

MEETING NACo—U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Meeting Participant Bios

Jewel James, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement

Jewel James serves as the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, managing USTR's public outreach efforts to small and large businesses, labor unions, public interest groups, environmental and consumer groups, and state and local governments. Jewel also oversees the U.S. Trade Advisory Committee system. Jewel serves as the primary liaison between the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and its diverse stakeholders to ensure they are a part of the policy-making process.

Prior to joining USTR, Jewel served as Special Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, managing the Obama Administration's relationships with state elected officials. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Jewel was the Director of the Federal-State Relations for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In this capacity, she advised Governor Deval Patrick on matters pending before the U.S. Congress and served as a liaison between the Patrick Administration, the Massachusetts Congressional delegation and the federal government. Previously, Jewel served as the Vice President and Director of Massachusetts Public Affairs for Citizens Bank. While at Citizens, she was responsible for promoting Citizens' brand in Massachusetts - one of its largest markets - and developing and executing its executive positioning, charitable contribution, and external affairs strategy.

An active member of the community, her past civic and community involvement includes membership on the Board of Directors for Project Bread, the largest anti-hunger organization in Massachusetts, and participation on the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's Women's Advisory Board.

Jewel received her undergraduate degree from Howard University and her master's degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She is originally from Decatur, GA and currently lives in Washington, D.C.

Florizelle Liser, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa

Florizelle (Florie) Liser is the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa in the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). In this position, she leads U.S. trade efforts and investment in sub-Saharan Africa and oversees implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). She also leads interagency negotiation and implementation of a number of trade and investment agreements with Sub-Saharan African nations.

Ms. Liser has an extensive background in trade negotiations and Africa. From 2000-2003, she served as Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Industry, Market Access, and Telecommunications. In that position, she was responsible for developing and coordinating U.S. trade policy as it affects industrial and manufacturing interests - including telecommunications, electronic commerce, steel, chemicals, forest products, semiconductors, aircraft, and shipbuilding, among others. She also coordinated industrial market access negotiations in bilateral and regional free trade agreements and in the WTO.

Ms. Liser worked at the Department of Transportation from 1987-2000 as senior trade policy advisor in the Office of International Transportation and Trade. In this capacity, Ms. Liser coordinated trade and transportation issues of importance to developing countries, with a particular focus on Africa. She organized the first U.S.-Africa Transportation Ministerial, helped in developing the Safe Skies for

Africa initiative, and played a key role in preparing former Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater for a number of trips to Africa.

From 1980 to 1987, Ms. Liser worked in the USTR GATT Affairs office on WTO developing country trade issues, including the Committees on Trade and Development, Least Developed Countries, and Balance-of-Payments

As an Associate Fellow at the Overseas Development Council (ODC) from 1975-1980, Ms. Liser served as the ODC source person on Africa and organized seminars on relevant African issues related to ODC's mission of increasing official development assistance to and improving U.S. trade relations with developing countries.

Ms. Liser was a founding member of TransAfrica (participating in the early planning sessions for its national launch), former co-chair of the Education Committee of the Washington, DC Chapter of TransAfrica, and has over many years been actively involved in promoting trade and development policies that recognize Africa's growing importance to the U.S. and its African-American citizens.

Ms. Liser holds a M.A. in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and a B.A. in International Relations and Political Science from Dickinson College. She was born in Colon, Republic of Panama and raised in Brooklyn, New York.