



Biography



IRVING A. WILLIAMSON, CHAIRMAN

Irving A. Williamson, a Democrat of New York, is the Chairman of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Chairman Williamson was nominated to the USITC by President George W. Bush on September 7, 2006; renominated on January 9, 2007; and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 1, 2007. He was sworn in as a member of the Commission on February 7, 2007, for a term expiring on June 16, 2014. President Barack Obama designated him Vice Chairman for the term ending June 16, 2012. President Obama designated him Chairman for the term ending June 16, 2014.

Chairman Williamson has more than 40 years of experience in the international and trade policy fields. Prior to his appointment, he was for seven years President of Williamson International Trade Strategies, Inc., a New York-based consulting firm that advised clients on legal, policy, and regulatory issues affecting international trade and business. As a consultant, he worked with over 20 U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donor-funded projects, advising countries on World Trade Organization (WTO) accession, compliance, and participation; he has also conducted WTO and other trade-related training programs all over the world. Much of his work focused on trade with Africa and the Middle East.

From 1993 to 1998, Chairman Williamson was Deputy General Counsel in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). In this position, he served as chairman of the interagency Section 301 Committee, which investigated foreign trade barriers, and worked on implementing legislation for the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement. He served as acting general counsel for seven months, helping manage a 14-attorney office that was engaged in more than 30 dispute settlement proceedings and which was named best government international law office in May 1997. Chairman Williamson played a role in developing President Bill Clinton's Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity in Africa initiative and represented USTR in negotiations with the Congress on the African Growth and Opportunity Act legislation.

Following his USTR service, Chairman Williamson was Vice President for Trade, Investment, and Economic Development Programs at the Africa-America Institute in New York. From 1985 to 1993, he was the manager of trade policy for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Prior to that, Chairman Williamson served for 18 years as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State.

Chairman Williamson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Brown University, a Master of Arts degree in international relations with an emphasis on African studies and international economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a Juris Doctor degree from the George Washington University Law School. He is married to Cheryl A. Parham, has two children, Patrick and Elizabeth, and resides in New York City.

DEANNA TANNER OKUN

Deanna Tanner Okun, a Republican of Idaho, was nominated to the USITC by President William J. Clinton on November 10, 1999, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 19, 1999. She was sworn in as a member of the Commission on January 3, 2000, for a term expiring on June 16, 2008. She served two separate terms as Chairman of the USITC, from June 17, 2010, to June 16, 2012, and from June 17, 2002, to June 16, 2004. She also served two separate terms as Vice Chairman of the USITC, from June 17, 2004, to June 16, 2006, and from June 17, 2000, to June 16, 2002.

Prior to her USITC appointment, Commissioner Okun served as counsel for international affairs to Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK) from 1993-1999, where she was responsible for the international trade issues with which the Senator was involved as a member of the Senate Finance Committee. She also handled international energy and foreign relations issues for the Senator in his position as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Earlier, Commissioner Okun served as a legislative assistant to Senator Murkowski, where she was responsible for his Foreign Relations Committee work, with an emphasis on East Asian affairs. Prior to her work with the Senator, Commissioner Okun was an associate attorney and member of the International Trade Group at the Washington, DC, law firm of Hogan & Hartson. Earlier in her career, she was a research associate specializing in trade at the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC.

Commissioner Okun holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with honors from Utah State University and received her J.D. with honors from the Duke University School of Law. She is originally from Paul, Idaho. Currently, Commissioner Okun resides in McLean, Virginia, with her husband, Bob Okun, and two daughters, Rachel and Kelsi.



Biography



DANIEL R. PEARSON

Daniel R. Pearson, a Republican of Minnesota, was nominated to the U.S. International Trade Commission by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 21, 2004, for the term ending June 16, 2011. He began serving as a Commissioner on October 8, 2003, under a recess appointment. He served as Chairman for the term June 17, 2006, through June 16, 2008, and as Vice Chairman for the term June 17, 2008, through June 16, 2010.

Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Pearson was Assistant Vice President of Public Affairs for Cargill, Inc., in Minneapolis, MN. His work focused primarily on trade policy issues, including the World Trade Organization agricultural negotiations, the efforts of China and other countries to join the WTO, the global “level playing field” initiative for the oilseed sector, the U.S.-Mexico sweetener dispute, and the effects of domestic agricultural policies on U.S.

competitiveness. Before his appointment to Assistant Vice President, he served as a policy analyst in the public affairs department from 1987 to 1998.

From 1981 to 1987, Commissioner Pearson was the agricultural legislative assistant to Senator Rudy Boschwitz in Washington, DC, where he was responsible for legislative and regulatory issues under the jurisdiction of the Senate Agricultural Committee. He also served as staff of the Subcommittee on Foreign Agricultural Policy, chaired by Senator Boschwitz.

From 1979 to 1980, Commissioner Pearson farmed in a diversified 800-acre operation with his father and brother in Ogilvie, Minnesota. His extensive experience encompasses both trade-related matters and hands-on agricultural work.

Commissioner Pearson served as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Baldrige National Quality Program, administered by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Commissioner Pearson holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree, both in agricultural economics, from the University of Minnesota. He resides in Oakton, Virginia, with his wife, Cindy, and two children.

SHARA L. ARANOFF

Shara L. Aranoff, a Democrat of Maryland, was nominated to the Commission by President George W. Bush on April 27, 2005, for the term ending December 16, 2012. Her nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 29, 2005, and she was sworn in as a member of the Commission on September 6, 2005. She served as Chairman of the ITC for the term June 17, 2008, through June 16, 2010, and as Vice Chairman of the ITC for the term June 17, 2006 through June 16, 2008.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Aranoff was Senior International Trade Counsel on the Democratic staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, where she was responsible for legislative and policy issues on international trade and investment, including the Trade Act of 2002; negotiations involving the World Trade Organization, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and numerous free trade agreements; trade remedy laws; Trade Adjustment Assistance; and trade-related environment and labor issues.

From June 1993 until her Senate Finance Committee appointment in January 2001, she served as an Attorney-Advisor in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. International Trade Commission. Earlier in her career, Commissioner Aranoff was an Associate at the Washington, DC, law firm of Steptoe & Johnson, specializing in international trade and public international law. Prior to that, she served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Herbert P. Wilkins, Associate Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Commissioner Aranoff holds a bachelor of arts degree, from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She attended the Institut Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales at the University of Geneva in Switzerland as a Fulbright Scholar from 1984-1985. Commissioner Aranoff is originally from Framingham, Massachusetts. She is married to David Korn, has two children, and resides in Bethesda, Maryland.



Biography



DEAN A. PINKERT

Dean A. Pinkert, a Democrat of Virginia, was nominated to the USITC by President George W. Bush on September 7, 2006; renominated on January 9, 2007; and confirmed by the Senate on February 1, 2007. He was sworn in as a member of the Commission on February 26, 2007, for a term expiring on December 16, 2015.

Prior to his appointment, Pinkert was a senior attorney in the Office of the Chief Counsel for Import Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce. In that position, his work included serving as liaison with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, counsel to the Foreign Trade Zone program, advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative in various trade negotiations (including those leading to the 2006 softwood lumber agreement), and litigation counsel in antidumping and countervailing duty matters before domestic and international tribunals. Pinkert was an Attorney-Advisor in the Office of the Chief Counsel for Import Administration at an earlier stage of his career.

Between his Commerce Department positions, during 2001, Pinkert served as the Trade and Judiciary Counsel to Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV). From 1998 through 2000, Pinkert was a senior associate in the Litigation and Trade group in the Washington, DC, office of King & Spalding, where he represented U.S. companies in antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. He also handled, and supervised, export control matters for the group.

Pinkert holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with high honors from Oberlin College; a Juris Doctor degree with honors from the University of Texas School of Law; and a Master of Laws degree with merit from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

DAVID S. JOHANSON

David S. Johanson, a Republican of Texas, was nominated to the USITC by President Barack Obama on April 8, 2011, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on October 31, 2011. He was sworn in as a member of the Commission on December 8, 2011, for a term expiring on December 16, 2018.

Commissioner Johanson served as International Trade Counsel on the Republican staff of the Committee on Finance of the U.S. Senate from 2003 until his appointment. While on the staff of the Committee on Finance, he was responsible for legislative and policy matters involving negotiations of the World Trade Organization, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and numerous free trade agreements. He assisted in the passage of implementing legislation for free trade agreements between the United States and Australia, Bahrain, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, Singapore, and South Korea. He also worked on legislative matters concerning trade preference programs (the Generalized System of Preferences, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, and the Andean Trade Preference Act), Miscellaneous Tariff Bills, Trade Adjustment Assistance, and the trade-related provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Prior to his employment at the Committee on Finance, he practiced international trade law for six years at the law firm of Stewart and Stewart in Washington, D.C. Earlier in his career, he worked for Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX), Representative Wally Herger (R-CA), and Representative George Radanovich (R-CA).

Commissioner Johanson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University, a Master of Philosophy degree from Cambridge University, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas School of Law. He is originally from Austin, Texas.



Administrative Law Judges

CHARLES E. BULLOCK, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Charles E. Bullock was named Chief Administrative Law Judge at the U.S. International Trade Commission in October 2011, after serving as Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge for two months. He was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) at the USITC in May 2002. Prior to his USITC appointment, he served as an ALJ with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Before he joined the EPA, Judge Bullock served for 24 years with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). For the last 12 of those years, he was an ALJ; prior to assuming his judgeship, he was a trial attorney and then an Assistant General Counsel with that agency. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Bucknell University and earned his juris doctor degree from George Washington University Law School. He is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia.

THEODORE R. ESSEX, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Theodore R. Essex was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge at the U.S. International Trade Commission in October 2007. Prior to his USITC appointment, Judge Essex served as an ALJ at the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals in Cleveland, Ohio. Previously, he served as a consultant to the Compensation and Pension Service of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. From 1984-2005, Judge Essex served in a variety of positions with the U.S. Air Force (USAF), from which he retired in 2005. These positions included Chief of the General Torts Branch of AFLSA/JACT in Arlington VA; Chief of Aviation Law with the Air Education and Training Command; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate with the Air Intelligence Agency; Chief, Operations Law, USAF Headquarters in the United Kingdom; Attorney-Adviser in the AFLEM Office of International Claims and Investment Disputes at the U.S. Department of State; Staff Judge Advocate based in Norway; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate based in the United Kingdom; Circuit Defense Counsel for the USAF Legal Services Center; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate based in Belgium; Area Defense Counsel; and Assistant Staff Judge Advocate. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Miami University in Oxford, OH, and earned his juris doctor degree from The Ohio State University. He holds an active law license in the state of Louisiana and is a registered solicitor in England and Wales.

EDWARD J. GILDEA, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Edward J. Gildea was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge at the U.S. International Trade Commission in December 2008. Prior to his USITC appointment, Judge Gildea served as an ALJ at the Social Security Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals in Peoria, IL. From 1985 to 2004, he was a solo practitioner in general practice in Elmhurst, IL. Earlier, he was a partner at Schwartz & Freeman in Chicago, IL; an Assistant United States Attorney, Criminal Division, with the United States Attorney, Northern District of Illinois; Assistant Illinois Attorney General, Chief of Special Prosecutions, with the Illinois Attorney General in Chicago, IL; a partner at Gillis, Gildea, and Rimland, a law firm specializing in criminal defense; an associate in the Chicago law firm Hardiman, Pesavento & Lynch; and an Assistant State's Attorney with the State's Attorney of Cook County, IL. He attended De Paul University, College of Commerce as an undergraduate and earned his juris doctor degree from De Paul University, College of Law; he holds a masters degree in management from Northwestern University, J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, and an LL.M degree from De Paul University, College of Law. He is a licensed attorney in the State of Illinois and a certified public accountant.

ROBERT K. ROGERS, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Robert K. Rogers was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge at the U.S. International Trade Commission in July 2008. Prior to his USITC appointment, Judge Rogers served as a Supervisory ALJ at the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals in Irvine, CA. Previously, he was an ALJ at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, DC, and at the Social Security Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals in Sacramento, CA. Earlier, he was an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Thousand Oaks, CA; was in private practice as an attorney in Auburn, CA; and served as the City Attorney for the City of South San Francisco. He holds a bachelor degree from San Diego State University and earned his juris doctor degree from Brigham Young University's Clark Law School. He is a member of the State Bar of California.

THOMAS BERNARD PENDER, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Thomas Bernard Pender was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge at the U.S. International Trade Commission in October 2011. Prior to his USITC appointment, Judge Pender served as an ALJ in the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Richmond, VA. Previously, he was an Administrative Judge with the Office of Hearings and Appeals for the Small Business Administration in Washington, DC; Chief Trial Attorney and the Director of Contract Disputes Resolution Center for the Defense Contract Management Agency; Senior Trial Attorney in the Office of the Chief Trial Attorney of the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH; Deputy District Counsel for the U.S. Army Engineer District in Baltimore, MD; General Attorney/Trial Attorney for the U.S. Army Engineer District in Fort Worth, TX; and, while on active duty in the U.S. Army, an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate in Bayonne, NJ, and a Trial Defense Counsel in Tongduchon, South Korea. He holds a bachelor's degree from the Virginia Military Institute and earned his juris doctor degree from Emory University Law School. He is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

DAVID P. SHAW, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

David P. Shaw was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge at the U.S. International Trade Commission in October 2011. Prior to his USITC appointment, Judge Shaw served as an ALJ at the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review (National Hearing Center) in Baltimore, MD. Previously, he was an ALJ with the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Fayetteville, NC. From 1987 to 2010, he served as an Attorney-Advisor in the USITC's Office of the Administrative Law Judges. He holds a bachelor's degree from George Mason University and earned his juris doctor degree from the Washington College of Law at The American University. He is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia.