



GRANT ALDONAS JOINS CSIS AS SCHOLL CHAIR IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, October 13, 2006 – Grant D. Aldonas, former U.S. Department of Commerce Under Secretary for International Trade will join the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) as its Scholl Chair in International Business on October 17, 2006.

“Grant Aldonas is an outstanding choice for the Scholl Chair of International Business,” said former U.S. Trade Representative and CSIS Counselor and Trustee Carla A. Hills. “He brings to CSIS a unique combination of knowledge of both global and domestic economic policies and politics as well as his boundless energy and good humor.”

Mr. Aldonas joins CSIS after working as a partner in the international trade practice of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP where he focused on international trade and investment, and international trade policy.

Prior to joining the law firm of Akin Gump, Mr. Aldonas served in the Bush administration as the Commerce Department’s Under Secretary for International Trade from 2001-2005. As head of the Department’s International Trade Administration, he was responsible for advising the Secretary of Commerce on international trade and economic issues, and managed 2,400 ITA employees dedicated to expanding overseas markets for American goods, services, capital and ideas.

Mr. Aldonas’ work at the Commerce Department focused on creating a better economic environment for American business at home and abroad, from negotiating new agreements on market access to expanding export opportunities for American business to enforcing trade agreements and the U.S. trade laws designed to deter unfair trade practices. Mr. Aldonas was also a leading voice for the U.S. manufacturing sector, serving as the executive director of the President’s Export Council, on the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee and on the board of directors of the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Prior to his work at the Commerce Department, Mr. Aldonas served as chief international trade counsel to the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, advising the chairman on international trade and economic matters before the Committee. During Mr. Aldonas’ tenure, Congress passed a number of significant trade bills, including the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China, legislation replacing the Foreign Sales Corporation provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, and a series of tariff bills.

Before entering public service, Mr. Aldonas spent more than 12 years in private practice. During that time, he also served as counsel to the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform and as an adviser to the Commission on U.S.-Pacific Trade and Investment. He was appointed chair of the American Bar Association’s Task Force on Multilateral Investment Agreements, and served as vice chair of the ABA Section of International Law and Practice’s Committees on Trade and Foreign Investment.

Earlier in his career, while a Foreign Service officer, Mr. Aldonas served as director of South American and Caribbean affairs in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and as a special assistant to the undersecretary of State for economic affairs. He received his B.A. in 1975 and his J.D. in 1979 from the University of Minnesota.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have one of the world’s leading experts in the international trade arena join us as our Scholl Chair,” said CSIS President and CEO John J. Hamre. “Grant Aldonas’ extraordinary wealth of experience,

vision, and capabilities are certainly a welcome addition to the Center.”

In addition to joining CSIS, Mr. Aldonas will continue to serve as an adjunct professor of law and member of the board of directors at the Georgetown University Law Center in affiliation with the Institute for International Economic Law, teaching courses on trade and development and the resolution of international trade disputes.

Mr. Aldonas is the principal managing director of Split Rock International, a Washington, DC-based consulting firm. He is co-chair of the project on transatlantic leadership in the global economy at the Atlantic Council. He serves on the board of directors of the Center for International Private Investment and the Global Fairness Initiative.

The CSIS Scholl Chair in International Business, established in 1981, examines the relationship of international trade and investment to economic growth, innovation, sustainable development, and political autonomy in the United States and throughout the world.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, non-profit organization founded in 1962 and headquartered in Washington, D.C. It seeks to advance global security and prosperity by providing strategic insights and practical policy solutions to decision makers. CSIS serves as a strategic planning partner for the government by conducting research and analysis and developing policy initiatives that look into the future and anticipate change.

H. Andrew Schwartz
CSIS
www.csis.com