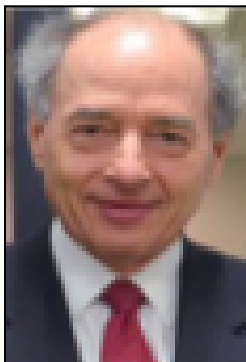
*President of the National Agricultural Council of Mexico (CNA)*

After his studies in Economics at ITAM, Juan Cortina Gallardo had the opportunity to excel in Scotiabank’s Corporate and Investment Banking for six years. Later, he decided to travel to Boston to pursue a MBA in Harvard University.

By the end of 2001, he returned to assume responsibility as Managing Director at GAM (Grupo Azucarero de México), a company founded by Juan Gallardo, his uncle, in the late 1980’s. He has performed as a member of the Board of Directors of the CULTIBA Organization, as well as

International President of the Business Council of Latin America (CEAL).

In addition, Juan Cortina is President and Founding Partner of Organika, an exporter enterprise of tomatoes and cucumbers produced in greenhouses of the Bajío. He is also President of SWT, an enterprise producer of stevia with agricultural and production operations in the United States, Mexico, and Chile. In the National Agricultural Council of Mexico, of which he has been a part since 2002, he has served as Secretary of the Council and Vice President of Foreign Trade, working together with Bosco de la Vega throughout the negotiations of the USMCA. Since February 2021 he is President of the National Agricultural Council of Mexico.



**GUILLERMO VOGEL**

*Co-Chair US-Mexico CEO Dialogue, Vice Chairman of the Board of Tenaris*

Mr. Guillermo Vogel is a member of the board of directors and holds the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Tenaris, S.A.. Mr. Vogel is the chairman of Grupo Collado and Exportaciones IM Promoción, and serves as the Co-Chair of the US-Mexico Dialogue.

He also served as president of Canacero until April 16, 2018. Mr. Vogel is also a member of the board of directors of each of Techint, S.A. de C.V., Alfa, Banco Santander (México) S.A, the Universidad Panamericana –

IPADE, Corporación Mexicana de Inversiones de Capital, Innovare, Grupo Assa and the American Iron and Steel Institute.

In addition, he is a member of The Trilateral Commission and member of the International Board of The Manhattan School of Music.



**HERMINIO BLANCO**

*Managing Director, Business Coordinating Council of Mexico, US Office*

Dr. Blanco, along with Dr. Jaime Zabludovsky, are the principal advisors of the Mexican private sector on the USMCA.

Previously, Dr. Blanco served as Secretary of Trade and Industry of Mexico and was the Chief Negotiator of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). He was also responsible for the negotiation of the free trade agreement with the European Union, the European Free Trade Area, various Latin American countries and with Israel.

Dr. Blanco is the President of IQOM Strategic Advisors “IQOM”. IQOM specializes in advising clients on international trade, investment and regulatory affairs. He is the President of the Board of Arcelor-Mittal Mexico and member of the board of directors for Banco Latinoamericano de Comercio Exterior (BLADEX), CYDSA, and Fibra Uno. He is also member of the Trilateral Commission.

He holds a B.A. in Economics from Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, a M.A. and a Ph.D. in Economics from University of Chicago, and a Doctor Honoris Causa from Rikkyo University in Japan.



**ROBERTO VELASCO-ALVAREZ**

*Chief Officer for North America Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs*

Roberto Velasco-Alvarez currently serves as Chief Officer for the North America Unit at the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. He is currently in charge of leading Mexico's foreign policy for the United States and Canada.

Roberto has experience in the Mexican federal, state and local public sector. After July 2018’s presidential election, Roberto was invited by the Secretary-designate of Foreign Affairs, Marcelo Ebrard, to support the transition process as his press liaison. He served as a Director-general for Public Affairs and as a Director-general for North America at the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, where he now is the Chief Officer for North America. In 2019, he was part of the Mexican delegation that discussed the ratification of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) with representatives from the U.S. Congress and government.

Roberto holds a master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy with a concentration in Finance and a Bachelor of Arts in Law from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.



**FERNANDA GUARRO**

*President and Managing Director, 3M Mexico*

Fernanda Guarro serves as the President and Managing Director of 3M Mexico, a position she has held since December 2021.

Previously, she served as 3M’s LA Corporate Affairs Management and Execution Director and Supply Chain Director. In these roles she was responsible for leading initiatives and strategic projects such as the implementation of the labor reform in compliance with outsourcing and the return to work (RTW) strategy in Latin America. Prior to 3M, Fernanda worked for various companies including Merck, Sanofi, Monsanto and

DuPont.

Fernanda studied business administration at the Universidad Anáhuac del Sur, and completed a master's degree in supply chain management at the School of Industrial Organization.



**EDWARD KALETA**

*Vice President of Global Government Affairs, 3M Mexico*

Edward Kaleta serves as the Senior Vice President at 3M, a position he has held since February 2022.

Previously, Ed served as the Walgreen’s Group Vice President, U.S. Government Relations from May 2011 to Feb 2022. He worked as Director at Humana from 2005 to 2011.

Ed received a B.A. in Political Science and Government from the University of Richmond in 1995.



**ANA LOPEZ MESTRE**

*Executive Vice President and General Director, AmCham Mexico*

Ana serves as the Vice President and General Director at the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, a position she has held since May 2015.

She has served at the Business Coordinating Council twice. Her latest position was as Director of Institutional Relations reporting to the President and General Director.

Ana also has experience in the government sector, serving during a year in the Senate - LXII Legislature- as Head of Office of Senator Luis Armando Melgar. She held a position at the Presidency of the Republic from 2002 to 2006 as part of the First lady’s team.

Ana graduated from the Universidad Iberoamericana with a degree in Political Communication from the Institute for Social Research at the UNAM. She also undertook postgraduate studies at the Oxford Leadership Academy and the Institute of Business Development Anahuac.



**GUILLERMO BERNAL DEL VALLE**

*National Director of Institutional Relations, AmCham Mexico*

Guillermo Bernal del Valle serves as the National Director of Institutional Relations at the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, a position he has held since January 2021.

Previously, Guillermo served as the Director of Business Intelligence for Banco Azteca from Jan 2019 to Jun 2020. From Aug 2010 to Jan 2019, he held a variety of positions at Asociación de Bancos de México ABM, A. C.



**ILDEFONSO GUAJARDO VILLARREAL**

*Member, Chamber of Deputies*

Ildefonso Guajardo Villarreal is a Mexican economist and politician from the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

He previously served as the Secretary of Economy of Mexico during the presidency of Enrique Peña Nieto. Ildefonso also served as Deputy of the LVIII and LIX Legislatures of the Mexican Congress representing Nuevo León.

For more than three decades, Ildefonso served in a wide range of leading positions in international organizations and the public sector, both in the legislative and executive branches of Mexico, in charge of international trade, trade negotiations, economic competition, industrial policy, and regulatory improvement, among others.

He served as Mexico's Secretary of Economy. During his tenure, he led many trade negotiations, such as the modernization of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA, formerly NAFTA) the Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the European Union, and the negotiations of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Pacific Alliance.





**HON. KEN SALAZAR**

*U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, U.S. Embassy in Mexico*

Ken Salazar was sworn in as United States Ambassador to Mexico on September 2, 2021.

In 2009, President Obama nominated Mr. Salazar to serve as Secretary of Interior where he had a lead role on the Obama-Biden agenda on energy and climate, the nation's conservation agenda including America's Great Outdoors, and Indian Country.

In 2004, Attorney General Salazar was elected to the United States Senate for Colorado becoming the first Latino Democrat to be elected to the United States Senate since 1972. In 1998, Mr. Salazar was elected as Colorado Attorney General and became the first Latino ever elected to statewide office in Colorado. He was reelected as Attorney General in 2002.

Ambassador Salazar has been admitted to practice law in state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Ambassador Salazar and his family have farmed along the banks of the Rio Grande River in New Mexico and Colorado for more than four centuries.



**ADRIANA BACA**

*Business Development, Volcán de mi Tierra Tequila*

Adriana Baca is in charge of representing Volcán de mi Tierra as Global Ambassador of the brand, Packaging Purchases, Product Development, New Markets, among other responsibilities.

She focused and dedicated more than 15 years in marketing for International companies until 2014, when she was invited by the Gallardo family to participate leading the development of a new product with Moët Hennessy International.



**DAN DEFOSSEY**

*Co-Founder and CEO, Pinche Gringo*

Dan DeFossey is the Co-Founder and CEO of Pinche Gringo, a Texas-style barbecue restaurant in Mexico City.

## **U.S.-Mexico Relations**

U.S. relations with Mexico are strong and vital. The countries share a 2,000-mile border with 55 active land ports of entry. Bilateral relations between the two have a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans, whether the issue is trade and economic development, education exchange, citizen security, drug control, migration, human trafficking, entrepreneurship, innovation, environmental protection, climate change, or public health.

### Bilateral Economic Issues and the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

Mexico is consistently among the United States' top three trading partners and in 2020 was the United States' second-largest export market (after Canada). In 2020, two-way trade in goods and services totaled \$582.4 billion. In 2020, Mexico was the second-largest supplier of foreign crude oil to the United States, as well as the largest export market for U.S. refined petroleum products and U.S. natural gas.

In 2020, all three countries began implementation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to address the needs of the 21st century economy and the trilateral Environmental Cooperation Agreement to develop an updated framework for environmental cooperation between the three countries. The USMCA entered into force on July 1, 2020. The USMCA supports mutually beneficial trade leading to freer markets, fairer trade, and robust economic growth in North America. The agreement is expected to generate job opportunities; improve worker protections; prevent forced labor; increase agricultural trade; produce new investments in vital manufacturing industries; protect intellectual property rights; create a similar set of environmental standards across the three countries; and move digital trade protections into the 21st century.

### The U.S.-Mexico Border

The border region represents a combined population of approximately 15 million people. Cooperation between the United States and Mexico along the border includes coordinating with state and local officials on cross-border infrastructure, transportation planning, and security, as well as collaboration with institutions that address migration, natural resource, environment, and health issues. In 2010, the United States and Mexico created the 21st Century Border Management Initiative (21CB) to spur binational advancements to promote a modern, secure, and efficient border. High-level representatives from the U.S. and Mexican governments meet annually in the 21CB Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to adopt Action Plans that guide bilateral efforts to modernize and expand ports of entry along the shared border; facilitate the flow of trade and travelers between the two countries; and strengthen cooperation on public safety in the border region. In the March 2020 ESC, the delegations approved the 21st Century

Border Management Initiative Strategy to collaborate more closely on promoting the shared border as a safe and competitive region, while also highlighting the key role it plays in the economic development and well-being of its communities.

### Migration

Mexico and the United States are committed partners in managing migration and helping to address its root causes. Mexico is a source, transit, and destination country for migrants and asylum seekers in the region. The U.S. government supports the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and the International Committee of the Red Cross to support individuals in need of international protection in Mexico. UNHCR has worked with Mexico's asylum agency, COMAR, to nearly triple Mexico's asylum capacity since 2017. IOM has expanded shelter capacity in northern Mexico and managed COVID-19 mitigation efforts in shelters. The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) builds the capacity of Mexico's migration authority – the Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM) – to humanely manage migration and to coordinate with Mexican and U.S. law enforcement to secure borders. INL programming also increases the capacity of Mexican security and justice sector institutions to identify, investigate, and prosecute human smuggling and trafficking.

### U.S. Security Cooperation with Mexico

Security is a shared responsibility. Neither country can be secure if the other is not. Cooperation between Mexico and the United States has never been more vital in the fight to combat the deadly threat of illicit fentanyl, heroin, and synthetic drugs. The United States partners with Mexico to reduce the impact of illicit drugs on U.S. communities, dismantle criminal organizations, manage migration, improve citizen security, and reduce impunity, and promote human rights and the rule of law. U.S.-funded training, equipment, and technical assistance complement Mexico's own investment in building the capacity of Mexican institutions and personnel to achieve these goals. Because of this collaboration, the shared border is more secure, information-sharing is more fluid, and Mexico benefits from professionally trained officials and state-of-the-art equipment to confront transnational crime.

### III. Mexican Politics and Government



#### **PRESIDENT ANDRES MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR (AMLO)**

*President of Mexico*

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, known by his initials AMLO, is the 65th President of Mexico. He has served as President since December 2018. He is the first president to win a majority of the vote in Mexico since 1988.

President López Obrador is often described as a center-left, progressive, populist, and economic nationalist. Previously he served as head of the Federal District government (2000–2005) and ran unsuccessfully for president in 2006 and 2012.

Following the 2012 presidential election loss, President López Obrador announced that he would withdraw from the Democratic Revolution Party and would create a new party from the Movement for National Regeneration ("Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional" in Spanish), which he would later name MORENA. MORENA became an official political party in Mexico in July 2014. It is a left-wing political party and is described as an anti-neoliberal and populist party.

During his presidency, President López Obrador has fostered public investment in sectors that were liberalized under previous administrations and has implemented a number of progressive social reforms. Supporters have praised him for promoting institutional renewal after decades of high inequality and corruption. Critics have claimed that his administration has stumbled in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic and attempts to deal with drug cartels and other crime, has antagonized Mexican democratic institutions, and that the economy had already faltered before the pandemic. López Obrador's government has also been criticised for failing to combat violence against women in Mexico and its high rate of femicide, which has risen dramatically since 2018.

In the June 2021 midterm elections, President López Obrador's MORENA coalition lost seats in the lower house of Congress. However, his ruling coalition maintained a simple majority, but President López Obrador failed to secure the two-thirds congressional supermajority. The main opposition was a coalition of Mexico's three traditional parties: the Revolutionary Institutional Party, National Action Party and Party of the Democratic Revolution.

President López Obrador was born in Tepetitán, in the municipality of Macuspana, in the south-eastern state of Tabasco. He studied political science and public administration at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He began his political career in Mexico's long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), eventually becoming Tabasco state party president in 1983.



## **Mexican Political Parties**

There are currently nine political parties represented in Congress. The politics of Mexico are dominated by four political parties: Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), National Action Party (PAN), Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), and the National Regeneration Movement (MORENA). MORENA controls both the Chamber of Deputies and the Mexican Senate.

### Movimiento De Regeneracion Nacional (MORENA)

The National Regeneration Movement was founded by former presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador in 2014 as a movement that calls on the people of Mexico to stand against what the party deems the current unjust, corrupt and authoritarian governing structure in Mexico. MORENA emphasizes a hard left-wing economic policy that focuses on market competition. In the 2018 election, López Obrador was the party's presidential candidate.

### Partido Revolucionario Institucional (Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI)

The Institutional Revolutionary Party was the hegemonic political party in Mexico from its establishment in 1929 until 2000. The PRI won every presidential election with well over a majority of the vote until 1982. However, rampant corruption and electoral fraud resulted in leftist members of the PRI forming their own party, the Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD), in 1989. Despite suffering presidential losses in 2000 and 2006, PRI representatives still hold the majority of governorships and positions in state legislatures and local governments. The PRI maintains a 50 percent gender quota for women.

### Partido de Acción Nacional (National Action Party, PAN)

The National Action Party was founded in 1939 by Manuel Gómez Morán. The PAN favors less government involvement in the economy. Among the party's first supporters were the Roman Catholic Church, the business sector. The party won its first major election in 1989, winning the governorship of the state of Baja California. Eleven years later, PAN candidate Vicente Fox won the party's first presidency in 2000. The following presidential election in 2006 was also won by a PAN member — Felipe Calderón.

### Partido de la Revolución Democrática (Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD)

The Democratic Revolutionary Party was created in 1989 by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas. Many of the party's members, including Cárdenas, are former members of the PRI. In fact, the PRD formed in large part due to alleged corruption by the PRI in the 1988 election. The PRD supports addressing social welfare issues, and is against the majority of the economic reforms that have been enacted in the country over the last three decades. It also aims to gain greater control over the economy and play a strong role in implementation with USMCA between the United States and Canada.

## **Mexican Congress**

The Congress of the Union, formally known as the General Congress of the United Mexican States, is the legislature of the federal government of Mexico consisting of two chambers: the Senate of the Republic and the Chamber of Deputies. Its 628 members meet in Mexico City.

Its structure and responsibilities are defined in the Third Title, Second Chapter, Articles 50 to 79 of the 1917 Constitution. The upper chamber is the Senate, "Cámara de Senadores" or "Senado". It comprises 128 seats, 96 members are elected by direct popular vote for six-year terms; the other 32 seats are allocated based on proportional representation. The lower house is the Chamber of Deputies, or "Cámara de Diputados." It has 500 seats; 300 members are elected by popular vote to three-year terms, and the other 200 seats are allocated according to proportional representation.

The Chamber of Deputies (Cámara de Diputados) has 500 members, each elected for a three-year term, 300 of whom are elected in single-seat constituencies by plurality, with the remaining 200 members elected by proportional representation in 5 multi-state, 40-seat constituencies. The 200 PR-seats are distributed generally without taking account the 300 plurality-seats (parallel voting), but since 1996 a party cannot get more seats overall than 8% above its result for the PR-seats (a party must win 42% of the votes for the PR-seats to achieve an overall majority).

There are two exceptions to that rule. A party can lose only PR-seats by that rule (not plurality-seats). Also, a party cannot get more than 300 seats overall (even if it has more than 52% of the votes for the PR-seats).

The Chamber of Senators (Cámara de Senadores) has 128 members, elected for a six-year term, 96 of them in three-seat constituencies (corresponding to the nation's 31 states and Mexico City) and 32 by proportional representation on a nationwide basis. In the state constituencies, two seats are awarded to the plurality winner and one to the first runner-up.

The current Congress (whose term lasts from 2021 to 2024) is known as the "LXV Legislature." It was elected on 6 June 2021 at the 2021 Mexican legislative election.

#### **IV. Issues of Importance from the State Department**

This year, the United States is celebrating 200 years of the diplomatic relationship between the two countries and in acknowledgement of that incredibly important relationship, the tone set in meetings during this trip should be encouraging of an ongoing positive working relationship.

##### Key Points

- Shared Relationship
  - Mexico and the United States share a close relationship based on shared values and priorities.
  - We acknowledge that working together as North America we can bring new ideas and energy to the hemisphere, and we commit to reinvigorating how we address together the issues of our time.
- Economic Prosperity
  - Mexico is consistently among the United States' top three trading partners and in 2020 was the United States' second-largest export market (after Canada). In 2020, two-way trade in goods and services totaled \$582.4 billion -- almost \$2 billion is trade daily between the two countries.
  - We worked together towards ending the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to create the conditions for equitable growth and North American competitiveness.
  - The U.S. is committed to improving supply chain issues and overcoming obstacles in supply chains
  - Mexico has dropped to 55/63 in world competitiveness and the U.S. government is committed to supporting improvement in this area
    - A key area to stress in meetings that the signals that the Mexican government sends on regulatory and legal regimes matters a great deal
    - Contract disputes in the energy sector — and other sectors — significantly impacts the competitiveness of a country, and the harder it will be to have strong economic security and growth.
- Migration and Security
  - We reaffirm our commitment to addressing the root causes of irregular migration and poverty and to investing in the region – prioritizing cooperation for development to create economic opportunity for all.
  - In particular, President Lopez Obrador has been very interested in addressing the root causes and economic reasons for irregular migration both at the U.S. southern border and Mexico's southern border.
  - The U.S. acknowledges that addressing irregular migration in the region requires a coordinated approach
  - Members and staff should be prepared to address two major security issues of importance to the Mexican government



## V. Hotel Information

InterContinental Presidente Mexico City:

- Address: Campos Eliseos 218, Ciudad de México, México 11560
- Phone: +52-800-502-0500
- Email: [mexico\\_reservaciones@grupopresidente.com](mailto:mexico_reservaciones@grupopresidente.com)

Polanco Area:

- Restaurants:
  - [Quintonil](#), 5 minute walk (\$\$\$\$): Mexican cuisine
  - [Pujol](#), 10 minute walk (\$\$\$\$): Mexican cuisine
  - [Chapulín](#), 1 minute walk (\$\$\$): Mexican cuisine
  - [Entremar](#), 12 minute walk (\$\$\$): Seafood restaurant
  - [Morimoto](#), 25 minute walk, 10 minute drive (\$\$\$): Japanese cuisine
  - [Agua & Sal](#), 1 minute walk (\$\$): Ceviche & seafood inspired by Caribbean & South American recipes
- Parks:
  - Chapultepec (5 minute walk)
    - [Zoológico de Chapultepec](#) is located in the Chapultepec park
  - Parque Lincoln - a neighborhood park (7 minute walk)
- Museums:
  - [The National Museum of Anthropology](#) (20 minute walk)
  - [The Soumaya Museum](#) (30 minute walk, 12 minute drive)
  - [Museo de Arte Moderno](#) (20 minute walk)
  - [Chapultepec Castle](#) (30 minute walk)
- Public Transit:
  - Polanco is served by the Polanco and Auditorio stations of the [Mexico City metro](#) (subway)
- Ground Transportation
  - We recommend Uber for transportation around Mexico City as it is the safest form of car transportation. Uber is the safest option as Uber vets its drivers and tracks your location, which minimizes risk. Uber in Mexico City is not only safer, but it's easier, especially if you don't speak Spanish.
- Currency Exchange
  - The exchange rate from USD to MXN Pesos is significant. \$100 USD is approximately \$2,000 MXN Pesos. Consider this when making cash withdrawals from ATMs. It may feel like you have a significant amount of cash in MXN Pesos, but it will go quickly and prices may seem "high."



## VI. COVID-19

### Entry and Exit Requirements Into Mexico

- U.S. citizens are permitted to enter.
- A negative COVID-19 test (PCR and/or serology) is NOT required for entry.
- Health screening procedures in place at airports and other ports of entry.
- Passengers and aircrew members arriving at Mexican airports may be subject to health screenings including temperature checks. Those exhibiting symptoms may be subject to additional health screening and/or quarantine.

### Entry Into United States

- Proof of a negative COVID-19 test is no longer required to enter the U.S.

### COVID Testing Availability in Mexico

- The Secretariat of Health (Salud) maintains a list of approved laboratories (Spanish only) for viral COVID-19 testing. Many local hospitals, clinics, and laboratories offer private testing for travel purposes. The cost of PCR tests typically ranges from approximately 950 MXN to 4500 MXN, and the cost of viral antigen tests typically range from 200 MXN to 1000 MXN, depending on location and speed of results. Travelers are responsible for the costs of their own tests and any associated medical care. The Embassy and Consulates are unable to administer or pay for tests.
- The U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Mexico list of private testing providers. This list is not comprehensive and the information within is subject to change at any time.
- Some airlines and international airports in Mexico offer testing on-site as a last resort for travelers – please confirm directly with your carrier for more information on availability of this service. Even if such an option is available, it is recommended to obtain your test results before arriving at the airport. At some of the indicated airports, testing on-site is available only to international passengers using specific carriers. If you must test on-site at an airport where it is offered, you should arrive at least three hours earlier (or follow carrier recommendations) to allow time for results. Please note testing at the airport may result in missing your flight or onward connections due to delays or if you receive a positive test result.
- Travelers visiting Mexico should contact their tour provider or hotel for more information on local testing options.
- You will have to pay for your test. You should contact your medical/travel insurance to find out if they will reimburse you.
- Consult with your chosen testing provider on the test result delivery method and language.

## Quarantine Information

- U.S. citizens are not required to quarantine.
- The Mexican government encourages people to continue respecting social distancing measures, washing their hands, and coughing or sneezing in the inner part of the elbow to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A variety of prevention measures can be found at <https://coronavirus.gob.mx/>
- For U.S. citizens who have participated in higher risk activities or think that they may have been exposed before or during a trip, the CDC encourages those who are vaccinated five days and those who are unvaccinated 14 days to take the following extra precautions to protect others after arrival at their destination:
  - Avoid staying around people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
  - Consider getting tested for COVID-19.
  - In the United States, quarantine requirements and recommendations may vary by state. Therefore, travelers should review an individual state's entry requirements before traveling.



