



CENTER for INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE STUDIES

Presents a Roundtable Discussion:

Immigration Policy and America's Foreign Relations

Tuesday, March 3rd at 2:30pm

Location: UH Student Center Theater

Panelists:

The Honorable Christopher Ashby
Former US Ambassador to Uruguay

Beto Cardenas
Counsel, Vinson & Elkins LLP

The Honorable Marty McVey
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
President of McVey & Associates LLC
Candidate for Mayor of the City of Houston

Gordon Quan
Managing Partner, Quan Law Group

The Honorable Christopher Ashby



Christopher Ashby is a native of Dallas, Texas. He graduated from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and the University of Texas Graduate School of Business. He has attended executive education programs at Harvard Business School and the Sloan School at MIT.

In 1973 he joined Chemical Bank in New York. He was posted four years in Jakarta, Indonesia as Country Manager and President of a joint venture merchant bank, and ten years in Madrid, Spain, where he was Country Manager of Spain and Portugal.

In 1989, he returned to New York, where he ran the bank's business with the United Nations and the New York diplomatic community. After mergers with Manufacturers Hanover and Chase Manhattan, he managed all the bank's retail branches in midtown Manhattan. His last assignment was manager of a start-up retail investment business.

In 1997, Mr. Ashby was appointed US Ambassador to Uruguay, stationed in Montevideo. He was directly involved in efforts to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas. When his tour in Uruguay was over in 2001 he became President International of NIC Computer Company based in Palo Alto, California. In 2004 he joined Smith Barney as a Financial Advisor, and moved to Wells Fargo Advisors in 2007. He became Chief Financial Officer of Spring Branch Hospital in 2012.

He was President of the Houston World Affairs Council and on the National Advisory Board of the Small Business Administration. He was on the board of the Houston Community College Foundation. He was a Captain in the Marine Corps from 1969 to 1973, including one tour as in infantry platoon commander in Viet Nam. Mr. Ashby is married to Amy Ashby, and has four children and five grandchildren.

Beto Cardenas
Counsel, Vinson & Elkins LLP



Beto represents businesses affected by America's immigration laws and advises corporate and academic clientele seeking resolution on statutory and regulatory issues. He has extensive experience in drafting legislative solutions on diverse matters and in his tax policy practice assists clients with issues pending before governmental entities.

During the 109th and 110th Congress, Beto served as general counsel to the senior United States Senator from Texas, the Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, advising her on judicial appointments, legal affairs, and legislative matters. Prior to joining Senator Hutchison's senior staff, Beto was employed by the Texas Tech University System as the counsel to the chancellor and director of federal relations. In his capacity with Texas Tech, he coordinated federal research initiatives and served as a liaison with members of Congress, executive agencies, respective campus administrators, and the System's Board of Regents.

Building a better Houston is a passion for Beto and he dedicates a substantial portion of his time to making sure non-profit organizations and poverty-stricken individuals have high-quality legal representation. He is a member of the board of directors for various local organizations and is a frequent speaker at both domestic and international conferences on immigration policy and the legislative process.

As a result of his work, Beto has been recognized as one of Five Outstanding Young Houstonians in 2009, one of Five Outstanding Young Texans in 2010, and by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the Top 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States.

The Honorable Marty McVey
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
President of McVey & Associates, LLC



Hon. Marty McVey is an accomplished businessman and public servant with over 15 years of International Development, New Business Development and Social Justice expertise. In 2011, Mr. McVey was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Board for International Food and Agricultural Development [BIFAD]. His responsibility with the agency includes providing guidance to the federal government on investments in training, research, and technology transfer to developing countries. He is Chairman for the Haitian Reconstruction Task Force.

By profession, Mr. McVey is founder and shareholder of 14 highly successful Private Equity and award-winning businesses in the Real Estate, Alternate Energy Services and Healthcare sectors.

An accomplished public speaker, Mr. McVey has guest lectured at many colleges and universities including Texas A&M University, University of Missouri, the University of Louisiana, The University of St. Thomas and the University of Houston. He earned a Bachelor and Master of Business Administration with concentration in Management from American University. He received a Global Master of Business Administration from Georgetown University as well as a Máster Universitario en Administración Empresas from Esade University in Madrid, Spain. Additionally, Mr. McVey is a graduate of Harvard Business School's 'Developing Future Leaders' Program.

Mr. McVey's civic engagements are far-reaching. He is a donor and supporter of several charitable organizations including: Halo House Foundation, Human Rights Watch and the World Affairs Council. Mr. McVey is a lifetime member of the NAACP, a National Advisory Board Member of the Tahirih Justice Center, and a committee member on the Bush-Clinton Ike Coastal Recovery Fund. He is also actively involved in promoting the economic development and sustainability of the City of Houston.

You can follow Mr. McVey on Twitter: [@MartyMcVey](https://twitter.com/MartyMcVey)

Gordon Quan
Managing Partner, Quan Law Group



Gordon J. Quan, a nationally recognized immigration lawyer, has a deep knowledge of the statutes and the cases, viewing the law in terms of its impact upon each person, family and business he has helped. He describes his successes by talking about the doctor whose clinic he helped start, the retail business he kept alive and thriving, or the young man he helped achieve the American dream. Mr. Quan's career has always included remarkable work for both his clients and his community.

As managing partner of the Quan Law Group, he has been helping clients with both complex and ordinary immigration problems for 30 years. It's earned him many national accolades including the prestigious *Chambers USA's* title of "Nationwide Senior Statesman" in immigration law and *The Legal 500's* list of "Leading Lawyers" in immigration. He's earned selection to *Best Lawyers in America*, *Who's Who in American Law*, *International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* and *Texas Super Lawyers*. He has the highest possible preeminent AV Rating from his legal peers through Martindale-Hubbell.

Mr. Quan is certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Immigration and Nationality Law and has three decades of experience successfully arguing cases before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Board of Labor Certification Appeals and in federal courts.

Mr. Quan has been active fostering legal groups to promote the specialty of immigration law, and he has regularly shared his expertise widely, hosting a weekly radio program on immigration law in which he answers callers' questions.

He has served as chair of the Texas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and as a member of the national board of governors of that group. He was a founding member of the Texas State Bar Association's Immigration Section and chaired the section in 2011. He was instrumental in the City of Houston's creation of an Office for Immigration and Refugee Affairs. Mr. Quan serves on the board of trustees for the South Texas College of Law and the Advisory Board of the University of Houston Immigration Law Clinic. And he is a founding member of the Asian Bar Association of Houston.

He has chosen to give time to his community as well. In 1999, Mr. Quan was elected the first Asian-American to serve as an "at large" member of the Houston City Council. In 2002, he was selected by the Mayor and Council of Houston to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. He also has served as President of the Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials of the National League of Cities.

Mr. Quan has frequently earned accolades for his legal and community contributions. He was selected for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Trail Blazer Award (2000), the Houston Asian American Bar Association's Impact Award (2007), the Council of Legal Education Opportunity's CLEO Diversity Legacy Award (2008) and the South Texas College of Law Impact Award (2013). He was named Texas Immigration Lawyer of the Year in 2012 with Super Lawyers, published by Texas Monthly, the Justice David Wellington Chew Award for exemplary public service and professional accomplishment by the Asian Interest Section of the State Bar of Texas in 2012.

Before opening the Quan Law Group, Mr. Quan co-founded Foster Quan LLP in 2009. He had previously founded Quan, Burdette & Perez.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas, a Master in Education from the University of Houston, and his law degree from the South Texas College of Law.