



Stephen Hilsen

**Director, Trade Policy & Agreements
U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

Stephen Hilsen is the Director, Trade Policy & Agreements with U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) . In this capacity he is responsible for the development and oversight of CBP's Trade Strategy, program and performance measures for CBP trade activities, Trade Agreements and CBP's international trade policy activities.

Mr. Hilsen has been with Customs for 24 years and during this time has served as Director of Trade Modernization, Director of Analytical Development, Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of CBP, Preclearance Officer in Charge and International Trade Manager. He began his career as a Customs Inspector on the U.S./Canadian land border.



Stephanie Lester

Vice President, International Trade
Retail Industry Leaders Association

Stephanie Lester is Vice President for International Trade at the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA). In this role, she advocates on behalf of the largest, most successful retailers on international trade, customs, and product safety issues. RILA is the trade association of the world's largest and most innovative retail companies. RILA members include more than 200 retailers, product manufacturers, and service suppliers, which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, millions of American jobs and operate more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities and distribution centers domestically and abroad. RILA proudly counts as members six of the top ten U.S. importers.

Prior to joining RILA in 2007, Lester was a professional staff member for the U.S. House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. In this capacity, she advised members of the committee on a variety of international trade matters.

Lester has worked in the U.S. Department of Commerce, serving as chief of staff of the assistant secretary for import administration. She started her trade career at the Department of Commerce as an international trade analyst. Lester holds a Bachelor of Science in Multinational Business and Real Estate from the Florida State University, and a Master of Arts in International Affairs from the American University.



Karen A. Lobdell

**Director
Global Solutions at Integration Point**

Prior to joining Integration Point, she served for over 25 years in the domestic and international logistics industry, legal and consulting industries where she held numerous management positions in the areas of Operations, International Business Development, Sales and Trade Compliance.

Ms. Lobdell's focus for the past 15 years has been international business development and trade compliance. Responsibilities include assisting companies with maximizing the efficiency of their supply chains and containing costs to enhance their overall business performance. Over the past ten years she has been directly involved with Supply Chain Security and Import Safety processes focusing on government regulations, policies and initiatives that affect customers operating in the global markets. Bringing experience from the carrier, broker, forwarder, and importer perspective, she concentrates on assisting companies as they maneuver through the growing maze of supply chain security & import safety rules and programs (such as C-TPAT, 10+2, the impending AEO programs and CPSIA).

Ms. Lobdell is beginning her second term as an appointed member of the Departmental Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of Customs and Border Protection ("COAC"). She will serve as Trade Vice Chair for the twelfth term of COAC and previously served as Trade Chair for the ISF Subcommittee during the eleventh term. She is also a current member of the Trade Support Network (TSN), serving on the Supply Chain Security Committee, as well as the International Trade Data System (ITDS) Committee.

Ms. Lobdell resides in Chicago and is a member of the Board of Directors of Cabrini Connections/Tutor-Mentor Connection, a non-profit organization providing an organized framework that empowers and encourages adult volunteers to contribute their time, effort, ideas and advocacy toward creating life-changing solutions for children in educationally and economically disadvantaged areas.



Jere Suter

Indirect Tax Advisor
Shell Oil Company
Houston, Texas

Jere Suter is an Indirect Tax Advisor with Shell Oil Company. With 14 years of Customs experience, he specializes in the areas of Customs compliance, petroleum foreign-trade zones, the import of bulk petroleum and petrochemical products, and trade agreements and trade preference programs. He is a member of ICPA, NAFTAZ and the API Customs Committee, chairing that body for the 2007-2009 term. Mr. Suter received a B.A. from James Madison University in 1991 and obtained his Customs broker's license in 1998.