



THE U.S.-SOUTH AFRICA BUSINESS COUNCIL

Negotiating New Frontiers

A special project of the National Foreign Trade Council

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Council Announces Appointment of New Deputy Director

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For Immediate Release*

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The U.S.-South Africa Business Council is pleased to announce that Michael Allen Lake has joined the organization as Deputy Director. He will serve under Executive Director Dan O'Flaherty, managing the day-to-day operations of the Business Council, as well as developing and implementing initiatives designed to meet the needs of our member companies, foster strong bilateral commercial relations, and promote increased partnerships between the South Africa and the U.S.

Michael brings to the Business Council a diverse background: the son of a former U.S. Ambassador, he has lived and worked in countries on four continents, including Nigeria. For the past several years, Michael has been an independent consultant specializing in project management, research and analysis, and strategic planning for a variety of international commercial projects in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. He has worked on trade policy and commercial development, small- and medium-sized enterprises, intellectual property rights protection, understanding foreign business cultures, and science and technology policy.

Michael served at the newly-opened U.S. Embassy in Mongolia in the early 1990's where he worked closely with the commercial section. He was the assistant to the president of the International Intellectual Property Alliance, a lobbying firm specializing in international copyright issues, and vice president (operations) for a high tech start-up company specializing in offshore data warehousing and legal risk management. He has also worked with congressional groups on both sides of the aisle, including as an analyst/investigator providing opposition and vulnerability research for campaigns in the 2004 election cycle.

Michael holds a degree in philosophy from St. Andrews Presbyterian College and a masters with an emphasis on international law from the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs. He is currently co-authoring a book on the political and economic transition in Mongolia. His demonstrated creative problem solving will make a strong contribution to the work of the Business Council.

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