



*Final Version*

## **STUDY MISSION ON RULE OF LAW AND LEGISLATIVE REFORMS**

*Washington, DC  
April 3 - 12, 2008*

### **MISSION PARTICIPANTS:**

1. Mr. Nguyen Van Thuan – Chairman of the Law Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam;
2. Mr. Dang Van Chien – Vice Chairman of the Law Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam;
3. Ms. Tran Thi Dung – Member of the Law Committee, Deputy from Dien Bien Province;
4. Mr. Vi Trong Le – Member of the Law Committee; Deputy from Phu Tho Province
5. Mr. Ngo Van Minh – Member of the Law Committee; Deputy from Quang Nam Province
6. Mr. Nguyen Huu Nhon – Member of the Law Committee; Deputy from Dong Thap Province
7. Mr. Nguyen Ba Thuyen – Member of the Law Committee; Deputy from Lam Dong Province
8. Mr. Tran Ngoc Vinh – Member of the Law Committee; Deputy from Hai Phong Province
9. Mr. Dang Dinh Luyen – Director of the Legal Department of the Law Committee
10. Mr. Nguyen Truong Giang – Expert of the Legal Department of the Law Committee

### **STAFF ACCOMPANYING THE MISSION:**

1. Mr. John Bentley – Chief Legal Advisor, STAR Vietnam
2. Ms. Phan Cam Tu – Legal Program Officer, STAR Vietnam
3. Ms. Do Hoang Anh – Deputy Chief of Party, VNCI Project

### **U.S. - VIETNAM TRADE COUNCIL VIETNAM SUPPORT TEAM IN WASHINGTON, DC:**

1. Ms. Virginia B. Foote – President, U.S. - Vietnam Trade Council Education Forum
2. Mr. Robert Schiffer – Executive Director, U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council Education Forum
3. Ms. Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy – Project Manager, U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council Education Forum

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Study Mission aims to study the U.S. experience and practices in making legislation and regulations and enforcing them. The participants are interested in understanding more the role of the U.S. Congress in this process as well the role of the court in ensuring that laws and regulations are consistent with the Constitution in terms of substance and authority. In particular, the delegation wishes to study the following subjects:

- The U.S. law making system including the role of committees and public hearings;
- Procedures for making laws and rules and legislation containing these procedures;
- The U.S. experience with codification as a way to ensure consistency, continuing revision of laws and transparency in the legal system;
- Mechanisms used to improve the quality and consistency of laws and regulations;
- Access to legal information and procedures for publication of legal documents;
- How the U.S. meets the WTO requirement that laws and regulations of general application must be published before becoming effective and before they can be enforced;

- The role of the court in law enforcement and ensuring that laws and regulations are consistent with the constitution – in particular: Does the U.S. have a constitutional court, and if not what court carries out the task ;
- The U.S. system of federal and state laws and courts and division of powers between federal and state agencies.

As the supreme law-making body of Vietnam, the National Assembly is reforming its law and rule making procedures in an effort to enhance the speed and quality of law and rule making while ensuring the participation of the public and effective public governance. The Law Committee is the lead Committee in the National Assembly on legislative reforms and supervision of law implementation by the Government. As Vietnam entered the World Trade Organization (WTO) in January 2007, the Committee is tasked with developing a consistent, high quality, and transparent legal system that is consistent with its WTO commitments and makes it easier for people to understand and comply with laws and regulations. To this end, the Committee has the willingness and vision to reform and, therefore wants to study more international experiences in the area of legislative reforms and the development of the rule of law so that it can make better informed decisions regarding ongoing law reforms in Vietnam.

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 3**

3:30 PM **Arrive at Washington International Airport (IAD)**  
Flight number: UA 804 03APR 4 NRTIAD HK9 1600 1530 03APR E

RON **The Carlyle Suites Hotel**  
1731 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009  
Tel: 202 234 3200  
Fax: 202 387 0085

7:00 PM **DINNER (OPEN)**

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 4**

8:30 AM **Meet at the lobby and depart hotel**

9:00-10:00 AM **EMBASSY OF VIETNAM**

- Topic: Briefing
- Speakers:
  - Nguyen Tien Minh – Deputy Chief of Mission
  - Nguyen Nguyet Nga – Minister, Chief Political Officer
  - Cao Tran Quoc Hai – Minister Counselor, Chief Economic Officer
  - Hoang Anh Tuan – Counselor for Congressional Affairs
- Venue: Vietnam Embassy – 1233 20<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036.
- Contact: Tuan Hoang at 202 861 0737 (225) or [tuanhoang@vietnamembassy.us](mailto:tuanhoang@vietnamembassy.us)

10:30 AM-12:00 PM **JEFFERSON HILL – DIRECTOR, JACOBS & ASSOCIATES**

- Topic: Overview of the rule making process followed by U.S. Federal Regulatory Agencies
- Venue: USVTC Office – 1025 Vermont Ave., NW 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20005

- Contact: Jeff Hill at 202 412 8293 or [jeffersonhill@verizon.net](mailto:jeffersonhill@verizon.net) or [jeffhill@regulatoryreform.com](mailto:jeffhill@regulatoryreform.com)

12:30-1:30 PM           **LUNCH (OPEN)**

2:00-3:30 PM           **FREE**

4:00-6:00 PM           **FORMER SENATOR DON RIEGLE**

- Topic: The law and policy making process in the United States
- Speakers:
  - Former Senator Don Riegle – APCO Executive Vice President and Chairman
  - Steve Harris – APCO Senior Vice President and Special Counsel and Don Riegle’s former colleague at the Senate
- Venue: 700 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 800, the Potomac Conference Room, Washington, DC 20005
- Contact: Jenifer Larsen at 202 778 1034 or [jlarsen@apcoworldwide.com](mailto:jlarsen@apcoworldwide.com); Maida Stadtler at 202 778 1265 or [mstadtler@apcoworldwide.com](mailto:mstadtler@apcoworldwide.com)

7:00 PM                   **DINNER (OPEN)**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

AM                       **SIGHTSEEING TOUR**

PM                       **SHOPPING**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**

AM & PM               **FREE**

**MONDAY, APRIL 7**

9:00 AM                 **Meet at the lobby and depart hotel**

9:30-10:30 AM         **UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (USTR)**

- Topic: Vietnam’s BTA/WTO commitments on transparency
- Speaker: David Bisbee – Director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- Venue: USTR Office – 1724 F Street, NW, Room 1, Washington, DC 20006
- Contact: David Bisbee at 202-395-9419 or [David\\_Bisbee@ita.doc.gov](mailto:David_Bisbee@ita.doc.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

11:00 AM-12:30 PM:   **INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE (IIPA)**

- Topic: Vietnam’s BTA/WTO commitments on intellectual property rights
- Speakers:
  - Eric Smith
  - Michael Schlesinger
- Venue: 2101 L Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20037
- Contact: Michael Schlesinger at 202-833-4198 or [schlesin@iipa.com](mailto:schlesin@iipa.com)

*The International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) is a private sector coalition formed in 1984 to represent the U.S. copyright-based industries in bilateral and multilateral efforts to improve international protection of copyrighted materials.*

12:30-1:30 PM           **LUNCH (OPEN)**

2:00-3:30 PM           **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- Topic: Role of the House Judiciary Committee in making legislation and legislative procedures and how the Committee differs from the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- Speakers:
  - Diana Oo – Counsel
  - Susan Jensen-Lachmann – Counsel
- Venue: 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
- Contact: Rinia L. Shelby, Scheduler - Office of Congressman John Conyers, Jr. at Tel: 202.225.5126, Fax: 202.225.0072, or Email: [Rinia.Shelby@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rinia.Shelby@mail.house.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

4:00-5:30 PM:           **OPEN**

7:00 PM                   **DINNER (OPEN)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8**

8:30 AM                   **Meet at the lobby and depart hotel**

9:00-10:00 AM           **TOUR OF THE U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING**

10:00-10:30 AM           **RULES COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- Topic: Role of the House Rules Committee in making legislation and legislative procedures, techniques and mechanisms used by the House of Representatives.
- Speaker: Congressman James P. McGovern (D-3rd/MA)
- Venue: Cannon House Office Building 438 CHOB, The Capitol, Washington, DC 20515 (Southeast of the Capitol on a site bounded by Independence Avenue, First Street, New Jersey Avenue, and C Street S.E.)
- Contact: Daniel Holt – Scheduler of Congressman McGovern at 202 225 6101 (C) or [Daniel.Holt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Daniel.Holt@mail.house.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

11:00 AM-12:30 PM      **CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE (CRS)**

- Topic: How the CRS supports the U.S. Congress and individual Members of Congress with specific examples.
- Speakers:
  - Mark Manyin – Specialist in Asian Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division
  - Walter Oleszek – Senior Specialist in American National Government
  - Morton Rosenberg – Senior Specialist in American Public Law

- Venue: Madison Building, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue, SE, Room 315, Washington, DC 20540
- Contact: Mark Manyin at [MMANYIN@crs.loc.gov](mailto:MMANYIN@crs.loc.gov)
- Note: The CRS would like someone in the delegation to briefly (5 minutes) tell them about some of the changes the National Assembly has put in place since Walter and Morton were in Hanoi in 2000.

*The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is committed to supporting an informed national legislature – by developing creative approaches to policy analysis, anticipating legislative needs and responding to specific requests from legislators in a timely manner. The CRS provides analysis that is authoritative, confidential, objective and nonpartisan.*

12:30-1:30 PM           **LUNCH (OPEN)**

2:00-3:30 PM           **SENATE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL**

- Topic: The role of the Senate Legislative Counsel in the law making process in the United States
- Speaker: Polly Craighill – Senior Counsel, Office of the Senate Legislative Council
- Venue: 668 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
- Contact: Jim Fransen at 202 224 6461 or [Jim\\_Fransen@slc.senate.gov](mailto:Jim_Fransen@slc.senate.gov); Polly Craighill at 202 224 6461 or [mailto:polly\\_craighill@slc.senate.gov](mailto:polly_craighill@slc.senate.gov)
- Note:

4:00-5:30 PM           **THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER**

- Topics:
  - Overview of the Federal Court System and the jurisdiction and role of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit;
  - What powers do courts have to enforce orders, injunctions and judgments?
- Speaker: Mira Gur-Aire – Director of the International Judicial Relations Office, Federal Judicial Center
- Venue: Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, One Columbus Circle, NE, Washington, DC 20002-8003
- Contact: David Kerem at 202 502 4158 or [dkerem@fjc.gov](mailto:dkerem@fjc.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

8:30 AM                   **Meet at the lobby and depart hotel**

9:00 AM-12:00 PM      **OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER, NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING A TOUR OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND MEETING WITH THE ARCHIVIST OF THE U.S.)**

- Topics:
  - Role of the Federal Register and the Archives in the rule-making process of federal agencies;
  - Electronic and hard-copy publication of draft and final regulations;
  - Compilation and maintenance of the Code of Federal Regulations;

- How the U.S. publishes laws and regulations in a manner to meet the WTO requirement that laws and regulations must be officially published before they can become effective and enforceable.
- Speakers:
  - Dr. Allen Weinstein – Archivist of the United States
  - Michael Hussey – Education & Exhibit Specialist
  - Raymond Mosley – Director of the OFR
  - James Hemphill – Special Assistant to the Director
  - Allyson Christou – Attorney, Legal Affairs and Policy
  - Marvin Pinkert – Executive Director of Center of the National Archives Experience
- Venue: National Archives and Records Administration 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001
- Contact: Allyson Christou at 202 741 6024 or [achristou@gpo.gov](mailto:achristou@gpo.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

*The Office of the Federal Register (OFR) provides access to the official text of:*

- *Federal Laws*
- *Presidential Documents*
- *Administrative Regulations and Notices*
- *Descriptions of Federal Organizations, Programs and Activities*

*The OFR also administers the Electoral College and the Constitutional Amendment Process. The Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration work closely to disseminate the official text of Federal laws; Presidential documents; administrative regulations and notices; and descriptions of Federal organizations, programs and activities.*

12:00-1:15 PM

**LUNCH**

1:30-3:30 PM

**OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS (OIRA),  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)**

- Topics:
  - OIRA’s role in the rule making process
  - OIRA’s operation in developing and overseeing the implementation of government-wide policies
- Speakers:
  - Susan Dudley – Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Executive Office of the President
  - John F. Morrall III, Ph.D. – Branch Chief, OIRA
  - Alexander T. Hunt – Policy Analyst, OIRA
- Venue: EEOB, Room # 428, Corner of Penn. Ave and 17<sup>th</sup> Street (The building beside the White House)
- Contact: Mary Anne Calamas (Assistant) at 202 395 4852 or [mcalamas@omb.eop.gov](mailto:mcalamas@omb.eop.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

*The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) is a Federal office that Congress established in the 1980 Paperwork Reduction Act. In addition to reviewing collections of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act, OIRA reviews draft regulations under Executive Order 12866 and develops and oversees the implementation of government-wide policies in the areas of information technology, information policy, privacy, and statistical policy. OIRA also oversees agency implementation of the Information Quality Law, including the peer review practices of agencies.*

*OIRA is part of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which is an agency within the Executive Office of the President headed by a Director who is a member of the President's Cabinet. OMB's mission is to assist the President in overseeing the preparation of the federal budget and to supervise its administration in Executive branch agencies that include procurement, financial managements, information, and regulatory policies.*

4:00-5:30 PM           **OPEN**

7:00PM                   **DINNER (OPEN)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10**

8:30 AM                 **Meet at the lobby and depart hotel**

9:00-11:30 AM         **OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

- Topics:
  - Concept of the U.S. Code and its role in the legislative process
  - How laws are codified in the U.S. Code
  - How the Code is organized, updated, and published
  - Ongoing work to enact the Code into positive law
- Speakers:
  - Peter LeFevre – Law Revision Counsel
  - John F. Wagner Jr. – Assistant Counsel
  - Kenneth Paretzky – Senior Counsel
- Venue: Ford Building Room 308 (East side) at 3<sup>rd</sup> and D Streets, SW, Washington, D.C.
- Contact: Peter LeFevre – Law Revision Counsel at 202 226-2411 or [Peter.Lefevre@mail.house.gov](mailto:Peter.Lefevre@mail.house.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

11:30 AM-12:30 PM   **LUNCH**

1:00-2:30 PM           **CHAIRMAN WILLIAM E. KOVACIC OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

- Topics:
  - Independent regulatory commissions that are part of the federal government
  - The role of administrative tribunals in carrying out the FTC's regulatory mission and how they work
  - Why is FTC independent and how is it organized to be independent
  - Overview of how the FTC makes regulations
- Venue: Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 540, Washington, DC 20580.
- Contact: Catherine Norris at 202 326 2150 or [cnorris@ftc.gov](mailto:cnorris@ftc.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

3:30-5:00 PM           **JUDGE RANDALL R. RADER OF COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT**

- Topics:



- Overview of the Federal Court System and the jurisdiction and role of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit;
- What powers do courts have to enforce orders, injunctions and judgments?
- Venue: U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, 717 Madison Place, NW, # 809 Washington, DC 20439
- Contact: Li Jinrong at 202 633 5861 or [lij@cafc.uscourts.gov](mailto:lij@cafc.uscourts.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure

7:00PM

**DINNER – RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR LE CONG PHUNG**

- Venue: Ambassador’s Residence
- Contact: Tuan Hoang at 202 861 0737 (225) or [tuanhoang@vietnamembassy.us](mailto:tuanhoang@vietnamembassy.us)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11**

8:30 AM

**Meet at the lobby and depart hotel**

9:00-10:45 AM

**LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

- Topics:
  - Introduction to the Library;
  - Facilities and resources available to Members of Congress and the public, including foreign legislative bodies;
  - Other roles of the Library (e.g., in protecting copyrights, etc.);
  - How the U.S. Congress publishes its laws in a manner to meet the WTO requirement that laws must be published before becoming effective.
- Speakers:
  - Dr. Rubens Medina – Chair, Executive Council, GLIN
  - Mark Strattner – Assistant Director of Law Library Services, Collection Services Division
  - Janice Hyde – Program Officer, GLIN (Global Legal Information Network)
  - Robert N. Gee, Esq. – Chief of Public Services
  - Leon Scioscia – Special Assistant
  - Lisa White – Foreign Law Specialist
- Venue: James Madison Memorial Building, 101 Independence Avenue, SE, (LM 240) Washington, DC 20540
- Contact: LeeAnne Buckley – Confidential Assistant at Tel 202 707 3061, Fax: 202 707 1820, and Email: [lbuc@loc.gov](mailto:lbuc@loc.gov) or Lisa White – Law Library Vietnam Desk Officer at 202 707 4987 and [liwh@loc.gov](mailto:liwh@loc.gov)
- Note:

11:00 AM-12:30 PM

**TIM RIESER, SENATOR LEAHY’S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR AND DEMOCRATIC CLERK FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS**

- Venue: 127 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
- Contact: Tim Rieser at Tel: 202 228 3260 or Email: [Tim\\_Rieser@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Tim_Rieser@appro.senate.gov)
- Note: Arrive 15 minutes early for check-in procedure



12:45-2:30 PM

**WORKING LUNCH – WRAP-UP AND KEY LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MISSION**

- Speakers:
  - Law Committee Chairman Nguyen Van Thuan
  - STAR Chief Legal Advisor John Bentley
- Venue: USVTC Office 1025 Vermont Ave., NW 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20005

2:00-4:00 PM

**OPEN**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12**

5:00 AM

**Check out of the hotel**

8:30 AM

**Depart from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
U.S.- Vietnam Trade Council	1025 Vermont Ave., NW, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20005	Tel: 202 263 5630 Fax: 202 637 2007
Virginia Foote		Mobile: 202 413 4453
Robert Schiffer		Mobile: 301 980 4030
Bich Thuy		Mobile: 202-285-4328
Hotel in Washington DC	The Carlyle Suites Hotel – 1731 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20005	Tel: 202 234 3200
Embassy of Vietnam in DC	1233 20 <sup>th</sup> Street NW Washington DC 20036	Tel: 202 861 0737
Boston Coach	Transportation	Tel: 800 672 7676
Taxi in Washington	Diamond Yellow	Tel: 202 387 6200 Tel: 202 544 1212

**SUGGESTED VENUES FOR LUNCH/DINNER**

1. **Meiwah Restaurant** – 1200 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington DC 20036 Tel: (202) 833 2888
2. **Mai Thai Restaurant** - 1200 19th St NW Washington, DC 20036 Tel: (202) 452-6870
3. **Sushi Taro** - 1503 17th St NW, Washington, DC 20036 Tel: (202) 462-8999
4. **Food Court** – Ronald Reagan Building 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20008
5. **Singapore Bistro** - 1134 19th St, NW, Washington, DC 20036 Tel: (202) 659-2660
6. **Bangkok One** - 1411 K St NW # 1, Washington, DC 20005 Tel: (202) 393-6277
7. **Pho 75** – 1721 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22209 Tel: (703) 204 1490
8. **Minh Restaurant** - 2500 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA 22201 Tel: (703) 525-2828
9. **Little Viet Garden** – 3012 Wilson Blvd ,Arlington, VA 22201 Tel: (703) 522-9686