

## **Alfredo Suescum A.**

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Panama  
to the World Trade Organization  
and other international organizations in Geneva related to trade

Ambassador Suescum is a lawyer by training, a diplomat, and consultant in international trade law and commercial diplomacy, with 27 years of professional experience. He has been assigned to Geneva in his current position since July 2009, a position he also held from 1997 to 2002. His portfolio includes the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the International Standards Organization (ISO), and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

He is the current Chairman (2013-2014) of the TRIPS Council in the WTO, and Chairman ad interim of the TRIPS Council in Special Session. He has also served (2011-2013) as Vice – Chairman of the General Assembly of WIPO and currently sits on the Advisory Committee of UNCTAD. He also chaired (2010 – 2011) the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements of the WTO, and the UNCTAD Commission on Trade and Development (2012-2013).

Between 2006 and 2009, during Panama's membership in the Security Council of the United Nations in New York, he was Ambassador, Alternate Representative of the Republic of Panama to the United Nations. In this role he directed and coordinated all work related to the Security Council, managing a team of professionals assigned to the division.

His projects as a consultant have covered topics such as WTO accession , IP regulation inventories, negotiating trade agreements and rules, dispute resolution, and training for the private sector for participation in trade policy development. He served for seven years as Chief Legal Counsel to the Embassy of Panama in Washington, DC. He has written or made presentations on issues of trade regulation , international trade negotiations, and the role of civil society in the process of formulating trade policy.

Ambassador Suescum has also practiced law in the United States of America, in the areas of corporate law, nonprofit corporations and associations, labor law, administrative law and localities, civil rights and liberties, FOIA (freedom of information), real estate, and media.

He was born in 1962. He is married has one a teenage daughter.

### **Prior Professional Experience:**

12.06 – 2.09 **Ambassador, Alternate Representative of Panama to the United Nations**, New York, NY

Coordinated Panama's work on the Security Council, covering all aspects of the Council's mandate of maintaining international peace and security. Responsibilities included those of a Chief of Staff, advising on policy and procedure, and managing a team of issue experts.

1.02-12.06 **Director**, Corvus Center for Trade and Economic Policy, Inc., Silver Spring, MD.

As Director of the Corvus Center, an international trade consulting practice and a sub-contractor, advised on WTO accessions, IP regulation, negotiation on trade and trade rules, dispute settlement, and trade capacity building. Clients included governments in Central Asia, advising and preparing the Governments on their WTO accession negotiations; and governments and the private sector in Latin America, providing advice on negotiating and implementing various trade agreements.

7.97-1.02 **Ambassador, Permanent Representative** of the Republic of Panama to the World Trade Organization and other international organizations related to trade in Geneva, Switzerland.

The portfolio included also the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Trade Commission (ITC), the International Standards Organization (ISO), and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

Coordinated relations of the Republic of Panama with WIPO. Specific trade areas in WTO included TRIPS, dispute settlement, the General Agreement on Trade in Services, including maritime trade, and trade in financial services; transparency; transition periods for subsidies; electronic commerce; the Government Procurement Agreement; the Information Technology Agreement; accession negotiations, and the ongoing round of WTO trade negotiations and the integrated work program.

2.90 – 7.97 **Chief Legal Counsel**, Embassy of Panama, Washington, DC.

From September to November 1994, also Acting Ambassador and General Consul pending the appointment and confirmation of the new post-holders, following the 1994 Panamanian elections.

Principal responsibilities as Chief Legal Counsel covered treaty negotiations and implementation, coordinating policy and diplomatic initiatives among various Panamanian Government Ministries, and oversight and coordination of all Government of Panama suits and legal cases in the United States. Duties also included advising the Embassy issues such as sovereign immunity, government and public relations, and media analysis. Advised private individuals on government related issues, including international child abduction, immigration and other consular matters.

Advised and coordinated Panama's responses to various petitions pending before various United States government bodies, such as the State Department, Congress, the USTR GSP Subcommittee, and the U.S. Maritime Commission.

8.87 - 2.90 **National Legal Counsel**, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), National Division; and Local 100 SEIU, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Provided legal services and guidance to 43 offices in 27 States, as well as to affiliated labor and community organizations. Acquired extensive transactional and litigation experience in non-profit and for-profit corporations, labor, local governments, civil rights and liberties, real estate, and communications.

## **Education**

### **TULANE LAW SCHOOL**, New Orleans, Louisiana

Juris Doctor Civil and Common Law Curriculum, May 1987

Honors: American Jurisprudence Prize Award, Agency;  
Comparative Law Exchange Program at the Regensburg University Law School,  
Germany

### **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**, New York, New York

Master of Arts; Comparative Literature, May 1984

### **WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY**, Middletown, Connecticut

Bachelor of Arts; *cum laude*, June 1983

Major: College of Letters (Comparative Literature)

Minors: Medieval Studies, German Language and Studies

## **Professional and Special Interest Associations**

Member of the Louisiana and Maryland Bars.

Past Member, Steering Committee, Institutional Capacity Building for Trade and Integration in Central America, InterAmerican Dialogue.

Past President and Conservation Co-Chair of the National Capital Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Former Executive Board Member for the Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited.

Former Steering Committee Member and founding member, Maryland Brook Trout Alliance.

## **Languages**

Completely bilingual in English and Spanish. Fair in German, working knowledge of French.