# POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Commissioner/Chairman, United states international trade commission

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| **OVERVIEW** | |
| Senate Committee | Finance |
| Agency Mission | To administer U.S. trade remedy laws within its mandate in a fair and objective manner; provide the president, the U.S. Trade Representative and Congress with independent analysis, information and support on matters of tariffs, international trade and U.S. competitiveness; and maintain the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. |
| Position Overview | The commissioners of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) implement U.S. trade laws and assist the president and Congress by providing them with information and analysis relevant to the formulation of U.S. foreign trade policy. |
| Compensation | Chairman: Level III $165,300 (5 U.S.C. § 5314)  Commissioners: Level IV $155,500 (5 U.S.C. § 5315)[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Reports to | USTIC is an independent, quasi-judicial federal agency |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | |
| Management Scope | In fiscal 2015, USITC had $82 million in budget outlays and 403 employees.[[2]](#endnote-2) |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Implements U.S. trade law and contributes to the development of sound and informed trade policy * Participates in the development, administration and implementation of commission policies and procedures for administrative and legal matters; financial and resources management; and organizational development of the commission * Oversees hiring of agency senior executives as well as administrative law judges |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Commission requirements: * Commissioners are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate for nine-year terms, unless they are appointed to fill unexpired terms[[3]](#endnote-3) * Commissioners are drawn equally from the president’s political party and from the opposition political party * Commissioner requirements: * Willing and able to work across party lines, given the three-three partisan split * Well-versed in the regulation of international trade, although being a lawyer is not necessary |
| Competencies | * Ability to question witnesses effectively (desirable given the importance of public hearings in Title VII trade remedy matters) * Ability to analyze complex legal and economic arguments (desirable) * Ability to absorb principles of new areas of regulatory practice when Congress places new responsibilities on the agency * Ability to navigate and manage a complex intra-agency structure and to work effectively with other government agencies and Congress |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Meredith M. Broadbent (2012 to 2017): Senior Advisor and William M. Scholl Chair in International Business, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Industry and Telecommunications, Office of the United States Trade Representative, George W. Bush Administration; Senior Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee on Trade, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives[[4]](#endnote-4) | |
| David S Johanson (2011 to 2017): International Trade Counsel, Committee on Finance, Senate; Associate Attorney, Stewart and Stewart; Legislative Director, Office of Representative George Radanovich (R-CA), House of Representatives[[5]](#endnote-5) | |
| F. Scott Kieff (2013 to 2017): Senior Fellow, The Hoover Institution; Member, Patent Public Advisory Committee, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce; Professor, School of Law, Washington University[[6]](#endnote-6) | |

1. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31, May 5, 2017), contains a provision that continues the freeze on the payable pay rates for certain senior political officials at 2013 levels during calendar year 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/OrgDocument.asp?OrgId=-1&LDIBookId=19&LDIOrgId=155147&LDISecId=201&FromRecent=0&Save=1&Position=-1#O155147 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. OPM [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/PeopleDocument.asp?PersonId=-1&LDIPeopleId=463075&Save=1 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/PeopleDocument.asp?PersonId=-1&LDIPeopleId=363025&Save=1 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/PeopleDocument.asp?PersonId=-1&LDIPeopleId=757586&Save=1 [↑](#endnote-ref-6)