



**Forced Labor Session**  
**Wednesday, September 9, 2020**



**Valarie M. Neuhart**  
**(Welcome and Introductions)**  
**Deputy Executive Director, Office of Trade Relations**  
**U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

Valarie M. Neuhart is the Deputy Executive Director for the Office of Trade Relations, in support of the Office of the Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). She supports the coordination of outreach efforts to elevate trade and Partner Government Agency (PGA) integration and readiness. Mrs. Neuhart leads the management of the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) and User Fee Advisory Committee (UFAC). She accompanies the Acting Commissioner in Trade Roundtables and other trade engagement efforts in order to provide and receive updates to/from Key Stakeholders. She works proactively with PGAs via the Border Interagency Executive Council (BIEC) framework to achieve coordinated border management and to provide a holistic understanding of the state of the PGA stakeholder base. The office is an executive-led staff level team that provides integrated program management, a comprehensive, rounded picture of the collective CBP activities and initiatives, and outreach via Trade Symposiums, Trade Days, and Small Business events.

Within CBP's Office of Trade, Mrs. Neuhart served as the Director of the Interagency Collaboration Division. She was also instrumental in overseeing the development of the Single Window Initiative. Mrs. Neuhart has also served as a Director of the Trade Operations Division, in Cargo and Conveyance Security, Office of Field Operations. Her CBP field experience consists of Import Specialist and Import Specialist Team Leader in the Port of Port Huron and the LA/LB Seaport.



**Brenda Smith**  
***(Keynote Speaker)***  
**Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade**  
**U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

Brenda Smith is the Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade, at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Since 2014, Ms. Smith has overseen a diverse portfolio of trade enforcement, security, and facilitation matters to enable legitimate trade, contribute to American economic prosperity, and protect against risks to public health and safety. Her work ranges from enforcing over 500 U.S. trade laws, to overseeing 14 trade agreements with 20 countries, to directing CBP's seven Priority Trade Issues. She oversees national compliance audits and the management of trade data, along with CBP's regulatory process for administering trade and border operations. She is also responsible for implementation of many components of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (TFTEA) of 2015. TFTEA, the first comprehensive authorization of CBP since Department of Homeland Security was created in 2003, ensures a fair and competitive trade environment.

Notably, under Ms. Smith's leadership, CBP has automated and modernized trade processes through the completion of the U.S. Single Window via the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). Through ACE, the private sector transmits import-export data to 47 partner government agencies, eliminating over 250 paper forms and streamlining trade processes. CBP now has 100 percent of the scheduled core trade processing capabilities in ACE. Because of her work saving the government and industry time and money through the development of U.S. Single Window, Ms. Smith was a 2017 finalist in the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America ("Sammie") award for management excellence.

Ms. Smith was also honored with a 2017 Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award, the highest award in civil service. Only one percent of government executives receive this rank. The award recognizes her achievements in enhancing CBP's enforcement to protect American consumers.

Since joining the U.S. Customs Service in 1994, Ms. Smith has served in a variety of roles overseeing trade and border enforcement issues. Most recently the Executive Director for the ACE Business Office, she has also served as Executive Director for Trade Policy and Programs, the Director of Policy and Programs in the Office of International Affairs and Trade Relations, and led the Commissioner's Strategic Planning and Performance Division. Prior to joining Customs, Ms. Smith worked at the Department of the Treasury and on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Smith holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Economics from Rutgers University and is also a graduate of the Customs Leadership Institute and the Federal Executive Institute.



**Ana Hinojosa**  
**(Moderator)**  
**Executive Director**  
**Trade Remedy and Law Enforcement, Office of Trade**  
**U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

Ana Hinojosa is originally from South Texas and serves as the Executive Director for Trade Remedy and Law Enforcement at U.S. Customs and Border Protection, where she is responsible for threat assessment units, special investigations and enforcement programs focused on detecting, deterring, and disrupting illicit trade, with special emphasis on Forced Labor violations, evasion of special tariff cases, and civil penalties. She is a seasoned Customs expert, having served in many leadership positions in the Customs arena for over 33 years. This includes leadership positions in various field locations in the US and an elected post at the World Customs Organization as the Director, Compliance and Facilitation.

During her time at the WCO, she led the directorate that is responsible for assisting WCO Members in implementing effective and efficient controls, ensuring fair and accurate revenue collection, and protecting society by intercepting and suppressing illicit and criminal activities. The directorate has the twin goal of securing and facilitating legitimate global supply chains through the simplification and harmonization of Customs procedures. In order to accomplish this, the Directorate, working with WCO Members, develops international standards covering all aspects of trade processes, which encompass the cross border movement of people and goods, and manages a number of international conventions.

Throughout her career with CBP, she held a number of leadership positions in a several different geographic locations in the United States. Although she served most of her career along the US/Mexico land border, she also served in several key leadership positions overseeing major airport operations in the Los Angeles, California, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas areas. Following her service as the Director, Field Operations (Regional Director) in the El Paso, Texas region, she served as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for International Affairs, in Washington, DC through December 2015.

She is a current member and Past President of Executive Women in Government, which is an organization that focuses on helping women in middle-upper level management positions reach Executive level positions in the US Government. She is fluent in English and Spanish, and is currently learning French.



**Sarah L. Bessell**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Human Trafficking Legal Center**

Sarah L. Bessell, an attorney, is the Deputy Director at The Human Trafficking Legal Center, an organization dedicated to combating forced labor worldwide. Bessell leads the organization's strategic litigation initiative, providing training and technical assistance in civil human trafficking cases brought under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act. Bessell has spoken and published widely on human trafficking and forced labor. She has led trainings on the Tariff Act, forced labor, and strategic litigation in India, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Ethiopia, and Burma. She is the author or editor of multiple publications on human trafficking, public corruption, trade remedies, and extraterritorial jurisdiction. She edited The Human Trafficking Legal Center's most recent publication, *Importing Freedom: Using the U.S. Tariff Act to Combat Forced Labor in Global Supply Chains*.

Bessell has a background in international human rights and conflict prevention. She previously served in the Office of the International Co-Prosecutor of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia. She also previously worked on international conflict resolution issues at the University for Peace in Ethiopia and at the U.S. Institute of Peace.



**James W. McCament**  
**Deputy Under Secretary, Strategy, Policy, and Plans**  
**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

James McCament has served since March 2018 as the first Deputy Under Secretary of the Department's Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (PLCY). In this civil service position, he provides strategic oversight, direction and advice for the more than 160 PLCY employees working within five Assistant Secretary-led PLCY offices: Border Security and Immigration; Cybersecurity, Infrastructure, Risk, and Resilience; Counterterrorism and Threat Prevention; International Affairs; and Trade and Economic Security.

A founding civil service member of DHS, Mr. McCament has served since March 2003 in multiple leadership roles within the Department. He previously served from March 2017 to

March 2018 as the Deputy Director of U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS). As Chief Operating Officer of USCIS he was responsible for overseeing the immigration benefits agency's operations, its \$4 billion plus budget, more than 200 offices and its 19,000 employees in processing more than 8 million applications annually. McCament served from 2015 to 2017 as Deputy Associate Director of USCIS Service Center Operations, overseeing the five USCIS service centers in their processing of more than four million applications annually received. From 2014 to 2015, Mr. McCament served in the roles of acting Chief of Staff and acting deputy chief of staff to the USCIS Director. He also served from 2009 to 2014 as chief of the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs, overseeing a team of more than 140 with responsibility for case work and maintaining relationships with members of Congress and their staff. From 2008 to 2009, McCament served as DHS field office director in Havana, Cuba. From 2006 to 2008, McCament served as the senior counselor to the director of USCIS.

From September 2003 until 2006, Mr. McCament served as a Special Advisor to DHS Secretaries Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff. McCament served as an attorney, and founding member, with the DHS Office of the General Counsel from March-September 2003. Prior to joining DHS, he served as an Honors attorney in the Department of the Treasury Office of the General Counsel from 2001-2003 where he worked on matters related to banking and finance, foreign assets control and anti-terrorism litigation. From 2000-2001 McCament served as a law clerk to then Chief Judge William C. Lee of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. Mr. McCament received his Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame Law School and his bachelor's degree from Mount Vernon Nazarene College. A Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellow and Federal Executive Institute graduate, McCament is bar licensed in Ohio and is adjunct professor of law at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University.



**Keigan Mull**  
**Trade Counsel**  
**Committee on Ways & Means – Democrats**

Keigan Mull has served as Trade Counsel to Democrats on the Committee on Ways and Means since 2014. He played a leading role in the House Democrats oversight of the renegotiation of NAFTA and in negotiations between House Democrats and the Trump Administration that led to the passage of the USMCA by Congress with broad, bipartisan support. Keigan has also led the efforts of Committee Democrats to ensure the aggressive enforcement of the prohibition of goods made by or with forced labor. In addition, Keigan has led the Committee's work on investor-state dispute settlement, currency manipulation, trade remedies, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Trade Promotion Authority, international labor issues, negotiations with the European Union, and general customs issues during his tenure with the Committee.

Keigan graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 2013, serving as John Jackson's research assistant and receiving a certificate in WTO Studies. From 2013 to 2014, he worked in

the international trade group at Hughes, Hubbard & Reed's Washington, D.C., office where he focused on trade remedies and export controls.



**John C. Richmond**  
**Ambassador-At-Large**  
**Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking In Persons October 1, 2018 – Present**

John Cotton Richmond serves as the United States Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and leads the Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. In October 2018, the Senate unanimously confirmed him and President Trump appointed him to lead the United States' global engagement to combat human trafficking and support the coordination of anti- trafficking efforts across the U.S. government.

Ambassador Richmond comes to the highest position in the federal government dedicated to combating human trafficking after a distinguished career in the global battle for freedom. He co-founded the Human Trafficking Institute that exists to decimate modern slavery at its source by empowering police and prosecutors to use victim-centered and trauma-informed methods to hold traffickers accountable and ensure survivors are treated with respect and care. Prior to the Institute, Ambassador Richmond served, for more than ten years, as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit where he was named one of the "Federal Prosecutors of the Year" by the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation. He investigated and prosecuted numerous victim-centered labor and sex trafficking cases throughout the United States. He also prosecuted cross burnings, police misconduct, and neo-Nazi hate crimes cases. Ambassador Richmond regularly served as an expert to the United Nations Working Group on Trafficking in Persons. He also lived in India for three years pioneering International Justice Mission's anti-slavery work.

Ambassador Richmond's work to combat human trafficking has earned numerous honors, including receiving the David Allred Award for Exceptional Contributions to Civil Rights, twice earning the Department of Homeland Security's Outstanding Investigative Accomplishments in a Human Trafficking Award, as well as twice receiving the Department of Justice's Special Commendation Award. Ambassador Richmond has trained judges, prosecutors, federal agents, law enforcement officers, and non-governmental organizations on effective, proactive human trafficking investigative and prosecutorial strategies. He also taught Human Trafficking Law, Policy, and Litigation at Pepperdine School of Law and Vanderbilt Law School. In 2018, while at the Human Trafficking Institute, he co-authored the first Federal Human Trafficking Report that collected and analyzed all the active federal human trafficking cases in the United States. Ambassador Richmond earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Mary Washington and his Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University School of Law.



**Brian White**  
**Director, Global Compliance, Trade & Responsible Sourcing**  
**The J.M. Smucker Company**

Brian White is Director of Global Compliance, Trade & Responsible Sourcing at The J.M. Smucker Company. He is a member of the legal leadership team providing the strategic vision for the Company's compliance program and global logistics operations. His primary responsibilities include global logistics and trade compliance operations, anticorruption, sanctions, responsible sourcing, and supply chain security.

Brian is a licensed U.S. Customs Broker with over 24 years of diverse experience in global logistics and trade compliance. His career began in the customs brokerage business and he has held leadership positions in multiple sectors including retail, consumer electronics, food and agriculture. Companies include the Fritz Companies, Gap, Williams-Sonoma, Monster Cable, Del Monte Foods, Big Heart Pet and now The J.M. Smucker Company.

He serves as the Trade Co-Chair for the 15th term of the Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC). Brian is also a cleared advisor and serves as an appointed member of the United States Trade Representatives Industry Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC 12) for Custom Matters and Trade Facilitation.