

Karen M. Lezny
Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the
Free Trade Area of the Americas

Ms. Lezny has been responsible for the formulation of U.S. policy on the negotiation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) since the first Summit of the Americas, which was hosted in Miami in December 1994. The FTAA is a comprehensive free trade agreement to be negotiated among all 34 countries in North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean by the year 2005.

Since November 2002, when the United States and Brazil assumed the Co-Chairmanship of the FTAA negotiations at the Ministerial and Vice Ministerial level, Ms. Lezny also has been managing the U.S. side of the FTAA Co-Chairmanship of the negotiations, including coordinating with the Brazilian Government side of the Co-Chairmanship.

Ms. Lezny has worked closely with representatives in the other 33 governments to achieve concrete progress in the FTAA negotiations at each of the eight Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial meetings and the seventeen meetings of the Trade Negotiations Committee ("TNC", consisting of the Vice Ministers for trade), as well as at the Summit of the Americas meetings in 1998, 2001, and 2005.

From 1993 through 1997, Ms. Lezny served as the primary U.S. trade negotiator and policy advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative on international trade issues with the five Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela).

Prior to joining the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Ms. Lezny served with the U.S. Department of State.

Ms. Lezny received her M.A. and B.A. in International Studies from the Johns Hopkins University.