



British-American Business Association Washington, D.C.

Fostering valuable UK-US trans-Atlantic business relationships for more than 30 years

Newsletter

July 2021

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Our Platinum Members

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Members' Appreciation Event and Annual General Meeting Welcomed Members Virtually for 2021!

Every June, BABA members become the focus of our Members' Appreciation event, in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting. After all – it all begins with you – our members!

Meeting virtually again in 2021, we would like to thank all the members who attended the Zoom event on June 16 and to also thank the members who renewed over this past year. BABA's value is created by engagement of our members. We hope to re-connect with you soon in person!

Thank You!

During the AGM, BABA elected the following members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term: **Mark Huntley**, Regional Vice President and General Manager, Fairmont Georgetown Washington, DC; **Courtney Oldham**, Chief Operating Officer, Capital Alpha Partners; and **Scott Thompson**, Global Aerospace and Defense Leader, PwC.



Mark Huntley, Fairmont



Courtney Oldham, Capital Alpha Partners



Scott Thompson, PwC

Look for our Summer Events Calendar!

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Join your friends and colleagues for our dynamic business and social programs

From the President . . .

Dear Members & Colleagues,

Happy Summer! I hope everyone is enjoying a bit of relaxation. This is certainly a summer of transition for us all, in the US, the UK, and across the globe. I look forward to BABA moving ahead with the benefit of experience from the past unique year. BABA had a very strong year, despite the challenging conditions, thanks to our dedicated membership. We will take with us the lessons on how to make the most of virtual engagement, but I also look forward to seeing everyone in person!



In our ongoing support of UK-US trade and investment, we continue to work closely with the British Embassy and greatly value their partnership. Collaboration with our colleagues at the Embassy and of course the support of **Ambassador Pierce** is essential for BABA. As part of that collaboration, I'd like to announce that BABA has a new British Embassy Ex-Officio Board Director, **Sarah Montgomery**. Sarah joined the British Embassy Washington this past March as **Trade and Economic Counsellor**, overseeing the Embassy's trade, agriculture, economics and social policy engagement. We all look forward to working with Sarah and her Embassy colleagues especially in such a consequential year, with the recent G7 summit in the UK and the upcoming COP26 meetings.

I'd like to welcome two new directors to the Board: **Courtney Oldham** with Capital Alpha Partners and **Mark Huntley** with the Fairmont Hotel. They were both elected at the June AGM along with **Scott Thompson** with PwC who was elected for a second term. I also want to thank those Directors whose terms ended: **Carmie McCook** with Carmie McCook & Associates and **Chris Parker** with New Horizon Wines. I thank them for their dedication and service to BABA and look forward to their continued participation. I'd also like to thank **Tom Harrell** with **Indigo DNA**. Tom recently resigned from the Board after serving for numerous years including holding the position of Vice President and Co-Chair of the Health & Life Sciences Committee. Tom will continue to be active as a member and I look forward to seeing him at BABA events.

In our ongoing efforts to bring value to our members, I'd like to note the addition of a new Committee, the Program Committee, which will be co-chaired by **Hilary Fordwich** with **Strelmark**, a business development firm, and **Jan Mul** with **Fairfax County Economic Development Authority**. Please contact the BABA Office at info@babawashington.org if you are interested in participating on the Committee. Secondly, I have asked BABA Director, **Jill Landefeld** to work on an update of the overarching BABA strategy, to ensure our Association is sustainable and continues to bring maximum benefit to our members.

Thanks to the Board for all their hard work and dedication to ensuring our organization flourishes, and to our members for your support and invaluable contributions. The next year will certainly bring ongoing challenges as business adapts and recovers, but I'm optimistic knowing the strength of our BABA community.

Your thoughts on what we do at BABA are always welcome so feel free to contact me at President@babawashington.org. I will do my best to serve you, our members, and continue to steer our organization towards increased growth and relevance in the Greater Washington Region.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Jennifer Taylor Hodges
President@babawashington.org

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Jill Landefeld/Jan Mul, Marketing/Business Development
Hilary Fordwich/Jan Mul, Program
Chris Parker, Small Business
John Dickerman/Jennifer Taylor Hodges, Trade & Policy
Miriam Smallman/John Bleed, Young Professionals

ADMINISTRATION

Patricia A. Karhuse, MBE, Executive Director
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Embassy News

On 27 January, Chancellor Rishi Sunak spoke with new US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen – her first foreign call since being confirmed in the role.

On 19 February, the UK hosted a virtual G7 Leaders' call, in which Prime Minister Boris Johnson convened leaders to discuss how the world's leading democracies can work together to ensure equitable distribution of coronavirus vaccines around the world, prevent future pandemics and build back better from coronavirus.

In late February, the UK launched a G7 Economic Resilience Panel, aiming to advise G7 Leaders on how to improve the resilience of global supply chains in critical sectors, promote high standards, good governance and competitive global markets, and support open economies and societies in harnessing and retaining the benefits of new technology and innovation.

On 22 March, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss spoke with newly-confirmed US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, one of Tai's first calls with an international counterpart. They noted the important role that free and fair trade must play in supporting businesses and workers in the economic recovery from Covid-19, and recognized the US and UK's shared priority to shape the global trade agenda in 2021, including on issues such as WTO reform, tackling climate change and the future of digital trade and data.

They both reflected on the progress made in UK-US Free Trade Agreement negotiations and the importance of continuing to work together to build a closer economic relationship, and agreed to have further discussions.

On 31 March, the Trade Secretary launched the inaugural G7 Trade Track, in which she encouraged G7 partners to develop a set of principles for digital trade, underlining the common goals of Trade Ministers around open digital markets and the fight against protectionism. The UK also sought to champion the cause of values-driven free trade and work with G7 partners to challenge practices that distort markets. The group also discussed how to make global trade greener.

In June, President Biden arrived in the UK – his first overseas trip as President – for the G7 Summit and a meeting with Prime Minister Johnson. During the bilateral meeting, the President and Prime Minister agreed a new Atlantic Charter – a modernization of the original charter agreed between Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The new Atlantic Charter outlines eight areas where the Prime Minister and President Biden resolve to work together for the benefit of humanity. Many of these are based around our enduring values, including defending democracy, reaffirming

the importance of collective security, and building a fair and sustainable global trading system.

The bilateral portion of President Biden's visit also served as the catalyst for a number of new UK-US announcements.

Both leaders agreed to work to relaunch UK-US travel as soon as possible through a new travel taskforce. The taskforce will work to explore options for resuming up UK-US

travel and ensure that the UK and US closely share thinking and expertise on international travel policy going forward. The Prime Minister and President also agreed to pursue a landmark bilateral technology agreement to be signed next year. The agreement will start a new era of strategic cooperation by reducing the barriers British tech firms face when trying to work with their US counterparts.

Discussions between the Prime Minister and President Biden also covered other areas of bilateral cooperation, including reinforcing their shared commitment to preserve the gains made by Good Friday/Belfast Agreement in Northern Ireland.

On 17 June, after talks between International Trade Secretary Liz Truss and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai in London, both sides announced an agreement to suspend retaliatory tariffs for five years and cooperate more closely on tackling unfair trade practices by non-market economies. The UK and US will now work together to put the agreement into practice and strengthen cooperation in the large civil aircraft sector.



Brexit and Finance: An Update on Issues And Experiences

Organized by BABA's Financial Services Committee

On March 18th, led by Moderator, **Duncan Stocks**, Principal, National VAT Leader, RSM US, a panel of three addressed current Brexit related issues including the UK's proposed new Freeports provisions, as well as the growing number of queries on post-Brexit customs, import VAT and export control issues. The panel also shared insights from HMRC and addressed freeport and inland freezone experiences in the US.



Simon Hart
Partner International,
RSM UK



Malcolm Dowden
Legal Director,
Womble Bond Dickinson



Christoph Schlotthaer
Managing Partner,
MOORE France



Duncan Stocks
Principal, National VAT
Leader, RSM US

Platinum Member Womble Bond Dickinson Elects New UK Managing Partner

Womble Bond Dickinson (WBD) has elected Paul Stewart to succeed Jonathan Blair as UK Managing Partner at the end of his current term in early 2022. Stewart also will serve as Co-Chair of Womble Bond Dickinson's Global Board. Jonathan, who has been UK Managing Partner since 2008, chose not to stand for re-election and will be staying with the firm when he stands down on January 31, 2022.

Paul, a partner and Head of the Commercial Disputes and Regulatory team, has been with the firm for 20 years. Paul is a highly regarded litigator, with particular experience working with clients in the rail and manufacturing sectors. He has also held the roles of Training Principal and Graduate Recruitment Partner for many years, as well as a number of non-executive roles outside the firm.



Womble Bond Dickinson is a transatlantic law firm with more than 1,000 lawyers based in 27 UK and US office locations. The firm provides core legal services including: Commercial, Corporate, Employment, Pensions, Dispute Resolution, Litigation, Finance, Banking, Restructuring, Insolvency, IP, Technology and Data, Private Wealth, Projects, Construction and Infrastructure, Real Estate and Regulatory Law. Please visit <https://www.womblebonddickinson.com/us/about>.

Panel Presents on the New Face of Travel in A “Post” Pandemic Era



Organized by BABA's Program Committee

On May 18 expert speakers from the transportation and hospitality industries as well as a UK government official addressed opportunities, challenges and updates on the various aspects of business and leisure travel for now as well as in the foreseeable future.

Joining BABA Moderators, **Hilary Fordwich** and **Jan Mul**, both co-chairs of the Program Committee, were: **Ilan Chyun**, Director, Airline Business Development, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority; **Derrick Surratt**, Manager, Government Sales - North America Sales Hub - British Airways & Iberia; **Paul Swartz**, Regional Sales Man-

ager – Greater Washington/DC and New England, American Airlines; **Mark Huntley**, Manager Fairmont Hotel, Washington, DC; and **Nicholas Woodbridge**, First Secretary, Transportation Policy, British Embassy, Washington DC.

The panel presented on a wide-range of topics including the rules and regulations for business and leisure travelers coming to the US; what will change and when; and the latest on vaccination passports. Also addressed were travel safety and convenience at airports, hotels and on airlines.

To view the entire slide presentation, go to www.babawashington.org. Click on “Past Events”.



*Ilan Chyun
Metropolitan
Washington
Airports Authority*



*Derrick Surratt
British Airways*



*Paul Swartz
American Airlines*



*Mark Huntley
Fairmont,
Georgetown*



*Nicholas Woodbridge
British Embassy*

Patrick Davies, Former Deputy Ambassador to The US, Kicks off first BABA Book Series Program

Organized by BABA's Program Committee

Moderated by **Jennifer Taylor Hodges, BABA President** and **John Dickerman, BABA Vice President**, our first Book Series event featured **Patrick Davies**, author of "The Great American Delusion". Davies is a writer, company adviser and mentor. He was a British diplomat for 25 years wrapping up his career as the UK's Deputy Ambassador to the United States from 2013-18 where he worked alongside the Trump and Obama White Houses for five years.

Davies' first taste of the US was on a student exchange program to a high school in California in 1987. He has more

than 30 years' experience of America, its people and politics and has travelled to more than 40 US cities.

Davies discussed a post-Covid world in the context of US/UK relations, citing what he sees as the main challenges, as well as opportunities and threats, facing the US and the UK as both countries emerge from the pandemic.

Following his remarks, Davies answered numerous thought-provoking questions from the attendees.

The video presentation is available at www.babawashington.org. Click on "Past Events".



Patrick Davies

Switzerland Selects Platinum Member Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II for Future Air Defense Requirements

"We are honored to be selected by Switzerland and look forward to partnering with the Swiss government, public, air force and industry to deliver and sustain the F-35 aircraft," said Bridget Lauderdale, Lockheed Martin's vice president and general manager of the F-35 Program. "With the selection, Switzerland will become the 15th nation to join the F-35 program of record, joining several European nations in further strengthening global airpower and security."

The F-35 selection will deliver economic and technical advantages to the nation for decades to come. Swiss industry will have the opportunity to participate in research and development, production and sustainment opportunities that will extend their capabilities into the future. As a new participant in the F-35 program, Switzerland will benefit from Lockheed Martin's dedication to autonomy and sovereignty in integrating indigenous solutions.



To date, the F-35 operates from 21 bases worldwide, with nine nations operating F-35s on their home soil. There are more than 655 F-35s in service today, with more than 1,380 pilots and 10,670 maintainers trained on the aircraft.

About Lockheed Martin

Headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) is a global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 114,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.

“All Things Bubbles” – A Three-Part Series On Sparkling Wines and Champagnes

Starting in mid-winter, wine expert, **Chris Parker** **Founder of New Horizon Wines and Co-Founder, Virginia Wine & Spirits Academy**, arranged a series of fun and educational programs on “All Things Bubbles”.

Beginning with the program, “A Scintillating Success - the sparkling wine regions of Southern England”, followed by “Cava, Traditional, Tank Method – All Sparkling but What’s the Difference” in April and closing out the series in June with “Champagne – The Heartland”, Chris and his guest speakers conveyed their love and passion for this bubbly beverage.



the vineyards of Southern England; and the fascinating history, region and grape varieties of such iconic champagnes as Dom Perignon, Veuve Clicquet and Ruinart.

Joining Chris in these lively discussions on sparkling wines were **Mardi** and **Simon Roberts** from **Ridgeview Winery** and **Paul Mead** from **Roebuck Estates**, both in Sussex, England. Joining him for the last presentation on Champagne was **Tara O’Leary**, Atlantic Region Brand Manager for **Prestige Brands**. Tara closed out the program with the wise comment, “You don’t need a celebration to enjoy champagne, opening champagne is a celebration”.

The three-part series provided a ‘behind the scenes’ view of the art, science and business of sparkling winemaking; the history, heritage, and stories of the winemakers in

To view the videos for this series go to www.babawashington.org. Click on “Past Events” and find the wine presentations.



Chris Parker



Mardi and Simon Roberts, Ridgeview Winery



James Mead, Roebuck Estates



Tara O’Leary, Prestige Brands

Discussion of the UK's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development, and Foreign Policy featuring Adrian Baguley

Organized by BABA's Defense, Aerospace, Transportation & Security Committee

On March 31, BABA Members and colleagues met virtually to hear a discussion by **Adrian Baguley (DG Strategic Enablers) in UK MOD's Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S)** organization. Adrian was joined by Damien



Parmenter. Damien is the Director of the Defence & Security Industrial Strategy (DSIS) Review. Both talked through the recent release of the UK's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy launched by Prime Minister Boris Johnson on March 16 and the impending release of the UK's Defence Command Paper and its Defence & Security Industrial Strategy (DSIS).



Roundtable with Huw Walters, UK Ministry of Defence Director of Economic Security & Prosperity

Organized by the Defense, Aerospace, Transportation & Security Committee



On June 15th BABA defense members and colleagues participated in an interactive discussion with **Huw Walters, the UK MOD Director of Economic Security & Prosperity**. This was the DATS Committee's second program with the Director who presented on the UK's National Security and Investment Bill from a defence perspective.



HOW TO REACH US

If you would like to submit information on your company for an upcoming Newsletter or have comments about the Association or the Newsletter please contact us at info@babawashington.org or call our office at 202-293-0010. Materials submitted are subject to editing and space limitations.

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For 130 years, Baker Donelson has built a reputation for achieving results for our clients, both nationally and internationally, on a wide range of legal matters. While providing legal services is our focus, it is how we deliver them that sets us apart. Our goal is to provide clients with more than what they have come to expect from a law firm.

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BSI Group

Management Consultants/Services

Website: www.bsigroup.com

The British Standards Institution (BSI) is the national standards body of the United Kingdom. BSI produces technical standards on a wide range of products and services and also supplies certification and standards-related services to businesses.

CORPORATE MEMBER

Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Government Affairs/Procurement/Contracting

Website: www.exportvirginia.org

Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) promotes international trade for companies throughout Virginia. The International Trade division's mission is to increase the number of Virginia companies selling overseas and their volume of international business, year after year. We assist both new and experienced exporters enter new international markets. We identify potential new markets, develop market entry strategies and locate possible distributors and representatives for products or services—all at little to no cost to Virginia businesses.

SMALL BUSINESS MEMBER

NANCY GORDON WITH KW METRO CENTER

Real Estate Agent

Website: www.NancyGordon.com

Residential real estate agent with 20 years experience serving the DC Area. Licensed in Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC

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Rosalyn Bronstein

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