



“The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement: A Capitol Hill Conversation” Speakers’ Biographies

The Honorable Susan Schwab

Ambassador Susan C. Schwab, Deputy United States Trade Representative, was nominated to serve as the United States Trade Representative on April 18, 2006, and confirmed unanimously by the Senate on November 10, 2005. In this capacity she is responsible for trade policy development, negotiation, and implementation across a range of issues and regions. Ambassador Schwab’s portfolio includes overseeing U.S. trade relations with Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, and the Americas. In addition she is responsible for USTR operations involving the WTO and multilateral affairs; services and investment; intellectual property; industry, market access and telecommunications; and intergovernmental affairs and public liaison activities. Since her arrival at USTR, Ambassador Schwab has been actively engaged in the development of U.S. strategy in the Doha Round multilateral trade negotiations, and successfully concluded bilateral free trade agreements with Peru and Colombia.

Ambassador Schwab served as Dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Policy from 1995 through 2003. Immediately before joining the administration, she held the position of President and CEO of the University System of Maryland (USM) Foundation and USM Vice Chancellor for Advancement. Schwab came to the University of Maryland from Motorola, Inc., where she served as Director of Corporate Business Development, and where she was engaged in strategic planning and negotiation on behalf of the company in China and elsewhere in Asia. Prior to that appointment she was Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service during the administration of George H.W. Bush.

Schwab spent most of the 1980s as a trade policy specialist and then legislative director for Senator John C. Danforth (R-Mo.), playing a major role in numerous U.S. trade policy initiatives, including landmark trade legislation that Congress enacted in 1984 and 1988. Previously, Schwab served as a Trade Policy Officer in the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Her first job was as an agricultural trade negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Ambassador Schwab is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). She previously served on the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Board of Trustees of the Council for Excellence in Government and the National Selection Committee for the Innovations in American Government Awards program. She holds a B.A. in Political Economy from Williams College, a Masters in Development Policy from Stanford University, and a Ph.D. in Public Administration and International Business from The George Washington University.

Ambassador Schwab has published articles and a book on U.S. trade policy and legislation (“Trade-Offs: Negotiating the Omnibus Trade Act,” Harvard Business School Press, 1994), as well as articles on U.S.–Japan trade relations, trade politics, and public policy education.

In addition to the time she has spent working overseas, Ambassador Schwab is the product of a Foreign Service family and grew up in Africa, Europe and Asia. She currently resides in Annapolis, Maryland.

Panel I

The Honorable Andrés Palacio Cheverra

Andres Palacio Cheverra has served as the Colombian Vice Minister of Labor since June, 2007. Prior to his appointment, he was the General Director of Social Promotion at the Ministry of Social Protection and an advisor to the Minister. He has also worked as an analysis for BRC Investor Services. He received his B.A. in Finance and International Relations from the Universidad Externado de Colombia, and an M.S. in Local Economic Development from London University.

The Honorable Greg Farmer

Greg Farmer is Senior Vice President for Global Government Relations and International Trade for Nortel. He is responsible for working with U.S. government leaders and governing bodies around the globe, coordinating the company's positions on international trade, communications and high tech, tax, and other issues. He is responsible as well for the company's global community relations and giving programs. Mr. Farmer served as Director of Government Relations for Nortel from 1989 to 1991. Prior to returning to Nortel in 1996 Mr. Farmer served as Under Secretary of Commerce under President Clinton. He convened the first-ever Ministerial that helped map a regional economic strategy for the western hemisphere. Mr. Farmer served as Florida's Secretary of Commerce with responsibility for promoting a comprehensive economic development program for the state. He serves on the Board of the Telecommunications Industry Association, the Business Council for International Understanding, and the Center for National Policy. He was appointed by the U.S. Commerce Secretary as a Member of the U.S.-Iraq Business Dialogue. He also serves on the Board of Ford's Theatre. He has had articles published over the past ten years in a number of media outlets, including *Vital Speeches*. Mr. Farmer is a graduate of Florida International University and earned his master's degree from Florida State University.

Panel II

Stanley A. Gacek

Since August 1, 2006, Stanley Gacek has been the Associate Director of the newly restored International Department of the AFL-CIO, the largest national trade union central in the United States, representing 10 million working men and women. He is responsible for representing the Federation to counterpart union centrals, governments, and civil society organizations throughout the world, as well as interacting with many international organizations such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). From 1997 until 2005, Gacek was Assistant Director for International Affairs. Prior to his position at the AFL-CIO, Gacek was Assistant General Counsel to the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), a North American labor organization representing 1.4 million employees in the food and retail industries, from 1979 to 1984. Gacek received his B.A. in social studies, an inter-disciplinary major combining political theory, history, economics and sociology, from Harvard University in 1974, graduating *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1978.

José Luciano Sanín Vásquez

José Luciano Sanín Vásquez is the Director General and a professor of Constitutional Law at the Escuela Nacional Sindical, an organization dedicated to research, education, and advocacy for workers, both collectively and as individual leaders in civil society, based in Medellín, Colombia, a title he has held since April, 2006. He also serves as the President of Citizen Oversight for the Development Plan for the City of Medellín. Prior to becoming the director at Escuela Nacional Sindical, he served as its Academic Director for five years; worked on labor, education, and popular participation at the Instituto Popular de Capacitación; and served as a legal council for various labor organizations. He has written extensively on a range of topics including the Colombian Constitutional Court, political and human rights, civil society, labor movements, and political participation. He studied history at the Universidad de Antioquia, and received his law degree from the Universidad Autónoma Latinoamericana in Medellín.

Juan Pablo Corlazzoli

Juan Pablo Corlazzoli is the former Representative of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights to Colombia, a position he held in 2006 and 2007. He is currently the Secretary General of the Christian Democratic Party in Uruguay and has also held the position of political director at the Uruguayan daily *AHORA*. Corlazzoli has worked extensively in the field of human rights in Guatemala. Prior to his position in Colombia, he served as the Resident Coordinator and Representative for the United Nations Development Program, with a special mandate to cooperate in the implementation of the peace agreements. From 1998 to 2001 he worked with the Peace Mission of the United Nations in Guatemala (MINUGUA) as the Assistant Chief and the Director for Economic Development and Agriculture. Before assuming his role with MINUGUA he was the Primary Council to the UN Secretary General's Representative during the negotiations of the Guatemalan peace accords and served as the Assistant Director General for the United Nations Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees, and Returnees in Central America from 1990 to 1996. In addition to his work in Latin America, Corlazzoli has taken part in U.N. missions in Lebanon, Rwanda, and Mozambique. Corlazzoli was the Director General of the prominent Uruguayan think tank Centro Latino Americano de Economía Humana (CLAEH) from 1972 to 1975, and recently returned to CLAEH as a member of its Advisory Board. He was trained as a sociologist, with specialties in sociology of development and social change, at the University of Lovaina in Belgium.