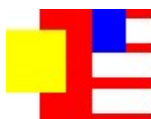


# 2010 U.S. - SPAIN YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM



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**Embassy of Spain in the United States**

## PARTICIPANTS

### **Brian Castro**

Senior Counsel, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority is the primary US private regulator of over 5000 broker dealers and 500,000 securities professionals. As Senior Counsel, Mr. Castro investigates broker misconduct and represents the FINRA in formal enforcement proceedings to enforce federal securities laws and regulations.

### **Wesley Eberle**

Vice President, O'Neill & Associates

Mr. Eberle is the Vice President within the communications practice of New England's largest public affairs firm, providing integrated lobbying and public relations services. Responsible for providing clients with a variety of public relations services, including strategic planning and media relations. His responsibilities include creating and directing regional and national public affairs, media, consumer and crisis communications campaigns for public and private entities.

### **Elizabeth Hearn**

Advisor on European and Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of Treasury

Ms. Hearn provides support to the Deputy Assistant Secretaries for Europe and the Western Hemisphere in the International Affairs policy offices at the Department of Treasury. She provides information on both short and long-term regional programs and monitor a variety of global topics according to their current interests.

### **Erik Leklem**

Senior Strategy Advisor, Department of State

Mr. Leklem is the Senior Strategy Advisor in the Office of Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew and also serves as the Senior Department of Defense Representative to major State and U.S. Agency for International Development review.

**Damian Merlo**

VP External Relations, International Oil Trading Company (IOTC)

Mr. Merlo currently serves as Vice President for External Affairs in Washington D.C., for the International Oil Trading Company (IOTC) which is headquartered in Boca Raton, FL. IOTC and is a multi billion dollar energy company operating world wide and focusing on the refining, shipping, storage and trade of fuel oils, asphalt, as well as ethanol. Mr. Merlo handles all government relations for the company with the USG (both executive and legislative) as well as government and commercial relations in Latin America.

**Steve Mirmina**

Senior Attorney, NASA

In this position, Mr. Mirmina is responsible for international legal issues related to the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station. Additionally, he is the lead attorney for Telecommunication issues.

**Daniel Pedrotty**

Director of Office of Investment, AFL-CIO

Mr. Pedrotty is the director of the AFL-CIO's Office of Investment. The Office of Investment organizes workers' capital (pension funds and savings plans) into a voice for corporate accountability and retirement security. He also represents the Federation with the media, lawmakers and agencies on the issues of capital markets and corporate governance, including serving as Rich Trumka's liaison to President Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

**Jacki Schechner**

National Communications Director, Healthcare for America Now

Ms. Schechner is the National Communications Director for Health Care for America Now which is the the United States' largest health care campaign. She spearheads all national and local partner communications work for HCAN.

**J.V. Schwan**

Senior Manager for International and Federal Affairs, Baxter International

Mr. Schwan provides strategic advice and intelligence to senior management on the impact of international public policy issues to Baxter's businesses and represent the company's interests before Congress, regulatory officials and foreign governments throughout the world

**Mark Vlasic**

Partner, Ward & Ward LLC

Mr. Vlasic helps manage a law firm focused on international law, international trade, business law, litigation and intellectual property issues; provide legal and strategic advice to clients regarding international law, international trade, and business diplomacy matters.