

**NACo International Economic Development Task Force:
Conference Call Agenda**

Thursday, September 1, 2016: 3:00PM – 4:00PM EDT

Phone Number: 1-888-757-2790

Passcode: 476059

Task Force Leadership

- Chair:** The Hon. Larry Johnson, Commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Kathryn Starkey, Commissioner, Pasco County, Fla.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Priscilla Taylor, Commissioner, Palm Beach County, Fla.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Michael Victorino, Councilmember, Maui County, Hawaii
Vice Chair: The Hon. Stephanie Wright, Councilmember, Snohomish County, Wash.

Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order and Welcome – The Hon. Larry Johnson, Commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.
- Roll Call
- Introduction of Speakers
- Introductory Comments from Karen Richardson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. State Department
- Presentation from Mitchell Ferguson, Deputy Director of Bilateral Trade, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. State Department
 - Topic of Presentation: The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), current U.S. trade relations with the countries involved, the debate around TPP and how it could affect both American businesses and county leaders.
- Q & A
- Closing and Announcements

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Speaker Information



Karen Richardson is Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Public Affairs at the U.S. State Department. From January 2009 to February 2014, she worked at the White House as Associate Director in the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs. In this role, she was responsible for developing and managing domestic outreach to NGOs, advocacy organizations, and constituency groups, in close coordination with the White House National Security Staff, to promote the President's position on a broad range of foreign policy issues.

Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Los Angeles, California, Ms. Richardson has a B.A. from Howard University, a J.D. from Howard University School of Law, and a Masters in International Affairs from the London School of Economics.

Mitchell Ferguson is the Deputy Director for Bilateral Trade Affairs in the Department of State's Economic Bureau. He joined the Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in 1995, and has been posted to Embassies throughout Latin America and Africa. Mr. Ferguson's career has focused on bilateral trade, and he has worked to negotiate/support trade agreements with Colombia, Central America, Mexico, and South Africa. Mr. Ferguson recently completed a detail to the Office of the United States Trade Representative in the Office of Japan, Korea, and APEC Affairs, where he helped lead the U.S. delegation to the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment.

Mitch is a native of California, and he attended the California State University in Chico, earning a degree in economics, and the California State University in Sacramento, where he earned an MBA. Mitch is married to Marcela Ferguson, whom he met during his first tour in Colombia, and they have two children, Catalina and Tristan.